

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
TESTIMONIAL DINNER FOR
FRANK J. LAUTENBERG
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

Essex County, New Jersey
January 26, 1977

It is a great pleasure for me to be with you tonight to join in paying tribute to an outstanding American and humanitarian -- Frank J. Lautenberg.

Frank has served the UJA with exceptional distinction. His talents as National Chairman will be greatly missed. But I am confident that he will continue his active role in a most worthwhile cause.

The United Jewish Appeal occupies a very special place for me.

Its work has been nation building and the extension of humanitarian assistance to newly arrived immigrants.

Its work has led to the creation of a flourishing democratic state in an area of the world where it is difficult for the tree of democracy to take root.

Its work has meant freedom for an afflicted people.

Yes, the UJA's work has led to the fulfillment of an age-old dream for the Jewish people -- Israel reborn. And Frank Lautenberg has played an important role in insuring that that dream does not fade from the memory of mankind.

I am honored to have had a small role in the history of Israel -- a people consistently persecuted but always persistent in the affirmation of human potential.

I am proud because there is a message in thousands of years of struggle and survival of the Jewish people as symbolized in the struggle of the State of Israel.

There is a message in the martyrdom and nameless victims of this struggle.

And the message is that while people may be oppressed, the urge for freedom will persist undiminished.

This is the story of Israel and it also is the story of the commitment of the United States to the survival of an independent, Jewish state in the Middle East.

Except for longstanding obligations to NATO and Japan, few aspects of American foreign policy have been as firm and as longlasting as the commitment to support an independent and secure Israel.

Presidents of vastly different political persuasions have made the support of Israel a fundamental element of American foreign policy.

I am confident there will be a reaffirmation of this policy in the new Administration of President Jimmy Carter.

Our policy has been predicated upon historical, moral, strategic and political grounds.

Israel's right to exist as a free and independent state is not negotiable. History is on her side.

Why did Harry Truman use the power and prestige of his great office to befriend the Jewish state and inaugurate a commitment which has been crucial to Israel's security?

Because Harry Truman was a compassionate and moral man with a deep sense of history.

He saw in Israel's rebirth the fulfillment of a biblical prophecy.

He saw in Israel's rebirth the creation of a democracy at a time when democracy was threatened.

And he saw in the creation of Israel relief and haven for a people who had been the victims of fascist tyranny.

There is a lesson for us today in Harry Truman's recognition of the State of Israel. It is a lesson we must always keep uppermost in our minds as we struggle to find a permanent peace in the Middle East.

In light of the historical relationships in the region, it is necessary for Americans to understand and appreciate Israel's position and her reluctance to give up conquered territory without effective guarantees.

Israelis remember all too well what happened after the Sinai campaign of 1956. They withdrew from the Suez Canal and all territory conquered at that time and they trusted the paper guarantees they were given.

A United Nations force was stationed in Sinai at Sharm el-Sheikh. But all it took was one word from Egyptian President Nasser, and the U.N. personnel were removed. This, of course, set the stage for the 1967 war.

There are those who warn that the U.S. is becoming too heavily tied to Israel, both economically and militarily.

Yet, the goal of the United States is to deter wars from occurring or to minimize adverse consequences to the U.S. if they do occur.

Our military and economic aid to Israel is fully in the American interest. Unless a credible balance of power is maintained in the Middle East, there can be no genuine progress in efforts to achieve a permanent peace there.

But it has not been just dollars and military equipment from America which has helped Israel remain a viable, independent nation.

It has taken more than money to make a desert bloom with agricultural production.

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

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

This is nation building. Yet, nation-building is but one aspect of UJA's contribution to a modern state of Israel.

UJA also is deeply committed to action to address the suffering of Soviet Jewry.

Americans have a great stake in this struggle for human rights 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.

The commitment to freedom lies at the heart of Judaism.

And this is the fundamental driving force of America's liberty.

The Jewish people brought to the New World their age-old struggle to be free. It is here in America that the memories of tyranny -- of Pharaohs, Kings, Czars, Fuehrers and Commissars -- have kept alive the vigilance of the Jewish people to threats against freedom.

And it is here in America that the Jewish concept of social and economic justice as the cornerstone of freedom was joined with the Jeffersonian and Jacksonian ideals of equality. Together they form a potent force -- a force capable of guaranteeing that we remain a free, vibrant, open society in which all men and women can make the most of their God-given potential.

We are the world's largest democracy celebrating two centuries of freedom.

There is every reason to believe that our third century can be one of freedom and prosperity for all Americans.

There is every reason to believe that Americans can make great contributions in the struggle to eradicate injustice, hunger and poverty wherever they are found.

Our challenge is to have the will and the vision to make our hopes and dreams become a reality. I urge you to join me tonight in accepting that challenge.

Cancelled

REMARKS BY

SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

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ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

JANUARY 26, 1977

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE WITH YOU TONIGHT TO JOIN
IN PAYING TRIBUTE TO AN OUTSTANDING AMERICAN AND HUMANITARIAN --

FRANK J. LAUTENBERG.

L FRANK HAS SERVED THE UJA WITH EXCEPTIONAL DISTINCTION. HIS
TALENTS AS NATIONAL CHAIRMAN WILL BE GREATLY MISSED. BUT I AM CONFIDENT

THAT HE WILL CONTINUE HIS ACTIVE ROLE IN A MOST WORTHWHILE CAUSE.

L UJA THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL OCCUPIES A VERY SPECIAL PLACE FOR ME.

ITS WORK HAS BEEN NATION BUILDING AND THE EXTENSION OF HUMANITARIAN
ASSISTANCE TO NEWLY ARRIVED IMMIGRANTS.

L ITS WORK HAS LED TO THE CREATION OF A ~~FEUDALISTIC~~ ^{Dynastic} DEMOCRATIC STATE

IN AN AREA OF THE WORLD WHERE IT IS DIFFICULT FOR THE TREE OF DEMOCRACY
TO TAKE ROOT.

L ITS WORK HAS MEANT FREEDOM FOR AN AFFLICTED PEOPLE.

L YES, THE UJA'S WORK HAS LED TO THE FULFILLMENT OF AN AGE-OLD DREAM
FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE -- ISRAEL REBORN AND FRANK LAUTENBERG HAS PLAYED
AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN INSURING THAT THAT DREAM DOES NOT FADE FROM THE
MEMORY OF MANKIND.

L I AM HONORED TO HAVE HAD A SMALL ROLE IN THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL -- A
PEOPLE CONSISTENTLY PERSECUTED BUT ALWAYS PERSISTENT IN THE AFFIRMATION
OF HUMAN POTENTIAL.


L I AM PROUD BECAUSE THERE IS A MESSAGE IN THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF
STRUGGLE AND SURVIVAL OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE AS SYMBOLIZED IN THE STRUGGLE
OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

L THERE IS A MESSAGE IN THE MARTYRDOM AND NAMELESS VICTIMS OF THIS
STRUGGLE.

L AND THE MESSAGE IS THAT WHILE PEOPLE MAY BE OPPRESSED, THE URGE
FOR FREEDOM WILL PERSIST UNDIMINISHED.

L THIS IS THE STORY OF ISRAEL AND IT ALSO IS THE STORY OF THE
COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE SURVIVAL OF AN INDEPENDENT,
JEWISH STATE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

L EXCEPT FOR LONGSTANDING OBLIGATIONS TO NATO AND JAPAN, FEW ASPECTS
OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY HAVE BEEN AS FIRM AND AS LONGLASTING AS THE
COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT AN INDEPENDENT AND SECURE ISRAEL.

 PRESIDENTS OF VASTLY DIFFERENT POLITICAL PERSUASIONS HAVE MADE
THE SUPPORT OF ISRAEL A FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENT OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY.

and
I AM CONFIDENT THERE WILL BE A REAFFIRMATION OF THIS POLICY IN THE

NEW ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER.

OUR POLICY HAS BEEN PREDICATED UPON HISTORICAL, MORAL, STRATEGIC

AND POLITICAL GROUNDS.

ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST AS A FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATE IS NOT

NEGOTIABLE. HISTORY IS ON HER SIDE.

WHY DID HARRY TRUMAN USE THE POWER AND PRESTIGE OF HIS GREAT

OFFICE TO BEFRIEND THE JEWISH STATE AND INAUGURATE A COMMITMENT WHICH

HAS BEEN CRUCIAL TO ISRAEL'S SECURITY?

BECAUSE HARRY TRUMAN WAS A COMPASSIONATE AND MORAL MAN WITH A DEEP

SENSE OF HISTORY.

HE SAW IN ISRAEL'S REBIRTH THE FULFILLMENT OF A BIBLICAL PROPHECY.

✓ HE SAW IN ISRAEL'S REBIRTH THE CREATION OF A DEMOCRACY AT A TIME
WHEN DEMOCRACY WAS THREATENED.

✓ AND HE SAW IN THE CREATION OF ISRAEL RELIEF AND HAVEN FOR A
PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN THE VICTIMS OF ~~THE~~ ^{Nazi} TYRANNY.

✓ THERE IS A LESSON FOR US TODAY IN HARRY TRUMAN'S RECOGNITION OF
THE STATE OF ISRAEL. IT IS A LESSON WE MUST ALWAYS KEEP UPPERMOST IN
OUR MINDS AS WE STRUGGLE TO FIND A PERMANENT PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

✓ IN LIGHT OF THE HISTORICAL RELATIONSHIPS IN THE ^{region} REGION, IT IS
NECESSARY FOR AMERICANS TO UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE ISRAEL'S POSITION
AND HER RELUCTANCE TO GIVE UP CONQUERED TERRITORY WITHOUT EFFECTIVE
GUARANTEES.

↳ ISRAELIS REMEMBER ALL TOO WELL WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE SINAI
CAMPAIGN OF 1956. THEY WITHDREW FROM THE SUEZ CANAL AND ALL TERRITORY
CONQUERED AT THAT TIME AND THEY TRUSTED THE PAPER GUARANTEES THEY WERE
GIVEN.

↳ A UNITED NATIONS FORCE WAS STATIONED IN SINAI AT SHARM EL-SHEIKH.
BUT ALL IT TOOK WAS ONE WORD FROM EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT NASSER, AND THE
U.N. PERSONNEL WERE REMOVED. THIS, OF COURSE, SET THE STAGE FOR THE
1967 WAR.

↳ THERE ARE THOSE WHO WARN THAT THE U.S. IS BECOMING TOO HEAVILY
TIED TO ISRAEL, BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND MILITARILY.

↳ YET, THE GOAL OF THE UNITED STATES IS TO DETER WARS FROM OCCURRING
OR TO MINIMIZE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES TO THE U.S. IF THEY DO OCCUR.

aid to Israel

L OUR MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO ISRAEL IS FULLY IN THE AMERICAN INTEREST. L UNLESS A CREDIBLE BALANCE OF POWER IS MAINTAINED IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THERE CAN BE NO GENUINE PROGRESS IN EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A PERMANENT PEACE THERE.

L BUT IT HAS NOT BEEN JUST DOLLARS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM AMERICA WHICH HAS HELPED ISRAEL REMAIN A ~~VIABLE~~ ^{Proud} INDEPENDENT NATION.

/ IT HAS TAKEN MORE THAN MONEY TO MAKE A DESERT BLOOM WITH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

L IT HAS TAKEN MORE THAN MONEY TO BUILD A VIABLE ECONOMY WHICH TAKES CARE OF ALL OF ITS CITIZENS WITH DECENCY AND DIGNITY.

L 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
because they believe in themselves -- they believe in their God -- and
they believe in the fundamental ^{justice} ~~rightness~~ of their existence.

This is nation building. Yet, nation-building is but one aspect
of UJA's contribution to a modern state of Israel.

UJA also is deeply committed to action to address the
suffering of Soviet Jewry.

Americans have a great stake in this struggle for human rights
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.

The commitment to freedom lies at the heart of Judaism.

AND THIS IS THE FUNDAMENTAL DRIVING FORCE OF AMERICA'S LIBERTY,

THE JEWISH PEOPLE BROUGHT TO THE NEW WORLD THEIR AGE-OLD STRUGGLE

TO BE FREE. IT IS HERE IN AMERICA THAT THE MEMORIES OF TYRANNY -- OF PHARAOHS, KINGS, CZARS, FUEHRERS AND COMMISSARS -- HAVE KEPT ALIVE THE VIGILANCE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO THREATS AGAINST FREEDOM.

AND IT IS HERE IN AMERICA THAT THE JEWISH CONCEPT OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE AS THE CORNERSTONE OF FREEDOM WAS JOINED WITH THE JEFFERSONIAN AND JACKSONIAN IDEALS OF EQUALITY. ^{democracy} TOGETHER THEY FORM A POTENT FORCE -- A FORCE CAPABLE OF GUARANTEEING THAT WE REMAIN A FREE, VIBRANT, OPEN SOCIETY IN WHICH ALL MEN AND WOMEN CAN MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR GOD-GIVEN POTENTIAL.

WE ARE THE WORLD'S LARGEST DEMOCRACY CELEBRATING TWO CENTURIES OF FREEDOM.

THERE IS EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT OUR THIRD CENTURY CAN BE ONE
OF FREEDOM AND ^{opportunity} ~~PROSPERITY~~ FOR ALL AMERICANS.

↳ THERE IS EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT AMERICANS CAN MAKE GREAT
CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE STRUGGLE TO ERADICATE INJUSTICE, HUNGER AND
POVERTY WHEREVER THEY ARE FOUND.

↳ OUR CHALLENGE IS TO HAVE THE WILL AND THE VISION TO MAKE OUR
HOPES AND DREAMS BECOME A REALITY. I URGE YOU TO JOIN ME TONIGHT
IN ACCEPTING THAT CHALLENGE.

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