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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1976

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE DINNER

THANK YOU, MR. FISHER.

(Max Fisher introduces you.)

MR. WINTER

(President of the American Jewish  
Committee)

YOUR EXCELLENCIES

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

MY ASSOCIATES IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I AM PLEASED AND HONORED TO CONGRATULATE

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE ON ITS 70th ANNIVERSARY•

AS THE COMMITTEE TODAY CELEBRATES ITS ANNIVERSARY,

WE ARE, ( ALL OF US, ) OBSERVING OUR BICENTENNIAL•

THE BICENTENNIAL RIGHTFULLY ADDRESSES THE JEWISH CONTRIBUTION

TO AMERICA, ALONG WITH THE OTHER VITAL INGREDIENTS

OF OUR NATIONHOOD. THE TRADITIONAL JEWISH CONCEPTS

OF JUSTICE, LIBERTY, FAMILY AND CITIZENSHIP ARE PART AND PARCEL

OF THE AMERICAN HERITAGE.

WHEN AMERICA'S FOUNDERS CREATED THIS REPUBLIC

200 YEARS AGO, THEY SAW IT AS A PROMISED LAND.

THEY WERE INSPIRED BY THE MORAL AND ETHICAL VALUES

OF THE OLD TESTAMENT AS WELL AS BY THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS.

AS WE REAFFIRM AMERICA'S TRADITIONAL SEPARATION

OF CHURCH FROM STATE, WE ALSO HONOR THE SPIRIT

OF OUR CONSTITUTION WHICH DRAWS ITS MORAL PHILOSOPHY

FROM THE JEWISH-CHRISTIAN HERITAGE•

RELIGIOUS VALUES ARE THE FOUNDATION OF THE PROMISE

OF AMERICA:

-- THE INFINITE VALUE WE PLACE ON EACH INDIVIDUAL,

-- THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN DIGNITY,

-- THE COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS, AND

-- THE FIRM BELIEF IN JUSTICE FOR ALL.



AMERICA HAS GROWN GREAT BECAUSE AMERICA

HAD THE WISDOM TO INVITE DIVERSITY.

JUDAISM AND ALL OF OUR RELIGIONS HELPED TRANSLATE

THE BASIC CREDOES OF RELIGIOUS FAITH INTO THE PRINCIPLES

AND RULES THAT GOVERN OUR DAILY LIVES.

I AM TONIGHT ESPECIALLY MINDFUL OF THE UNIQUE

BLENDING OF THE JEWISH HERITAGE WITH THE MULTITUDE OF

DIVERSE CULTURES OF OUR COUNTRY. I COMMEND THE WORK

OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE AND THE SPIRIT WITH

WHICH YOU HAVE TRANSLATED JEWISH CONCERNS INTO CONCERN

FOR ALL HUMANITY.

WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE AN AGENCY OF THE AMERICAN

JEWISH COMMITTEE CO-SPONSOR A WHITE HOUSE MEETING

ON ETHNIC DIVERSITY AND GROUP IDENTITY NEXT MONTH.

WHEN SIX MILLION JEWS WERE SO CRUELLY MURDERED

IN WORLD WAR TWO, THE VICTIM WAS NOT ONLY THE JEWISH PEOPLE

BUT CIVILIZATION ITSELF•

ON MY VISIT TO THE NOTORIOUS AUSCHWITZ CONCENTRATION

CAMP LAST SUMMER, I SAW THE WORDS "NEVER AGAIN"•

THIS MUST APPLY TO ALL GENOCIDE - EITHER PHYSICAL OR CULTURAL•

THE UNITED STATES STANDS BY THE FUNDAMENTAL

HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLE THAT PEOPLE SHOULD BE FREE

TO EMIGRATE AS THEY CHOOSE. A FEW YEARS AGO,

WE ACHIEVED A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN EMIGRATION

FROM THE SOVIET UNION.

I WILL DO MY UTMOST TO RESTORE THIS EMIGRATION.

IT WILL BE A COMPLEX PROCESS, IN WHICH THE CONGRESS

AND I WILL HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER. BUT THE DOORS WERE

OPEN BEFORE AND WE MUST STRIVE TO RE-OPEN THEM NOW.

THE REALIZATION OF OUR MUTUAL GOALS }

ADVANCEMENT OF THE POLITICAL AND SPIRITUAL FREEDOM OF ALL

PEOPLE } IS A PRIORITY ITEM ON AMERICA'S CONSCIENCE.

THE PROCLAMATION OF LIBERTY MUST BE WRITTEN NOT ONLY

IN OUR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE BUT IN OUR HEARTS.

YET, JUST AS YOU CANNOT DO ALL THAT MUST BE DONE,

NEITHER CAN YOUR GOVERNMENT. TOGETHER, WE MUST HAVE

A CREATIVE PARTNERSHIP - VOLUNTARY EFFORTS SUCH AS THOSE

PERFORMED SO BRILLIANTLY BY THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE |--

COMBINED WITH FEDERAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITY AND THE WILLINGNESS

TO ACT, TO PRESERVE AND EXTEND THE VALUES WE SHARE.



TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO THERE WERE RELATIVELY

FEW JEWS IN AMERICA.

THOUGH SMALL IN NUMBER,

THEY WERE GREAT IN SPIRIT.

THEY SERVED IN ALL CAPACITIES.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TURNED TO ONE PATRIOT  
OF JEWISH FAITH, HAYM (HIGH-M) SOLOMON, WHEN THE  
BUDGET OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY WAS DEPLETED. SOLOMON  
SACRIFICED HIS PERSONAL FORTUNE AND ENCOURAGED OTHERS TO  
JOIN IN FINANCING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. IN PURSUING  
JUSTICE AND LIBERTY, HE PERSONIFIED THE FINEST QUALITIES OF  
AMERICAN PATRIOTISM.

IN THOSE EARLY DAYS, WE BENEFITTED NOT ONLY  
FROM OUR OWN PATRIOTS BUT FROM OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE  
TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN OUR INDEPENDENCE.

TODAY, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF RELIGION,  
SEE JUSTICE IN THIS NATION'S TRADITIONAL AND SPECIAL  
RELATIONSHIP TO A KINDRED NATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST --  
THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

THE FIRST HEAD OF A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT TO VISIT

THE WHITE HOUSE IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR WAS PRIME MINISTER

RABIN OF ISRAEL. HE PAID HOMAGE TO THE SHRINE

OF OUR FREEDOM IN PHILADELPHIA.

THE ISRAELI TRIBUTE TO OUR BICENTENNIAL

DEMONSTRATES THE BASIC VALUES SHARED BY AMERICA WITH ISRAEL.

-- BOTH NATIONS WERE BORN IN THE FACE  
OF ARMED OPPOSITION●

-- BOTH NATIONS ARE A HAVEN FOR PEOPLE  
FLEEING PERSECUTION●

-- BOTH NATIONS FIND THEIR VITALITY AND THEIR VISION  
IN A COMMITMENT TO FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY●

-- BOTH NATIONS SHARE THE COURAGE AND DETERMINATION  
TO PRESERVE THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY●

ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE AN AFFINITY  
NOT ONLY FOR EACH OTHER BUT FOR BASIC PRINCIPLES  
OF DEMOCRATIC SELF-GOVERNMENT WHICH DISTINGUISH  
THESE TWO NATIONS FROM MOST OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES  
OF TODAY'S WORLD●

AMERICA MUST AND WILL PURSUE FRIENDSHIP

WITH ALL NATIONS. BUT, THIS WILL NEVER BE DONE

AT THE EXPENSE OF AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL.

A STRONG ISRAEL IS ESSENTIAL TO A STABLE PEACE

IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

OUR COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL WILL MEET THE TEST

OF AMERICAN STEADFASTNESS AND RESOLVE.

MY ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT BE FOUND WANTING●

THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO HELP ISRAEL

PROVIDE FOR HER SECURITY●



THE FUNDS WHICH I HAVE PROPOSED TO THE CONGRESS  
FOR THE TWO BUDGETS I HAVE SUBMITTED TOTAL OVER  
FOUR BILLION DOLLARS. I FAVOR SUCH AID BECAUSE IT IS  
SO CLEARLY IN THE NATIONAL SECURITY INTEREST OF THE  
UNITED STATES AND SO ESSENTIAL TO PRESERVE AND PROMOTE PEACE  
IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

THESE FIGURES SPEAK FAR MORE ELOQUENTLY THAN  
ANY WORDS OF MY COMMITMENT TO THE SURVIVAL AND SECURITY  
OF ISRAEL●

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE REMAIN TRUE TO OUR  
COMMITMENTS NOT ONLY FOR OURSELVES BUT FOR ALL THOSE WHO RELY  
UPON US● WE MUST NOT LOSE THE VISION THAT HAS MADE THIS  
COUNTRY A BEACON TO ALL WHO SEEK FREEDOM●

BUT OUR STRENGTH AND OUR GOALS ARE TO NO AVAIL

IF WE LACK THE COURAGE, THE UNITY, AND THE WILL TO UTILIZE

OUR STRENGTH IN SUPPORT OF OUR FRIENDS●

WITHOUT COHESIVENESS OF PURPOSE AT HOME, OUR FRIENDS CANNOT

REALLY BE PROTECTED NOR OUR OPPONENTS LONG DISSUADED

FROM AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS●

MY DEDICATION TO ISRAEL'S FUTURE GOES BEYOND  
ITS MILITARY NEEDS TO A FAR HIGHER PRIORITY -- THE NEED  
FOR PEACE●

WE APPRECIATE ISRAEL'S DILEMMA IN MOVING TOWARD  
PEACE● ISRAEL IS ASKED TO RELINQUISH TERRITORY --  
A CONCRETE AND ESSENTIALLY IRREVERSIBLE STEP --  
IN RETURN FOR BASICALLY INTANGIBLE POLITICAL MEASURES●  
BUT IT IS ONLY IN WILLINGNESS TO DARE THE EXCHANGE OF THE  
TANGIBLE FOR THE INTANGIBLE THAT HOSTILITY CAN BE ENDED  
AND PEACE ATTAINED●

I AM VERY PROUD THAT DURING MY ADMINISTRATION,  
THE UNITED STATES HAS SEEN A MAJOR AND SUCCESSFUL MOVEMENT  
TOWARD PEACE, PROSPERITY AND TRUST ABROAD AS WELL AS  
AT HOME●

LAST SEPTEMBER'S SINAI AGREEMENT WAS A MILESTONE ON THE ROAD  
TO PEACE THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN INCONCEIVABLE JUST A FEW YEARS  
AGO. I COMMEND ISRAEL'S BOLD AND COURAGEOUS DECISION.

ISRAELIS AND EGYPTIANS ARE NO LONGER DYING IN THE SANDS  
OF THE SINAI PENINSULA.

THE PEACE PROCESS MUST CONTINUE WITHOUT  
ONE-SIDED CONCESSIONS -- BUT WITH STEADY PROGRESS.●  
STALEMATE AND STAGNATION CREATE UNACCEPTABLE RISKS  
OF FURTHER CONFLICT.●



THE UNITED STATES IS DEDICATED TO A JUST AND

LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE HAVE WORKED

UNCEASINGLY TO THAT END. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

YET, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, IT IS THE PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE

WHO MUST MAKE PEACE A REALITY.

THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ACHIEVE THAT PEACE

EXISTS EQUALLY ON ALL THE PARTIES, WHO MUST CONTRIBUTE,  
EACH IN FULL MEASURE, TO THE PEACEMAKING PROCESS●

AMERICA'S RESPONSIBILITY IS TO ENCOURAGE BOTH SIDES  
TO END THE STATE OF WAR THAT HAS FOR TOO LONG PLAGUED  
THE MIDDLE EAST AND THREATENED WORLD PEACE●

THE 1973 WAR HAS HAD DANGEROUS POLITICAL AND  
ECONOMIC REPERCUSSIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD●  
IT CAUSED STRAINS ON OUR ALLIANCES AND NEAR-CONFRONTATION  
WITH THE SOVIET UNION● THE RESULTING OIL EMBARGO AND  
DRASTIC AND UNWARRANTED OIL PRICE INCREASES CAUSED  
SEVERE PROBLEMS OF RECESSION AND INFLATION●

I WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE  
EAST. THIS IS NOT ONLY FOR THE SAKE OF THE ISRAELI AND  
ARAB PEOPLES BUT FOR THE WELL-BEING OF ALL AMERICANS  
AND ALL HUMANITY.

THE UNITED STATES HAS DEMONSTRATED THE STRENGTH  
OF OUR FREE ECONOMY -- AS WELL AS OUR FAITH AND VISION  
OF THE FUTURE. THESE QUALITIES ARE CHARACTERISTIC  
OF A KINDRED PEOPLE, THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL.

AMERICANS AND ISRAELIS HAVE BOTH BEEN INSPIRED BY MORAL  
AIMS. INDEED, MY COMMITMENT TO THE SECURITY AND FUTURE  
OF ISRAEL IS BASED UPON BASIC MORALITY AS WELL AS ENLIGHTENED  
SELF-INTEREST. OUR ROLE IN SUPPORTING ISRAEL HONORS  
OUR OWN HERITAGE.

AMERICA REMAINS THE REAL HOPE FOR FREEDOM

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD●

WE WILL REMAIN THE ULTIMATE GUARANTOR OF

ISRAEL'S FREEDOM●

IF WE FALTER, THERE IS NO ONE TO PICK UP THE TORCH●

IF WE WITHDRAW INTO OURSELVES, THOSE WHO RELY ON US,

THOSE WHO GAIN THEIR STRENGTH FROM US, ARE LOST●

BUT WE WILL NOT FALTER; WE WILL NOT WITHDRAW●

WE WILL REMAIN STEADFAST IN OUR DEDICATION

TO PEACE AND TO THE SURVIVAL OF ISRAEL●



THERE MAY AT TIMES BE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN  
AMERICA AND ISRAEL OVER THE MEANS TO ACHIEVE MUTUAL GOALS.  
BUT THERE HAS NOT AND WILL NOT BE ANY EROSION OF THE  
FUNDAMENTAL AMERICAN-ISRAELI FRIENDSHIP. NOR WILL  
I FORSAKE THE GOAL OF PEACE OR THE MORAL COMMITMENT  
TO ISRAEL WHICH I NOW REAFFIRM.

WITH THAT CONVICTION, I TONIGHT REITERATE  
THE WORDS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON TO THE HEBREW CONGREGATION  
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND TWO CENTURIES AGO.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE "TO GIVE  
TO BIGOTRY NO SANCTION, TO PERSECUTION, NO ASSISTANCE."

THAT IS MY GOAL WORLDWIDE AS IT IS AT HOME.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT