

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
FOR THE
UPPER MIDWEST LUBAVITCH CELEBRATION 75

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
AUGUST 16, 1977

IT IS AN HONOR FOR ME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
UPPER MIDWEST LUBAVITCH CELEBRATION 75,
COMMEMORATING THE 75TH BIRTHDAY OF THE ESTEEMED
REBBE, RABBI MENACHEM SCHNEERSON.

I ALSO WANT TO PAY SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO MY
GOOD FRIENDS, BURTON JOSEPH, WHO IS SERVING AS
CHAIRMAN OF TONIGHT'S EVENT, AND RUDY BOSCHWITZ.
BOTH MEN HAVE BEEN OF TREMENDOUS HELP TO THE LOCAL
LUBAVITCH MOVEMENT IN MINNEAPOLIS. AND I WOULD BE
REMISS IF I DID NOT EXPRESS MY ADMIRATION FOR
RABBI KELLER, WHO HAS SERVED AS THE LIGHT OF
INSPIRATION FOR THE MINNESOTA LUBAVITCH MOVEMENT.

MINNESOTANS OF ALL RELIGIOUS BELIEFS CAN TAKE PRIDE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BAIS HANNAH IN OUR OWN STATE. THE BAIS HANNAH INSTITUTE, WHICH IS NAMED IN HONOR OF REBBE SCHNEERSON'S MOTHER, IS A LIVE AND LEARN JEWISH EDUCATION INSTITUTE FOR YOUNG WOMEN OF COLLEGE AGE WHO HAVE NOT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY JUDAISM IN A RELIGIOUS SETTING. BAIS HANNAH, WHICH MEANS HOUSE OF HANNAH, IS THE ONLY INSTITUTE OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD. IT HAS PUT MINNESOTA ON THE WORLD-WIDE JEWISH EDUCATION MAP.

ON MARCH 28, I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO THE REBBE, WHICH WAS HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C. MANY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LUBAVITCH MOVEMENT IN MINNESOTA WERE PRESENT FOR THAT OCCASION. AND I AM SURE THEY AGREE THAT THIS EVENT WAS AS IMPRESSIVE A TRIBUTE TO ANY INDIVIDUAL AS THE CITY OF WASHINGTON HAS EVER SEEN.

THE LUBAVITCH MOVEMENT HAS MADE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION, NOT ONLY TO THE WELL-BEING OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, BUT TO ALL PEOPLE AS WELL. REBBE, RABBI SCHNEERSON, AS THE SPIRITUAL LEADER OF WORLD JEWRY, EPITOMIZES THE SPIRIT OF THE MOVEMENT. HIS INTEREST AND CONCERN FOR THE SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING OF ALL PEOPLE HAS MADE THE REBBE A UNIVERSAL FIGURE OF TREMENDOUS INFLUENCE.

THE LUBAVITCH MOVEMENT IS UNIQUE. THOSE INVOLVED IN THE MOVEMENT SERVE AS AN INSPIRATION TO ALL OF US THAT A DEEP CONCERN FOR THE HUMANITY OF MANKIND AND EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE COMMON GOOD OF MANKIND ARE GOALS ALL OF US SHOULD PURSUE. THE LUBAVITCH MOVEMENT HAS MADE IMMEASURABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EQUALITY AND DIGNITY OF ALL PERSONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

THE HIGH VALUE THE MOVEMENT HAS PLACED ON EDUCATION HAS BEEN ONE OF THE VITAL STRENGTHS OF THE MOVEMENT, BECAUSE ONE CANNOT TALK ABOUT NATION-BUILDING, OR INSTITUTION-BUILDING, OR THE AMERICAN ADVENTURE, WITHOUT TALKING ABOUT EDUCATION OR A DEEP SENSE OF RELIGIOUS COMMITMENT TO ONE'S GOD.

TO PEOPLE STRIVING TO EXPAND POLITICAL, CIVIL AND ECONOMIC FREEDOMS, EDUCATION IS AN IMPORTANT WEAPON IN THIS STRUGGLE. NO ONE UNDERSTANDS THIS PREMISE BETTER THAN THE JEWISH PEOPLE.

THROUGHOUT HISTORY, THOSE WHO HAVE WANTED TO CRUSH THE JEWISH PEOPLE HAVE NEVER MET WITH SUCCESS.

WHY? BECAUSE THE EMPERORS, THE PHAROAHS, THE CZARS AND THE DICTATORS NEVER COULD EXTINGUISH THE SPIRIT OF JUDAISM AS IT WAS PASSED FROM FATHER TO SON THROUGH THE WRITTEN AND SPOKEN WORD. WITHOUT THIS JEWISH THIRST FOR EDUCATION AND FIDELITY TO YOUR GOD, JUDAISM WOULD HAVE DIED LONG AGO.

THE LUBAVITCH MOVEMENT HAS BEEN INDISPENSABLE TO THE REVIVAL OF THE JEWISH STATE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS BRIEFLY THE UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL AS A RESULT OF THE CREATION OF THIS MODERN DAY JEWISH STATE.

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 THE 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
THE SUPPORT OF AN INDEPENDENT AND SECURE ISRAEL.

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

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.

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.

AND 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, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DISCUSS NATION BUILDING
WITHOUT DEALING WITH THE SUBJECT OF EDUCATION.

TO A YOUNG NATION, ITS PROGRESSIVE AND INNOVATIVE
EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM HAS BEEN ITS LIFE'S BLOOD.

TO A PEOPLE STRIVING FOR THEIR FREEDOM, EDUCATION
HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT WEAPON IN THEIR STRUGGLE. AND
THE LUBAVITCH MOVEMENT, WHICH HAS MAINTAINED FIDELITY
TO JUDAISM AND ITS PRINCIPLES, IS ON THE FRONT-LINES
OF THIS IMPORTANT ENDEAVOR.

ISRAEL'S STRENGTH TODAY--BEYOND ARMS, BEYOND ITS TANKS AND PLANES--IS FOUND IN ITS PEOPLE. AS THE GREAT PROPHET ZACHARIAH PROCLAIMED: "NOT WITH STRENGTH AND NOT WITH ARMED MIGHT, BUT WITH MY SPIRIT WILL YOU PREVAIL, SAITH THE LORD GOD."

IT IS THIS SPIRIT, EPITOMIZED IN THE LUBAVITCH MOVEMENT, WHICH MAKES ISRAEL STRONG TODAY.

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 HAVE KEPT ALIVE THE VIGILANCE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO THE 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 TALENT.

WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN IN THE CONTEXT OF U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONSHIPS? IT MEANS THERE IS MORE AT STAKE THAN ONLY MILITARY OR SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS.

THE JEWS OF THE WORLD HAVE MADE INDISPENSABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HUMANITY, FREEDOM AND CIVILIZATION OF MANKIND. THESE VALUES ARE INHERENT IN THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND IN THE LUBAVITCH MOVEMENT. IF WE ALLOW ISRAEL TO SUFFER DEFEAT, IT WOULD MEAN THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR OWN VALUES AND GOALS AS A NATION. FOR IT IS OUR OWN SPIRITUAL AND MORAL TIES TO ISRAEL WHICH FORM THE UNDERPINNING OF OUR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THAT COUNTRY.

AGAIN, I PAY TRIBUTE TO THE REBBE, AND MAY HE ENJOY
MANY MORE YEARS AS THE SPIRITUAL LEADER OF WORLD JEWRY.

#

#

#

#



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.



www.mnhs.org