REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

DEDICATION OF ADATH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

St. Paul, Minnesota

April 27, 1975

Today we dedicate a synagogue that represents the tireless efforts of so many outstanding leaders of the West Side Jewish community.

This great synagogue represents not only the fulfillment of a dream. It represents a commitment to the continuing traditions of the Jewish faith.

Yes, a synagogue is a house of prayer -- a house of God.

But it also is a place of study, a place of contemplation, a constant reminder of what it means to be a Jew.

Under the guidance of your Rabbi Zeilingold I expect that the expanded Adath Israel will continue its fine work in the community by providing numerous activities and programs for its members.

As I thought about the dedication of Adath Israel, I remembered that just 11 days ago the world marked the birth of Israel's independence.

Today we can mark two important events -- the dedication of this house of worship and the independence of the Jewish homeland.

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.

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 and recognition of the state of 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 vears, 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 and the friendship of America.

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. It has taken more than money for Israel to defend itself against overwhelming numbers.

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 foreign assistance or military weapons.

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."

Two weeks ago 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 dedication 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 the next Sabbath symbolize the sunset of the democracy of Israel?

My answer is "No."

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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 have told it to President Ford, and I will tell it to him again.

And I will certainly state my position from the floor of the United States Senate.

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 sten-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 anxietv 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 President and Secretary of State must reaffirm our commitment to the security of Israel.

The people of Israel need to know that the United States will not 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 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.

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COMMUNITY.

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BUT IT ALSO IS A PLACE OF STUDY, A PLACE OF CONTEMPLATION, also a place of anothy - coming together A CONSTANT REMINDER OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A JEW.

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF YOUR RABBI ZEILINGOLD, I-EXPECT WA Know THAT THE EXPANDED ADATH ISRAEL WILL CONTINUE ITS FINE WORK IN THE COMMUNITY BY PROVIDING NUMEROUS ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS FOR ITS MEMBERS.

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As I THOUGHT ABOUT THE DEDICATION OF ADATH ISRAEL, I REMEMBERED THAT JUST 11 DAYS AGO THE WORLD MARKED THE BIRTH OF ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE.

TODAY WE CAN MARK TWO IMPORTANT EVENTS -- THE DEDICATION OF THIS HOUSE OF WORSHIP AND THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JEWISH HOMELAND.

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.

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 AND RECOGNITION OF THE STATE OF 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.

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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 AND THE FRIENDSHIP OF AMERICA.

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.

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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. IT HAS TAKEN MORE THAN MONEY FOR ISRAEL TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST OVERWHELMING NUMBERS.

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 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE OR MILITARY WEAPONS. 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."

JEWS AND CHRISTIANS WHO HAD GATHERED TO BEAR WITNESS TO THE STRUGGLE OF SOVIET JEWRY FOR A LIFE OF DIGNITY AND FREEDOM.

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I MENTION THIS EVENT BECAUSE IT HAS RELEVANCE TO OUR DEDICATION 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 THE NEXT SABBATH SYMBOLIZE THE SUNSET OF THE DEMOCRACY OF ISRAEL?

MY ANSWER IS "NO."

THE ANSWER OUR NATION MUST GIVE THE WORLD IS THE ANSWER OUR NATION MUST GIVE THE WORLD IS 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 HAVE TOLD IT TO PRESIDENT FORD, AND I WILL TELL IT

AND I WILL CERTAINLY STATE MY POSITION FROM THE FLOOR OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

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 PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF STATE MUST REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL. THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL NEED TO KNOW THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT 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.

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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.

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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 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.

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