

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 22, 1976

Office of the Vice President
(Washington, D. C.)

REMARKS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE
AMERICAN FRIENDS OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY LUNCHEON
MAYFLOWER HOTEL
WASHINGTON, D. C.

(AT 1:40 P.M. EST)

Rabbi Rabinsky, Dr. Max Kampelman, thank you very much for those wonderful remarks and this very generous award which means a great deal to me. I am humbled by the things you said and would like to accept it in the names of all the scholars whom I have had the privilege of working with.

(Applause.)

Mr. Ambassador, I would like to say to you, sir, that not only did I appreciate your generous remarks, but I thought that you gave us all in this country and in the world, those of us who believe in freedom and who seek to preserve and extend freedom, a very, very important lesson; and that is, only through learning and faith by every generation, every oncoming young person, can we preserve that.

I would like to thank you for what you said. I hope it is carried widely and that you repeat it and the rest of us repeat it often, because that is not understood in this country. Too many people take freedom for granted and then go on from there and think they can get the benefits without carrying the responsibilities. So I thank you, sir.

To you, Mr. President, it is a great honor and pleasure to sit next to you. I have great respect for Presidents.

(Laughter and Applause.)

I can't say the same for Vice Presidents.

(Laughter.)

And to you, Leo Freudberg, and to your late beautiful wife whom we honor today, it is indeed an honor to be here with you, sir.

Ladies and gentlemen and friends, I am deeply grateful for this opportunity to be with you and to listen to two such important addresses that have already been made. And I am moved and honored to receive the Torch of Learning Award from the American Friends of Hebrew University.

The relationship between learning and the life of the Jewish people is inescapable. Jewish immigrants who came to America to find freedom and opportunity, to escape persecution, worked from dawn to dusk, often at menial jobs, in order to give their children opportunity for education.

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This dedication and devotion to learning which has characterized Jewish immigrants to America has been the basis of fantastic contributions by their children, and their children's children, to the economic, social and cultural life of America.

It is this same search to escape persecution, seek religious freedom and find opportunity that has been the driving force which created and developed Israel. And Israel has been built, as well, by a love of learning, by the reverence for the educated mind, which is bred into the Jewish character.

Nowhere is that respect for education more evident than in the emergence of Hebrew University, from its modest birth on Mount Scopus half a century ago, to one of the world's most renowned seats of learning today.

Hebrew University has been a major factor in the emergence of Israel as a modern nation, economically and socially progressive, and intellectually and culturally creative.

From Hebrew University have come technologies which helped transform arid wastes into productive fields.

From Hebrew University have come cures for tropical diseases which benefit not only the people of Israel but the afflicted throughout the world.

From Hebrew University has come the cultural nourishment which revived the Hebrew language and preserved the heritage of the Israeli people.

The astonishing and inspiring thing above all is that Hebrew University's remarkable advances have been achieved despite the outbreak of four major wars, which have sent students and teachers from the fields of learning to the field of battle. Yet, Hebrew University goes on and, in the face of constant tension, it keeps alive the humanistic values which sustain the Israeli people.

We all long for the day when lasting peace is attained, the day when this remarkable place of learning can realize the benefits of peace for all the people of the Middle East.

We all look forward to the day when, instead of fighting battles among themselves, the millions of people who live in these ancient lands can join in fighting battles against ignorance, poverty and disease.

There is so much that is positive and life-giving which Hebrew University can advance for all the peoples of this area and the world. This is the kind of peaceful world we all hope for and pray for in the Middle East.

This was the vision of so many of the founders and supporters of this great university over half a century ago. And this has been the hope of those who fled the horrors of totalitarianism, and who brought their brilliance, intellect and dedication to Hebrew University in the years preceding and following the Second World War.

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I have to say that I have faith that peace will be achieved in the Middle East and that America will keep faith with Israel as we work toward that goal.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

END

(AT 1:45 P.M. EST)