

The original documents are located in Box D31, folder “American Israel Public Affairs Committee Luncheon, Washington, DC, April 29, 1971” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. The Council donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

AMERICAN-ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE LUNCHEON

B-339 RAYBURN H.O.B.

THURSDAY NOON, APRIL 29, 1971

TODAY I WANT TO SPEAK TO YOU OF
PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE ARE MEETING
HERE TO REAFFIRM THE CLOSE TIES OF FRIEND-
SHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL
AT A TIME WHEN OUR SECRETARY OF STATE IS
ON HIS WAY TO THAT PART OF THE WORLD.
THIS IS A HISTORIC MOMENT -- NOT ONLY
BECAUSE WE COMMEMORATE ISRAEL'S 23RD BIRTHDAY
BUT BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF
DETECTING A RENEWAL OF HOSTILITIES AND
PROMOTING A LASTING PEACE SETTLEMENT.

IT OCCURRED TO ME DURING THE
RECENT OBSERVANCE OF THE PASSOVER HOLIDAY
THAT THE JEWISH PEOPLE EVERY YEAR
PARTICIPATE IN A FESTIVAL DENOTING
DELIVERANCE AND FREEDOM ALTHOUGH THE JEWS
HAVE HAD NO REAL PEACE SINCE ADOLF HITLER
DECLARED WAR ON THE HEBREW FAITH IN THE

EARLY 1930'S. I CAN NOW UNDERSTAND THE DEPTH OF THE JEWISH COMMITMENT TO A GENUINE PEACE.

THE CAUSE OF PEACE IS SERVED BY AMERICAN-ISRAELI FRIENDSHIP AND OUR TRADITIONAL BI-PARTISAN FOREIGN POLICY. EVERY AMERICAN PRESIDENT OF THE 20TH CENTURY HAS SUPPORTED THE ZIONIST DREAM OF A JEWISH NATIONAL HOME. BOTH OF OUR MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES ARE COMMITTED TO ISRAEL'S SURVIVAL AND SECURITY. WE SEE A DRAMATIC DEMONSTRATION OF THAT IN THIS ROOM TODAY, WITH GENTLEMEN FROM BOTH PARTIES ASSEMBLED TO SHARE IN AN OCCASION THAT COULD BE INSPIRED BY NO OTHER EMBATTLED NATION OF TODAY'S WORLD. OUR MUTUAL COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL IS UNIQUE.

IT IS VITAL THAT WE RETAIN OUR UNITY IN SUPPORTING THE ISRAELI CAUSE. THE SOVIET UNION, COLLABORATING WITH THE ARABS,

IS TRYING TO IMPOSE A UNILATERAL PEACE THAT WOULD COMPROMISE ISRAEL'S FUTURE. THE ARABS WOULD ACHIEVE THROUGH DIPLOMACY WHAT THEY FAILED TO WIN ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE. THE RUSSIANS WOULD SERVE THEIR OWN AGGRESSIVE ENDS.

I FEEL THAT THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT ARE THE ONLY PARTIES THAT CAN NEGOTIATE, CONTRACT, AND KEEP A LASTING PEACE. THE BOUNDARIES ARE THEIRS. THEY MUST LIVE WITH THEM. THEY MUST MAKE MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION WITH EACH OTHER.

ISRAEL, THE VICTIM OF AGGRESSION, IS ENTITLED TO REASONABLE CLAIMS FOR NEW AND SECURE BOUNDARIES.

~~XX~~

ISRAEL HAS EVERY RIGHT TO SEEK A DEFENSIBLE FRONTIER WHICH MAY NOT CORRESPOND IDENTICALLY WITH THE FRONTIERS OF 1967 WHEN THE FORCES OF AGGRESSION



IMPOSED AN UNWANTED WAR UPON ISRAEL. I WILL NOT TODAY DISCUSS THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS AND FORMULAS EXCEPT TO SAY THAT WE MUST EXERCISE GREAT CARE TO AVOID UNWITTING COLLABORATION WITH MOSCOW AND IMPOSE A SETTLEMENT UPON ISRAEL.

IN EXERCISING SUCH CAUTION IT IS VITAL THAT WE MAINTAIN THE GREAT BASTION OF BI-PARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT OF ISRAEL. SUCH SUPPORT STRENGTHENS THE HAND OF OUR PRESIDENT WHO IS COMMITTED TO A JUST PEACE. BUT I AM TROUBLED THAT SOME VERY IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE ARE ABANDONING BI-PARTISANSHIP ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND ARE MAKING STATEMENTS THAT FACILITATE THE SOVIET UNION'S ANTI-ISRAEL PRESSURES.

I AM THINKING OF ONE SENATOR WHO IS SEEKING OUR HIGHEST NATIONAL OFFICE. EARLIER THIS YEAR HE WENT TO THE MIDDLE EAST

AND THEN CALLED ON SOVIET PREMIER KOSYGIN IN MOSCOW. HE TOLD KOSYGIN THAT "THERE WAS A STRONG BODY OF OPINION IN THE UNITED STATES" OPPOSED TO U.S. DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS LINKED TO OUR FOREIGN COMMITMENTS INCLUDING THE MIDDLE EAST.

I AM DISMAYED THAT SUCH A WELL-INFORMED SENATOR COULD VISIT ISRAEL AND EGYPT WHERE HE ACTUALLY WITNESSED THE ONGOING SOVIET MILITARY BUILD-UP AND STILL FIND IT POSSIBLE TO GO TO MOSCOW AND TELL KOSYGIN THAT THERE WAS A DISUNITY BETWEEN HIM AND PRESIDENT NIXON ON U.S. MILITARY SPENDING THAT RELATES TO ISRAEL'S SECURITY. THIS WAS A DISSERVICE TO ISRAEL'S SECURITY. IT WAS A DISSERVICE TO THE BI-PARTISAN FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES OF THE UNITED STATES. IT TENDED TO UNDERMINE THE CREDIBILITY OF AMERICAN DETERRENCE OF THE GROWING SOVIET MILITARY INVOLVEMENT AGAINST



ISRAEL. IT UNDERCUT THE IMPACT OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT TO THE U.S. SIXTH FLEET IN THE MEDITERRANEAN LAST AUTUMN WHEN THE PRESIDENT SERVED NOTICE ON MOSCOW THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO DEFEND FREEDOM IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

I AM DISMAYED THAT THIS SENATOR COULD IGNORE WHAT THE SOVIET UNION IS DOING NOT ONLY IN THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC BUT ALSO THROUGH ITS INTERVENTION IN SUCH PLACES AS CEYLON, SUDAN, AND EAST PAKISTAN. RUSSIAN MIG'S AND RUSSIAN BOMBS ARE KILLING PEASANTS IN THOSE PLACES. [BUT SOME ARE TOO BUSY DENOUNCING OUR OWN NATION TO NOTICE.]

WHILE WE TALK OF PEACE, THE RUSSIANS BUILD NEW MISSILE SYSTEMS. WHILE OUR DEFENSE NEEDS ARE ATTACKED, A RUSSIAN LEADER IS TOLD THAT ELEMENTS OF OUR CONGRESS ARE TRYING TO CUT BACK OUR MILITARY APPROPRIATIONS BILLS.

I WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE ENCOURAGED TO HEAR THAT THIS DISTINGUISHED SENATOR VISITED MOSCOW AND TOLD KOSYGIN THAT IF RUSSIA IS SO CATEGORICAL IN DEMANDING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM EVERY VESTIGE OF OCCUPIED TERRITORY, LET RUSSIA SET AN EXAMPLE BY WITHDRAWING FROM THE NATIONS OF LITHUANIA, ESTONIA, AND LATVIA WHICH HAVE BEEN FORCIBLY INCORPORATED INTO THE SOVIET UNION. MOSCOW IN THESE CASES USED THE PRETEXT OF SECURITY BUT DENIES ISRAEL THE RIGHT TO FRONTIER REVISIONS EVEN IN A VERY DIFFERENT CONTEXT, A CONTEXT IN WHICH ISRAEL IS THE TARGET OF AGGRESSION AND IS THREATENED BY THE FAR-RANGING ELEMENTS OF SOVIET MILITARY POWER.

LET ME REFER TO ANOTHER SENATOR, THE CHAIRMAN OF A PRESTIGIOUS COMMITTEE, WHO RECENTLY DENOUNCED THE STATE OF ISRAEL FOR ALLEGEDLY RESORTING TO "COMMUNIST-




BAITING HUMBUGGERY," AND HE DESCRIBED IT, TO "MANIPULATE" -- HIS WORD -- THE UNITED STATES POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE DEPICTED ISRAEL AS A MANIPULATIVE "PUSHER" OF NOXIOUS IDEOLOGICAL DRUGS BECAUSE ISRAEL DARES TO OPPOSE COMMUNISM AND AGGRESSION.

IT IS TRAGIC THAT SUCH A SELF-PROCLAIMED PEACE ADVOCATE HAS UNDERMINED PROSPECTS OF A REAL ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT BY TACITLY ENCOURAGING THE SOVIET UNION AND ARAB EXTREMISTS TO DESIST FROM A GENUINE PEACE AND TO CONTINUE A GREAT MILITARY ESCALATION IN THE HOPES OF FORCING THEIR WILL UPON ISRAEL. THIS SENATOR HAS WEAKENED THE BI-PARTISAN FOREIGN POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE LUNCHEON WE ARE NOW ATTENDING BECOME MORE THAN A RITUALISTIC EXPRESSION OF PRO-ISRAEL

GENERALITIES. THOSE WHO TRULY CARE ABOUT
ISRAEL'S SURVIVAL MUST MAKE BI-PARTISAN SUCP
SUPPORT AN ACTION INVOLVING DEEDS RATHER
THAN WORDS.

I WAS VERY GRATIFIED TO BE PART
OF AN ADMINISTRATION THAT RESPONDED TO THE
REALITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST BY PROVIDING
ISRAEL WITH SOME OF THE FINEST U.S.
WEAPONS. WE PRAY FOR A DAY WHEN WE CAN BEAT
OUR SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES. BUT WE WITNESS
THE SOVIET SHIPMENTS OF THE LATEST RUSSIAN
WEAPONRY AND AIRCRAFT -- INCLUDING THE MIG-23
SUPERSONIC FIGHTER-BOMBERS -- WHICH ARE SO
SOPHISTICATED THAT THEY MUST BE OPERATED
BY RUSSIANS. WE WITNESS A DEEPENING SOVIET
INFILTRATION OF THE MIDDLE EAST, AN
EXPANDING INVOLVEMENT, A BUILD-UP OF
AGGRESSIVE BASES. I AM NOW REASSURED TO KNOW
THAT MY COUNTRY ~~AT LEAST~~ ^{is providing} ~~HAS PROVIDED~~ ISRAEL
WITH THE MEANS OF DETERRING AGGRESSION.



HOW BEAUTIFUL IT WOULD BE TO HEAR CERTAIN SENATORS QUESTION THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET TROOPS IN EGYPT.

~~THE~~^{THREE} ARAB NATIONS -- EGYPT, LIBYA, AND SYRIA -- AND THEIR 42 MILLION PEOPLE ARE SEEKING A NEW UNION INVOLVING ONE PRESIDENT, ONE FLAG, ONE MILITARY COMMAND, AND, OBVIOUSLY, ONE ENEMY. THE STATE OF ISRAEL. I FERVENTLY HOPE THAT OUR SECRETARY OF STATE ASSESSES THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT AND CAREFULLY EVALUATES THE LATEST SOVIET MILITARY MOVES AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS. HE COULD APPROPRIATELY ADVISE THE CONGRESS ON THE DEVELOPING SECURITY SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE CRISIS GOES FAR BEYOND THE SUEZ CANAL.

OUR BI-PARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL POLICY ON THE MIDDLE EAST IS COMMITTED TO A PEACE THAT MUST EMERGE FROM THE PARTIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED. WE REJECT ANY



DIPLOMATIC CONCEPT THAT WOULD FORCE OUR FRIENDS, THE ISRAELIS, TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE UNITED STATES RATHER THAN EGYPT ON THE TERRITORIAL QUESTION. MOSCOW WOULD RELISH A SPLIT BETWEEN AMERICA AND ISRAEL.

IT IS APPARENT THAT SOVIET DIPLOMACY SEEKS TO AVOID A FORMAL PEACE WHILE FORCING ISRAEL OUT OF TERRITORIES NOW OCCUPIED. CONSIDER THE FULL CONTEXT OF DEVELOPMENTS. A NEW SITUATION IS DEVELOPING IN ASIA. ISRAEL IS, AFTER ALL, AN ASIAN NATION. SO IS THE SOVIET UNION. WE MAY NOW BE ENTERING A NEW AND FAR-REACHING RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMUNIST CHINA THAT COULD EVEN AFFECT THE MIDDLE EAST IN TERMS OF SOVIET POLICIES. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER CHINESE OVERTURES LEAD BEYOND PING-PONG. BUT THIS IS OBVIOUSLY NOT THE TIME TO ABANDON A TRUE FRIEND LIKE ISRAEL IN ONE CORNER OF ASIA WHILE A WHOLE



NEW CONSTELLATION OF FACTORS MAY BE EMERGING INVOLVING OUR VARIOUS RELATIONSHIPS AND POSSIBILITIES FOR A NEW PHASE ON THAT SIDE OF THE WORLD.

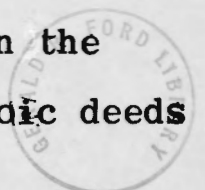
IT IS POSSIBLE THAT A FIRM AND NON-HYSTERICAL POLICY WILL LEAD TO THE KIND OF ASIA WE ALL WANT -- AN ASIA AT PEACE WITH A LIVE-AND-LET-LIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD OTHER NATIONS AND OTHER PHILOSOPHIES OF GOVERNMENT. IN THIS CONTEXT IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT EVEN THE ARABS AND ISRAELIS MAY FIND A WAY TO PLAY PING-PONG.

Meanwhile, the United States Government must continue to give Israel the backing necessary to maintain the credibility of our friendship. This is in our own self-interest as a world power. We will not dip the Stars and Stripes in retreat and defeat in the Mediterranean. We are not ready to abandon Western Europe or NATO. Nor are we unconscious of the implications of a strong and viable Israel to the free world.

Another important matter concerns both the United States and Israel. I refer to the fate of the Jewish community of the Soviet Union. This is not a religious or partisan matter but an issue completely consistent with our beliefs and commitments to human freedom and the dignity of the individual.

America and Israel are both concerned about the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God. We cannot rest without doing everything within our power to alleviate the plight of Russian Jewry and to communicate to the Soviet authorities that the American people are watching Soviet racism and religious discrimination.

I wish to salute the brave Jews, young and old, who stand up to the Soviet secret police. I wish to honor them within the halls of the United States Congress. They are true demonstrators for peace and freedom. They are putting their lives on the line against totalitarianism and oppression. Their heroic deeds



in the face of Communism should be recorded in our history books so that American young people can know what it really means to demonstrate against an oppressive regime.

This observance of Israel's anniversary coincides with the anniversary of the courageous Jewish uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto against the Nazis during World War II. America and Israel are dedicated and rededicated to the proposition that the Jewish victims of Nazism and Communism did not die in vain. We have faith that their sacrifices will lead to a world in which our children and our children's children can cherish the Judeo-Christian values in a society that is flexible enough to change but brave enough to retain its freedom.

I thank you.

*Distribution: Full
Galleries 9:30 a 4/29/71
Mail a.m. 4/29/71
100 to Comm. 4/28/71 P*

Office Copy

REMARKS BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.
REPUBLICAN LEADER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AT A LUNCHEON OF THE
AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
ROOM B-339, RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.
THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1971

FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON

Today I want to speak to you of peace in the Middle East. We are meeting here to reaffirm the close ties of friendship between the United States and Israel at a time when our Secretary of State is on his way to that part of the world. This is a historic moment--not only because we commemorate Israel's 23rd birthday but because of the possibilities of deterring a renewal of hostilities and promoting a lasting peace settlement.

It occurred to me during the recent observance of the Passover holiday that the Jewish people every year participate in a festival denoting deliverance and freedom although the Jews have had no real peace since Adolf Hitler declared war on the Hebrew faith in the early 1930's. I can now understand the depth of the Jewish commitment to a genuine peace.

The cause of peace is served by American-Israeli friendship and our traditional bi-partisan foreign policy. Every American President of the 20th century has supported the Zionist dream of a Jewish national home. Both of our major political parties are committed to Israel's survival and security. We see a dramatic demonstration of that in this room today, with gentlemen from both parties assembled to share in an occasion that could be inspired by no other embattled nation of today's world. Our mutual commitment to Israel is unique.

It is vital that we retain our unity in supporting the Israeli cause. The Soviet Union, collaborating with the Arabs, is trying to impose a unilateral peace that would compromise Israel's future. The Arabs would achieve through diplomacy what they failed to win on the field of battle. The Russians would serve their own aggressive ends.

I feel that the parties to the conflict are the only parties that can negotiate, contract, and keep a lasting peace. The boundaries are theirs. They must live with them. They must make mutual accommodation with each other.

Israel, the victim of aggression, is entitled to reasonable claims for new and secure boundaries. Israel has every right to seek a defensible frontier which

(more)



may not correspond identically with the frontiers of 1967 when the forces of aggression imposed an unwanted war upon Israel. I will not today discuss the various proposals and formulas except to say that we must exercise great care to avoid unwitting collaboration with Moscow and impose a settlement upon Israel.

In exercising such caution it is vital that we maintain the great bastion of bi-partisan Congressional support of Israel. Such support strengthens the hand of our President who is committed to a just peace. But I am troubled that some very important Members of the United States Senate are abandoning bi-partisanship on the Middle East and are making statements that facilitate the Soviet Union's anti-Israel pressures.

I am thinking of one Senator who is seeking our highest national office. Earlier this year he went to the Middle East and then called on Soviet Premier Kosygin in Moscow. He told Kosygin that "there was a strong body of opinion in the United States" opposed to U.S. defense appropriations linked to our foreign commitments including the Middle East.

I am dismayed that such a well-informed Senator could visit Israel and Egypt where he actually witnessed the ongoing Soviet military build-up and still find it possible to go to Moscow and tell Kosygin that there was disunity between him and President Nixon on U.S. military spending that relates to Israel's security. This was a disservice to Israel's security. It was a disservice to the bi-partisan foreign policy objectives of the United States. It tended to undermine the credibility of American deterrence of the growing Soviet military involvement against Israel. It undercut the impact of President Nixon's visit to the U.S. Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean last Autumn when the President served notice on Moscow that we were prepared to defend freedom in the Mediterranean.

I am dismayed that this Senator could ignore what the Soviet Union is doing not only in the United Arab Republic but also through its intervention in such places as Ceylon, Sudan, and East Pakistan. Russian MIG's and Russian bombs are killing peasants in those places. But some are too busy denouncing our own nation to notice.

While we talk of peace, the Russians build new missile systems. While our defense needs are attacked, a Russian leader is told that elements of our Congress are trying to cut back our military appropriations bills.

I would have been much more encouraged to hear that this distinguished Senator visited Moscow and told Kosygin that if Russia is so categorical in demanding Israeli withdrawal from every vestige of occupied territory, let Russia set an

(more)

example by withdrawing from the nations of Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia which have been forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union. Moscow in these cases used the pretext of security but denies Israel the right to frontier revisions even in a very different context, a context in which Israel is the target of aggression and is threatened by the far-ranging elements of Soviet military power.

Let me refer to another Senator, the chairman of a prestigious Committee, who recently denounced the State of Israel for allegedly resorting to "Communist-baiting humbugery," as he described it, to "manipulate"--his word--the United States policy in the Middle East. He depicted Israel as a manipulative "pusher" of noxious ideological drugs because Israel dares to oppose Communism and aggression.

It is tragic that such a self-proclaimed peace advocate has undermined prospects of a real Arab-Israeli settlement by tacitly encouraging the Soviet Union and Arab extremists to desist from a genuine peace and to continue a great military escalation in the hopes of forcing their will upon Israel. This Senator has weakened the bi-partisan foreign policy of the United States.

It is very important that the luncheon we are now attending become more than a ritualistic expression of pro-Israel generalities. Those who truly care about Israel's survival must make bi-partisan support an action involving deeds rather than words.

I was very gratified to be part of an Administration that responded to the realities in the Middle East by providing Israel with some of the finest U.S. weapons. We pray for a day when we can beat our swords into plowshares. But we witness the Soviet shipments of the latest Russian weaponry and aircraft--including the MIG-23 supersonic fighter-bombers--which are so sophisticated that they must be operated by Russians. We witness a deepening Soviet infiltration of the Middle East, an expanding involvement, a build-up of aggressive bases. I am now reassured to know that my country at least has provided Israel with the means of deterring aggression.

How beautiful it would be to hear certain Senators question the presence of Soviet troops in Egypt!

Three Arab nations--Egypt, Libya, and Syria--and their 42 million people are seeking a new union involving one President, one flag, one military command, and, and, obviously, one enemy: The State of Israel. I fervently hope that our Secretary of State assesses this new development and carefully evaluates the latest Soviet military moves and other developments. He could appropriately advise the Congress

(more)

on the developing security situation in the Middle East. The crisis goes far beyond the Suez Canal.

Our bi-partisan Congressional policy on the Middle East is committed to a peace that must emerge from the parties directly involved. We reject any diplomatic concept that would force our friends, the Israelis, to negotiate with the United States rather than Egypt on the territorial question. Moscow would relish a split between America and Israel.

It is apparent that Soviet diplomacy seeks to avoid a formal peace while forcing Israel out of territories now occupied. Consider the full context of developments. A new situation is developing in Asia. Israel is, after all, an Asian nation. So is the Soviet Union. We may now be entering a new and far-reaching relationship with Communist China that could even affect the Middle East in terms of Soviet policies. It remains to be seen whether Chinese overtures lead beyond Ping-Pong. But this is obviously not the time to abandon a true friend like Israel in one corner of Asia while a whole new constellation of factors may be emerging involving our various relationships and possibilities for a new phase on that side of the world.

It is possible that a firm and non-hysterical policy will lead to the kind of Asia we all want--an Asia at peace, with a live-and-let-live attitude toward other nations and other philosophies of government. In this context it is conceivable that even the Arabs and Israelis may find a way to play Ping-Pong.

Meanwhile, the United States Government must continue to give Israel the backing necessary to maintain the credibility of our friendship. This is in our own self-interest as a world power. We will not dip the Stars and Stripes in retreat and defeat in the Mediterranean. We are not ready to abandon Western Europe or NATO. Nor are we unconscious of the implications of a strong and viable Israel to the free world.

Another important matter concerns both the United States and Israel. I refer to the fate of the Jewish community of the Soviet Union. This is not a religious or partisan matter but an issue completely consistent with our beliefs and commitments to human freedom and the dignity of the individual.

America and Israel are both concerned about the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God. We cannot rest without doing everything within our power to alleviate the plight of Russian Jewry and to communicate to the Soviet authorities that the American people are watching Soviet racism and religious discrimination.

(more)

I wish to salute the brave Jews, young and old, who stand up to the Soviet secret police. I wish to honor them within the halls of the United States Congress. They are true demonstrators for peace and freedom. They are putting their lives on the line against totalitarianism and oppression. Their heroic deeds in the face of Communism should be recorded in our history books so that American young people can know what it really means to demonstrate against an oppressive regime.

This observance of Israel's anniversary coincides with the anniversary of the courageous Jewish uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto against the Nazis during World War II. America and Israel are dedicated and rededicated to the proposition that the Jewish victims of Nazism and Communism did not die in vain. We have faith that their sacrifices will lead to a world in which our children and our children's children can cherish the Judeo-Christian values in a society that is flexible enough to change but brave enough to retain its freedom.

I thank you.

#



Full Distribution

Office Copy

REMARKS BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.
REPUBLICAN LEADER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AT A LUNCHEON OF THE
AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
ROOM B-339, RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.
THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1971

FOR RELEASE AT 12 NOON

Today I want to speak to you of peace in the Middle East. We are meeting here to reaffirm the close ties of friendship between the United States and Israel at a time when our Secretary of State is on his way to that part of the world. This is a historic moment--not only because we commemorate Israel's 23rd birthday but because of the possibilities of deterring a renewal of hostilities and promoting a lasting peace settlement.

It occurred to me during the recent observance of the Passover holiday that the Jewish people every year participate in a festival denoting deliverance and freedom although the Jews have had no real peace since Adolf Hitler declared war on the Hebrew faith in the early 1930's. I can now understand the depth of the Jewish commitment to a genuine peace.

The cause of peace is served by American-Israeli friendship and our traditional bi-partisan foreign policy. Every American President of the 20th century has supported the Zionist dream of a Jewish national home. Both of our major political parties are committed to Israel's survival and security. We see a dramatic demonstration of that in this room today, with gentlemen from both parties assembled to share in an occasion that could be inspired by no other embattled nation of today's world. Our mutual commitment to Israel is unique.

It is vital that we retain our unity in supporting the Israeli cause. The Soviet Union, collaborating with the Arabs, is trying to impose a unilateral peace that would compromise Israel's future. The Arabs would achieve through diplomacy what they failed to win on the field of battle. The Russians would serve their own aggressive ends.

I feel that the parties to the conflict are the only parties that can negotiate, contract, and keep a lasting peace. The boundaries are theirs. They must live with them. They must make mutual accommodation with each other.

Israel, the victim of aggression, is entitled to reasonable claims for new and secure boundaries. Israel has every right to seek a defensible frontier which

(more)



may not correspond identically with the frontiers of 1967 when the forces of aggression imposed an unwanted war upon Israel. I will not today discuss the various proposals and formulas except to say that we must exercise great care to avoid unwitting collaboration with Moscow and impose a settlement upon Israel.

In exercising such caution it is vital that we maintain the great bastion of bi-partisan Congressional support of Israel. Such support strengthens the hand of our President who is committed to a just peace. But I am troubled that some very important Members of the United States Senate are abandoning bi-partisanship on the Middle East and are making statements that facilitate the Soviet Union's anti-Israel pressures.

I am thinking of one Senator who is seeking our highest national office. Earlier this year he went to the Middle East and then called on Soviet Premier Kosygin in Moscow. He told Kosygin that "there was a strong body of opinion in the United States" opposed to U.S. defense appropriations linked to our foreign commitments including the Middle East.

I am dismayed that such a well-informed Senator could visit Israel and Egypt where he actually witnessed the ongoing Soviet military build-up and still find it possible to go to Moscow and tell Kosygin that there was disunity between him and President Nixon on U.S. military spending that relates to Israel's security. This was a disservice to Israel's security. It was a disservice to the bi-partisan foreign policy objectives of the United States. It tended to undermine the credibility of American deterrence of the growing Soviet military involvement against Israel. It undercut the impact of President Nixon's visit to the U.S. Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean last Autumn when the President served notice on Moscow that we were prepared to defend freedom in the Mediterranean.

I am dismayed that this Senator could ignore what the Soviet Union is doing not only in the United Arab Republic but also through its intervention in such places as Ceylon, Sudan, and East Pakistan. Russian MIG's and Russian bombs are killing peasants in those places. But some are too busy denouncing our own nation to notice.

While we talk of peace, the Russians build new missile systems. While our defense needs are attacked, a Russian leader is told that elements of our Congress are trying to cut back our military appropriations bills.

I would have been much more encouraged to hear that this distinguished Senator visited Moscow and told Kosygin that if Russia is so categorical in demanding Israeli withdrawal from every vestige of occupied territory, let Russia set an

(more)

example by withdrawing from the nations of Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia which have been forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union. Moscow in these cases used the pretext of security but denies Israel the right to frontier revisions even in a very different context, a context in which Israel is the target of aggression and is threatened by the far-ranging elements of Soviet military power.

Let me refer to another Senator, the chairman of a prestigious Committee, who recently denounced the State of Israel for allegedly resorting to "Communist-baiting humbuggery," as he described it, to "manipulate"--his word--the United States policy in the Middle East. He depicted Israel as a manipulative "pusher" of noxious ideological drugs because Israel dares to oppose Communism and aggression.

It is tragic that such a self-proclaimed peace advocate has undermined prospects of a real Arab-Israeli settlement by tacitly encouraging the Soviet Union and Arab extremists to desist from a genuine peace and to continue a great military escalation in the hopes of forcing their will upon Israel. This Senator has weakened the bi-partisan foreign policy of the United States.

It is very important that the luncheon we are now attending become more than a ritualistic expression of pro-Israel generalities. Those who truly care about Israel's survival must make bi-partisan support an action involving deeds rather than words.

I was very gratified to be part of an Administration that responded to the realities in the Middle East by providing Israel with some of the finest U.S. weapons. We pray for a day when we can beat our swords into plowshares. But we witness the Soviet shipments of the latest Russian weaponry and aircraft--including the MIG-23 supersonic fighter-bombers--which are so sophisticated that they must be operated by Russians. We witness a deepening Soviet infiltration of the Middle East, an expanding involvement, a build-up of aggressive bases. I am now reassured to know that my country at least has provided Israel with the means of deterring aggression.

- How beautiful it would be to hear certain Senators question the presence of Soviet troops in Egypt!

Three Arab nations--Egypt, Libya, and Syria--and their 42 million people are seeking a new union involving one President, one flag, one military command, and, and, obviously, one enemy: The State of Israel. I fervently hope that our Secretary of State assesses this new development and carefully evaluates the latest Soviet military moves and other developments. He could appropriately advise the Congress

(more)

on the developing security situation in the Middle East. The crisis goes far beyond the Suez Canal.

Our bi-partisan Congressional policy on the Middle East is committed to a peace that must emerge from the parties directly involved. We reject any diplomatic concept that would force our friends, the Israelis, to negotiate with the United States rather than Egypt on the territorial question. Moscow would relish a split between America and Israel.

It is apparent that Soviet diplomacy seeks to avoid a formal peace while forcing Israel out of territories now occupied. Consider the full context of developments. A new situation is developing in Asia. Israel is, after all, an Asian nation. So is the Soviet Union. We may now be entering a new and far-reaching relationship with Communist China that could even affect the Middle East in terms of Soviet policies. It remains to be seen whether Chinese overtures lead beyond Ping-Pong. But this is obviously not the time to abandon a true friend like Israel in one corner of Asia while a whole new constellation of factors may be emerging involving our various relationships and possibilities for a new phase on that side of the world.

It is possible that a firm and non-hysterical policy will lead to the kind of Asia we all want--an Asia at peace, with a live-and-let-live attitude toward other nations and other philosophies of government. In this context it is conceivable that even the Arabs and Israelis may find a way to play Ping-Pong.

Meanwhile, the United States Government must continue to give Israel the backing necessary to maintain the credibility of our friendship. This is in our own self-interest as a world power. We will not dip the Stars and Stripes in retreat and defeat in the Mediterranean. We are not ready to abandon Western Europe or NATO. Nor are we unconscious of the implications of a strong and viable Israel to the free world.

Another important matter concerns both the United States and Israel. I refer to the fate of the Jewish community of the Soviet Union. This is not a religious or partisan matter but an issue completely consistent with our beliefs and commitments to human freedom and the dignity of the individual.

America and Israel are both concerned about the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God. We cannot rest without doing everything within our power to alleviate the plight of Russian Jewry and to communicate to the Soviet authorities that the American people are watching Soviet racism and religious discrimination.

(more)



I wish to salute the brave Jews, young and old, who stand up to the Soviet secret police. I wish to honor them within the halls of the United States Congress. They are true demonstrators for peace and freedom. They are putting their lives on the line against totalitarianism and oppression. Their heroic deeds in the face of Communism should be recorded in our history books so that American young people can know what it really means to demonstrate against an oppressive regime.

This observance of Israel's anniversary coincides with the anniversary of the courageous Jewish uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto against the Nazis during World War II. America and Israel are dedicated and rededicated to the proposition that the Jewish victims of Nazism and Communism did not die in vain. We have faith that their sacrifices will lead to a world in which our children and our children's children can cherish the Judeo-Christian values in a society that is flexible enough to change but brave enough to retain its freedom.

I thank you.

#