REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

TEMPLE ISRAEL

1 1

Minneapolis, Minnesota

April 18, 1975

Tonight as we observe the Sabbath, we celebrate the birth of a nation.

Twenty-seven hundred years ago at a dark hour of Jewish history, when the Assyrians had conquered the ten northern tribes and were about to lay siege to Jerusalem, the prophet Amos confronted his people with this divine promise:

"I will turn back the captivity of my people. And they shall rebuild the wasted cities and inhabit them. And they shall plant vineyards and drink the sweet wine, and they shall make gardens and eat the fruit, and I will plant them upon their lands, and they shall no more be cast out of the land which I had given, saith the Lord God."

The promise of Amos has come true.

Twenty-seven years ago Israel was born -- I should say that Israel was reborn.

I was with members of this very congregation on the evening of Israel's independence.

It was an occasion I will never forget.

It was memorable for many reasons.

For me, the birth of Israel as a modern state meant that the international community, and the United States as a leader of that community, had finally recognized their solemn obligation to provide the Jewish people a safe haven after the holocaust of war-torn Europe. And this haven was in a part of the world where Judaism had begun and had flourished.

President Harry Truman's support of nationhood for Israel meant that this country was welcoming into the international community a full fledged democracy.

It is not very often that the American people have had an instrumental role in the creation of a viable, democratic state.

And through the years, this democracy has flourished against insurmountable odds.

Yes, Israel has been attacked on four occasions by hostile neighbors.

It has been forced to devote an inordinate amount of its limited wealth to its self defense.

And it recently has been isolated diplomatically by a majority of the world's nations as a result of Arab economic pressure.

Despite the unceasing hostility of its neighbors, this small nation has survived because of the courage and tenacity of its people.

Mere dollars from America have not kept Israel alive.

It has taken more than money to make a desert bloom and a nation an agricultural producer.

It has taken more than money to build a viable economy which takes care of all of its citizens with decency and dignity.

And it has taken more than money to build a country capable of receiving the thousands who every year flee oppression in Eastern Europe.

Yes, there is a lesson for America in the enduring struggle of that small Jewish democracy.

It is a lesson that says a people and a nation are made strong not by mere military might.

They become strong because they believe in themselves -they believe in their God -- and they believe in the fundamental rightness of their existence.

I am reminded of the words from the Twentieth Psalm which speaks so well of this spirit. It says: "Some may trust in chariots, and others in horses, but for us, we will rely upon the spirit of the Lord our God."

And the great prophet Zachariah expressed a similar wisdom when he said: "Not with strength and not with armed might, but with my spirit will you prevail, saith the Lord God."

Last week I was in New York City to speak to over 100,000 Jews and Christians who had gathered to bear witness to the struggle of Soviet Jewry for a life of dignity and freedom.

I mention this event because it has relevance to our celebration here this evening.

The drama and suffering of Soviet Jewry is the drama and suffering of Jewish history.

It is the drama of faith and hope. It is the drama of a brave people endeavoring to keep alive the flame of liberty.

Americans have a great stake in this struggle because we are the land of the immigrants and the children of immigrants.

It is in this spirit that we must not abandon these people in their quest for freedom.

And it is in this spirit that we must insure that the Jews of the Soviet Union are able to go to a safe and secure Israel.

The question before this great nation of ours today is: Will the sunset that brings in this Sabbath symbolize the sunset of the democracy of Israel?

My answer is "No."

The answer our nation must give the world is "Never."

There is much talk in Washington about reappraising America's policy in the Middle East. There is talk of putting pressure on Israel and forcing it to accept a territorial solution which might endanger its security.

I want to assure you that the Congress is not about to participate in or endorse a policy reappraisal which means that the United States will lessen its support for Israel.

I've told this to Secretary Kissinger.

I will tell it to President Ford.

 $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right) +\left(1\right) =\left(1\right) +\left(1\right) +\left($

Secretary Kissinger's latest mission to the Middle East did not result in the settlement he expected. But this setback does not mean that our nation should abandon its step-by-step approach to securing a lasting peace.

It should mean instead that we renew our efforts at negotiation and explore ways to achieve a settlement.

A peace conference in Geneva does not appear likely to enable the parties to reach a comprehensive settlement.

We must keep alive the step-by-step approach begun by the Secretary of State.

But in order to do this, the Administration must put a damper on the rumors of a policy shift. Increasing Israel's anxiety and insecurity will not help it to grapple with the tough choices in the weeks and months ahead.

I was greatly disappointed that President Ford did not reaffirm our nation's longstanding support for Israel in his recent foreign policy address to Congress.

The time has come for President Ford and Secretary Kissinger to reaffirm our commitment to the security of Israel.

The people of Israel need to know that the United States will never desert them and allow them to stand alone.

The people of Israel need to know that America will not be bullied or pressured by economic blackmail from any nation.

The people of Israel need to know that their security can never be the subject of any negotiation.

At a time of fragile peace, the cause of peace in the Middle East can only be strengthened if we remain steadfast in our commitment to a friend isolated from much of the rest of the world.

This is the least we can do for a friend, an ally, for a nation of people dedicated to democratic ideals and humanitarian beliefs.

I would like to conclude with a story from the Talmud which is relevant to our celebration this evening.

Nineteen hundred years ago the land of Palestine was occupied by the Roman legions and was afflicted with a severe drought. The city of Jerusalem was almost out of water. The Roman occupiers had plenty of water in their own reservoirs.

But Jewish pilgrims were about to come to the city to celebrate the harvest holidays, and there was no water for them to drink.

The leader of the Jewish community -- a man named Ben Gurion -- went to the Roman Governor to try to borrow water for the pilgrims. The Romans refused the request and offered a bargain instead.

They would give Ben Gurion 12 reservoirs of water for his pilgrims if he would promise to replenish the water in nine months or pay the Romans 1200 bars of silver. Having little choice, the Jews agreed to this deal. The pilgrims came and there was water for them.

But the drought continued for weeks and months. Finally, at the end of nine months, the Roman reservoirs were bone dry.

On the last day of this nine month period, the Roman governor sent a message to Ben Gurion. He said, "The time is up. There is no water. I want the money."

Ben Gurion replied that the sun had not set, that he still had time.

Several hours later, the Roman governor made the same demand of Ben Gurion. As the sun began to set, the Roman governor felt confident that he had vanquished the Jews, and that they would have to pay him all their money. He went to his Roman baths to celebrate.

Ben Gurion went to the temple and stood before the altar of his heritage.

He cried out to his God: "Master of the universe, you know that I did not enter into this agreement for profit or my glory, but for the greater glory so that your children could have water."

And as Ben Gurion prayed, it began to rain as it had not rained for decades. The reservoirs of Jerusalem were filled and began to overflow.

The Roman governor was astonished. He left his bathhouse and saw Ben Gurion on the rain-swept streets. The Roman said, "I admit that the Almighty has created a miracle on your behalf. But it is too late. The sun has now set and you owe me the money. Your miracle has come too late."

At this point Ben Gurion turned toward Heaven and cried out: "Master of the universe, let all see once and for all, that there is justice in this world."

At this point, the rain clouds blew away and the sun shone through the clouds, creating a magnificent sunset.

This ancient Talmudic story is the story of Israel reborn.

After the slaughter of six million Jews and imprisonment of the Soviet Jewish community, many persons inside and outside

* . . . *

government councils of the nations of the world seem to be saying that the sun has set for the state of Israel, that it is too late.

Israel, it is suggested, is a miracle, but too latered late.

But those of us who are friends of Israel know that there is justice and that the sun has not set for the Jewish people. Ben Gurion never lost the faith of his fathers. He knew that there was hope even at the darkest hours.

And I say to you this evening, that with faith, with hope, with courage, the nation of Israel will flourish and be secure. The sunset of this or any Sabbath evening will never be the sunset of a great people in this great nation.

#

Rathi Barack Ed Harris - Precident REMARKS BY SENATOR ROBERT H. HUNDHREY TEMPLE ISRAEL Word Frances MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA Roland Minda
APRIL 18, 197pm Roland Minda Cantor, Katz Thankyow

LTONIGHT AS WE OBSERVE THE SABBATH, WE CELEBRATE THE

ROBIRTH OF A NATION.

TWENTY-SEVEN HUNDRED YEARS AGO AT A DARK HOUR OF JEWISH
HISTORY, WHEN THE ASSYRIANS HAD CONQUERED THE TEN NORTHERN
TRIBES AND WERE ABOUT TO LAY SEIGE TO JERUSALEM, THE PROPHET
AMOS CONFRONTED HIS PEOPLE WITH THIS DIVINE PROMISE:

"I WILL TURN BACK THE CAPTIVITY OF MY PEOPLE.

AND THEY SHALL REBUILD THE WASTED CITIES AND INHABIT THEM. AND THEY SHALL PLANT VINEYARDS AND DRINK THE SWEET WINE, AND THEY SHALL MAKE GARDENS AND EAT THE FRUIT, AND I WILL PLANT THEM UPON THEIR LANDS, AND THEY SHALL NO MORE BE CAST OUT OF THE LAND WHICH I HAD GIVEN, SAITH THE LORD GOD."

THE PROMISE OF AMOS HAS COME TRUE.

TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS AGO ISRAEL WAS BORN -- I SHOULD SAY

THAT ISRAEL WAS REBORN.

I WAS WITH MEMBERS OF THIS VERY CONGREGATION ON THE EVENING OF ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE.

IT WAS AN OCCASION I WILL NEVER FORGET. Roblin Minda

IT WAS MEMORABLE FOR MANY REASONS.

FOR ME, THE BIRTH OF ISRAEL AS A MODERN STATE MEANT THAT

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, AND THE UNITED STATES AS A

LEADER OF THAT COMMUNITY, HAD FINALLY RECOGNIZED THEIR

SOLEMN OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE THE JEWISH PEOPLE A SAFE HAVEN

AFTER THE HOLOCAUST OF WAR-TORN EUROPE AND THIS HAVEN WAS

IN A PART OF THE WORLD WHERE JUDAISM HAD BEGUN AND HAD

FLOURISHED.

-3and Recognition of State of Israel
PRESIDENT HARRY TRUMAN'S SUPPORT OF NATIONHOOD FOR ISRAEL

MEANT THAT THIS COUNTRY WAS WELCOMING INTO THE INTERNATIONAL

COMMUNITY A FULL FLEDGED DEMOCRACY.

IT IS NOT VERY OFTEN THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE HAD

AN INSTRUMENTAL ROLE IN THE CREATION OF A VIABLE, DEMOCRATIC

STATE.

AND THROUGH THE YEARS, THIS DEMOCRACY HAS FLOURISHED

AGAINST INSURMOUNTABLE ODDS.

YES, ISRAEL HAS BEEN ATTACKED ON FOUR OCCASIONS BY

HOSTILE NEIGHBORS.

IT HAS BEEN FORCED TO DEVOTE AN INORDINATE AMOUNT OF ITS

LIMITED WEALTH TO ITS SELF DEFENSE.

AND IT RECENTLY HAS BEEN ISOLATED DIPLOMATICALLY BY A

MAJORITY OF THE WORLD'S NATIONS AS A RESULT OF ARAB ECONOMIC

PRESSURE. UNESCO

DESPITE THE UNCEASING HOSTILITY OF ITS NEIGHBORS, THIS

SMALL NATION HAS SURVIVED BECAUSE OF THE COURAGE AND TENACITY

OF ITS PEOPLE and the friendship of amous

But MERE DOLLARS FROM AMERICA HAVE NOT KEPT ISRAEL ALIVE -

IT HAS TAKEN MORE THAN MONEY TO MAKE A DESERT BLOOM AND

A NATION AN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER.

TIT HAS TAKEN MORE THAN MONEY TO BUILD A VIABLE ECONOMY

WHICH TAKES CARE OF ALL OF ITS CITIZENS WITH DECENCY AND

DIGNITY.

AND IT HAS TAKEN MORE THAN MONEY TO BUILD A COUNTRY

CAPABLE OF RECEIVING THE THOUSANDS WHO EVERY YEAR FLEE OPPRESSION

IN EASTERN EUROPE. It has taken more than Money to Israel to defend itself the taken a construction of the series of the series

STRUGGLE OF THAT SMALL JEWISH DEMOCRACY.

IT IS A LESSON THAT SAYS A PEOPLE AND A NATION ARE MADE

STRONG NOT BY MERE MELITARY TOTAL CHEAPON

THEY BECOME STRONG BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES --

THEY BELIEVE IN THEIR GOD -- AND THEY BELIEVE IN THE FUNDAMENTAL

RIGHTNESS OF THEIR EXISTENCE.

Vietnam + Jerael

AM REMINDED OF THE WORDS FROM THE TWENTIETH PSALM WHICH SPEAKS SO WELL OF THIS SPIRIT, IT SAYS: "SOME MAY TRUST IN CHARIOTS, AND OTHERS IN HORSES, BUT FOR US, WE WILL RELY UPON THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD OUR GOD." AND THE GREAT PROPHET ZACHARIAH EXPRESSED A SIMILAR WISDOM WHEN HE SAID: "NOT WITH STRENGTH AND NOT WITH ARMED MIGHT, BUT WITH MY SPIRIT WILL YOU PREVAIL, SAITH THE LORD GOD." LAST WEEK I WAS IN NEW YORK CITY TO SPEAK TO OVER 100,000 JEWS AND CHRISTIANS WHO HAD GATHERED TO BEAR WITNESS TO THE STRUGGLE OF SOVIET JEWRY FOR A LIFE OF DIGNITY AND FREEDOM. I MENTION THIS EVENT BECAUSE IT HAS RELEVANCE TO OUR

EBRATION HERE THIS EVENING.

THE DRAMA AND SUFFERING OF SOVIET JEWRY IS THE DRAMA AND SUFFERING OF JEWISH HISTORY,

IT IS THE DRAMA OF FAITH AND HOPE IT IS THE DRAMA OF A BRAVE PEOPLE ENDEAVORING TO KEEP ALIVE THE FLAME OF LIBERTY.

AMERICANS HAVE A GREAT STAKE IN THIS STRUGGLE BECAUSE WE

ARE THE LAND OF THE IMMIGRANTS AND THE CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANTS.

IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT WE MUST NOT ABANDON THESE

PEOPLE IN THEIR QUEST FOR FREEDOM.

AND IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT WE MUST INSURE THAT THE

JEWS OF THE SOVIET UNION ARE ABLE TO GO TO A SAFE AND SECURE

ISRAEL. If they so desire my message to
Either live as Jews

or Depart as Jews
what is the Super-Pawer that fearna
Jewish Prayer book -

THE QUESTION BEFORE THIS GREAT NATION OF OURS TODAY IS:

WILL THE SUNSET THAT BRINGS IN THIS, SABBATH SYMBOLIZE THE SUNSET

OF THE DEMOCRACY OF ISRAEL?

MY ANSWER IS "No."

THE ANSWER OUR NATION MUST GIVE THE WORLD IS "NEVER."

THERE IS MUCH TALK IN WASHINGTON ABOUT REAPPRAISING

AMERICA'S POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THERE IS TALK OF PUTTING

PRESSURE ON ISRAEL AND FORCING IT TO ACCEPT A TERRITORIAL

SOLUTION WHICH MIGHT ENDANGER ITS SECURITY.

LI WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE CONGRESS IS NOT ABOUT TO

PARTICIPATE IN OR ENDORSE A POLICY REAPPRAISAL WHICH MEANS

THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL LESSEN ITS SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL.

I've told this to Secretary Kissinger.

I howstold it to the freedont and well fell

H, WILL TELL IT TO PRESIDENT FORD. It to him again. AND I WILL CERTAINLY STATE MY POSITION FROM THE FLOOR OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE. nowastothe middle East SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LATEST MISSION TO THE MIDDLE EAST DID NOT RESULT IN THE SETTLEMENT HE EXPECTED BUT THIS SETBACK DOES NOT MEAN THAT OUR NATION SHOULD ABANDON ITS STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO SECURING A LASTING PEACE - or to Charles IT SHOULD MEAN, INSTEAD THAT WE RENEW OUR EFFORTS AT NEGOTIATION AND EXPLORE WAYS TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT. A PEACE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA DOES NOT APPEAR LIKELY TO ENABLE THE PARTIES TO REACH A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. By the Sovieto + the Radical Arabs forces

WE MUST KEEP ALIVE THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH BEGUN BY
THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

BUT IN ORDER TO DO THIS, THE ADMINISTRATION MUST PUT A

DAMPER ON THE RUMORS OF A POLICY SHIFT INCREASING ISRAEL'S

ANXIETY AND INSECURITY WILL NOT HELP IT TO GRAPPLE WITH THE

TOUGH CHOICES IN THE WEEKS AND MONTHS AHEAD.

WAS GREATLY DISAPPOINTED THAT PRESIDENT FORD DID NOT

REAFFIRM OUR NATION'S LONGSTANDING SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL IN HIS

RECENT FOREIGN POLICY ADDRESS TO CONGRESS

THE TIME HAS COME FOR PRESIDENT FOR AND SECRETARY & STALE

MILLER TO REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL.

THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL NEED TO KNOW THAT THE UNITED STATES
WILL THE DESERT THEM AND ALLOW THEM TO STAND ALONE.

THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL NEED TO KNOW THAT AMERICA WILL NOT

BE BULLIED OR PRESSURED BY ECONOMIC BLACKMAIL FROM ANY NATION.

THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL NEED TO KNOW THAT THEIR SECURITY CAN

NEVER BE THE SUBJECT OF ANY NEGOTIATION.

AT A TIME OF FRAGILE PEACE, THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN THE

MIDDLE EAST CAN ONLY BE STRENGTHENED IF WE REMAIN STEADFAST

IN OUR COMMITMENT TO A FRIEND ISOLATED FROM MUCH OF THE REST

OF THE WORLD.

+ After Vecturam all the more important

THIS IS THE LEAST WE CAN DO FOR A FRIEND, AN ALLY, FOR

A NATION OF PEOPLE DEDICATED TO DEMOCRATIC IDEALS AND

HUMANITARIAN BELIEFS.

I WOULD LIKE TO CONCLUDE WITH A STORY FROM THE TALMUD
WHICH IS RELEVANT TO OUR CELEBRATION THIS EVENING.

NINETEEN HUNDRED YEARS AGO THE LAND OF PALESTINE WAS OCCUPIED BY THE ROMAN LEGIONS AND WAS AFFLICTED WITH A SEVERE DROUGHT. THE CITY OF JERUSALEM WAS ALMOST OUT OF WATER, THE ROMAN OCCUPIERS HAD PLENTY OF WATER IN THEIR OWN RESERVOIRS.

BUT JEWISH PILGRIMS WERE ABOUT TO COME TO THE CITY TO CELEBRATE THE HARVEST HOLIDAYS, AND THERE WAS NO WATER FOR

THEM TO DRINK.

THE LEADER OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY -- A MAN NAMED BEN

GURION -- WENT TO THE ROMAN GOVERNOR TO TRY TO BORROW WATER

FOR THE PILGRIMS THE ROMANS REFUSED THE REQUEST AND OFFERED

A BARGAIN INSTEAD.

THEY WOULD GIVE BEN GURION 12 RESERVOIRS OF WATER FOR HIS PILGRIMS IF HE WOULD PROMISE TO REPLENISH THE WATER IN NINE MONTHS OR PAY THE ROMANS 1200 BARS OF SILVER, HAVING LITTLE CHOICE, THE JEWS AGREED TO THIS DEAL. THE PILGRIMS CAME AND THERE WAS WATER FOR THEM.

BUT THE DROUGHT CONTINUED FOR WEEKS AND MONTHS FINALLY,

AT THE END OF NINE MONTHS, THE ROMAN RESERVOIRS WERE BONE DRY.

ON THE LAST DAY OF THIS NINE MONTH PERIOD, THE ROMAN

GOVERNOR SENT A MESSAGE TO BEN GURION, HE SAID, "THE TIME IS

UP. THERE IS NO WATER, I WANT THE MONEY."

BEN GURION REPLIED THAT THE SUN HAD NOT SET, THAT HE STILL

HAD TIME.

SEVERAL HOURS LATER, THE ROMAN GOVERNOR MADE THE SAME

DEMAND OF BEN GURION, AS THE SUN BEGAN TO SET, THE ROMAN

GOVERNOR FELT CONFIDENT THAT HE HAD VANQUISHED THE JEWS, AND

THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO PAY HIM ALL THEIR MONEY, HE WENT TO

HIS ROMAN BATHS TO CELEBRATE.

BEN GURION WENT TO THE TEMPLE AND STOOD BEFORE THE ALTAR OF HIS HERITAGE.

HE CRIED OUT TO HIS GOD: "MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE, YOU KNOW
THAT I DID NOT ENTER INTO THIS AGREEMENT FOR PROFIT OR MY
GLORY, BUT FOR THE GREATER GLORY SO THAT YOUR CHILDREN COULD
HAVE WATER."

AND AS BEN GURION PRAYED, IT BEGAN TO RAIN AS IT HAD NOT RAINED FOR DECADES. THE RESERVOIRS OF JERUSALEM WERE FILLED AND BEGAN TO OVERFLOW.

THE ROMAN GOVERNOR WAS ASTONISHED. HE LEFT HIS BATHHOUSE AND SAW BEN GURION ON THE RAIN-SWEPT STREETS. THE ROMAN SAID.

"I ADMIT THAT THE ALMIGHTY HAS CREATED A MIRACLE ON YOUR BEHALF. BUT IT IS TOO LATE. THE SUN HAS NOW SET AND YOU OWE ME THE MONEY. YOUR MIRACLE HAS COME TOO LATE."

AT THIS POINT BEN GURION TURNED TOWARD HEAVEN AND CRIED OUT: "MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE, LET ALL SEE ONCE AND FOR ALL, THAT THERE IS JUSTICE IN THIS WORLD."

AT THIS POINT, THE RAIN CLOUDS BLEW AWAY AND THE SUN SHONE

THROUGH THE CLOUDS, CREATING A MAGNIFICENT SUNSET.

THIS ANCIENT TALMUDIC STORY IS THE STORY OF ISRAEL REBORN.

AFTER THE SLAUGHTER OF SIX MILLION JEWS AND IMPRISONMENT

OF THE SOVIET JEWISH COMMUNITY, MANY PERSONS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE

GOVERNMENT COUNCILS OF THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD SEEM TO BE

SAYING THAT THE SUN HAS SET FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL, THAT IT IS

TOO LATE.

ISRAEL, IT IS SUGGESTED, IS A MIRACLE -- BUT IT IS TOO LATE.

BUT THOSE OF US WHO ARE FRIENDS OF ISRAEL KNOW THAT

THERE IS JUSTICE AND THAT THE SUN HAS NOT SET FOR THE JEWISH

PEOPLE.

BEN GURION NEVER LOST THE FAITH OF HIS FATHERS. HE

KNEW THAT THERE WAS HOPE EVEN AT THE DARKEST HOURS.

AND I SAY TO YOU THIS EVENING, THAT WITH FAITH, WITH HOPE,

WITH COURAGE, THE NATION OF ISRAEL WILL FLOURISH AND BE SECURE.

THE SUNSET OF THIS OR ANY SABBATH EVENING WILL NEVER BE THE

SUNSET OF A GREAT PEOPLE IN THIS GREAT NATION

#####

Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.

