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AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
LUNCHEON, ROOM B-339, RAYBURN H.O.B.,
TUESDAY NOON, MAY 8, 1973.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE ARE GATHERED HERE TO FORMALLY NOTE THE CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL.

THIS IS A MOST AUSPICIOUS OCCASION BECAUSE IT MARKS A GREAT MOMENT IN HISTORY -- THE CELEBRATING OF ISRAEL'S 25TH BIRTHDAY. THE OFFICIAL DATE, OF COURSE, WAS YESTERDAY. BUT I AM EXERCISING 24 HOURS LICENSE SO THAT I TOO CAN BE PART OF THIS HISTORIC OBSERVANCE.

THIS IS A MOST APPROPRIATE TIME TO REAFFIRM AMERICAN-ISRAELI FRIENDSHIP AND OUR TRADITIONAL BIPARTISAN FOREIGN POLICY -- BECAUSE BOTH THIS FRIENDSHIP AND

THIS POLICY SERVE THE CAUSE OF PEACE.

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.

IT IS VITAL THAT THIS BIPARTISAN BACKING OF ISRAEL CONTINUES. THE FACT THAT IT IS FLOURISHING IS DRAMATICALLY DEMONSTRATED BY THE PRESENCE IN THIS ROOM TODAY OF LEADERS FROM BOTH PARTIES.

WE MUST RETAIN OUR UNITY. SUCH UNITY STRENGTHENS THE HAND OF OUR PRESIDENT IN HIS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE A JUST PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

IT IS IMPORTANT, TOO, THAT THIS LUNCHEON WE ARE ATTENDING BE MORE THAN SIMPLY AN OCCASION FOR EXPRESSING

PRO-ISRAELI SENTIMENT. OUR ULTIMATE AND OVER-RIDING OBJECTIVE IS A PERMANENT AND JUST PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THIS IS IN AMERICA'S NATIONAL INTEREST.

THOSE WHO TRULY CARE ABOUT ISRAEL'S SURVIVAL MUST EXPRESS BIPARTISAN SUPPORT THROUGH ACTIONS AND NOT ONLY WORDS.

I PERSONALLY AM PLEASED TO BE PART OF AN ADMINISTRATION THAT IS MAINTAINING THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THE MIDEAST BY SUPPLYING ISRAEL WITH SOME OF THE FINEST U. S. WEAPONS AND ASSISTING HER IN OTHER WAYS.

THE ADMINISTRATION IS SELLING ISRAEL FOUR SQUADRONS OF COMBAT JETS AND IS HELPING THE ISRAELIS SET UP PRODUCTION OF AN ADVANCED JET FIGHTER OF THEIR OWN DESIGN.

THESE ADDITIONAL AMERICAN
WARPLANES WILL KEEP PACE WITH SHIPMENTS
OF SOVIET AIRCRAFT TO SYRIA AND EGYPT
AND OF FRENCH AIRCRAFT TO LIBYA.

BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, ISRAEL
IS DUE TO HAVE ABOUT 120 F-4's, AND BY
THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR, ABOUT 200 A-4's.

OUR BACKING FOR ISRAEL SHOULD
CONTINUE AT THE LEVELS OF RECENT YEARS
THROUGH MILITARY CREDITS, SUPPORTING
ASSISTANCE, AND GRANTS TO RESETTLE
IMMIGRANTS.

our IT IS REASSURING TO KNOW THAT
~~MY~~ COUNTRY IS PROVIDING ISRAEL WITH THE
MEANS OF DETECTING AGGRESSION AND IS
HELPING NEW SETTLERS IN ISRAEL GET STARTED
IN A NEW LIFE.

WE ARE, OF COURSE, CONSTANTLY

EXPLORING EVERY MEANS OF DETECTING A
RENEWAL OF HOSTILITIES AND PROMOTING A
LASTING PEACE SETTLEMENT.

IN THE CONGRESS, OUR BIPARTISAN
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 CALL UPON
OUR FRIENDS, THE ISRAELIS, TO NEGOTIATE
WITH THE UNITED STATES RATHER THAN EGYPT
ON THE TERRITORIAL QUESTION.

THE UNITED STATES MUST CONTINUE
TO GIVE ISRAEL THE BACKING NECESSARY TO
MAINTAIN THE CREDIBILITY OF OUR FRIENDSHIP.
THE CENTRAL AIM OF OUR POLICY IN THE
MIDDLE EAST MUST BE TO PREVENT EVENTS
THAT WOULD CAUSE A BREAKDOWN IN THE
EMERGING STRUCTURE OF WORLD PEACE.

THERE IS ANOTHER IMPORTANT MATTER WHICH CONCERNS BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL. THAT IS THE FATE OF SOVIET JEWRY. THIS MATTER HAS BECOME TIGHTLY BOUND UP WITH THE ENTIRE SUBJECT OF U. S.-SOVIET RELATIONS AND, MOST DIRECTLY, WITH POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF U. S.-SOVIET TRADE.

WE ALL KNOW THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE NOW SUSPENDED THEIR INFAMOUS "EDUCATION TAX," WHICH HAD BEEN IMPOSED ON SOME PERSONS SEEKING TO LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION. THIS IS SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS BY NEGOTIATION. WE ARE ALSO FAMILIAR WITH THE SIZABLE ANNUAL INCREASE IN JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM THE SOVIET UNION TO ISRAEL.

IT IS CLEAR THAT SENATOR JACKSON IS NOT SATISFIED WITH SOVIET SUSPENSION OF THE TAX AND THEREFORE APPARENTLY INTENDS TO PRESS HIS AMENDMENT BARRING MOST FAVORED NATION TREATMENT FOR THE SOVIET UNION.

I FULLY SUPPORT SENATOR JACKSON'S OBJECTIVES BUT I FEEL WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO EXPLORE ALL ALTERNATIVES TO ACHIEVE THE DESIRED END. WE WANT RESULTS, AND PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE.

LET US CONSIDER THE FACT THAT MR. BREZHNEV RECENTLY MET WITH A GROUP OF U. S. SENATORS IN MOSCOW AND INDICATED HE DOES NOT INTEND TO LET ANYTHING STAND IN THE WAY OF EXPANDED U. S.-SOVIET TRADE. HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING MOSCOW WILL DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO REMOVE THE

EXIT FEE ISSUE AS AN OBSTACLE.

I SUPPORT THE JACKSON AMENDMENT
IN PRINCIPLE. BUT MY HOPE IS THAT WE
CAN WORK OUT A ^{solution} COMPROMISE WHICH WILL MAKE
POSSIBLE AN EXPANSION OF U. S.-SOVIET
TRADE, WILL PROMOTE IMPROVED RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE U. S. AND THE SOVIET UNION,
WILL HELP US REALIZE A SECOND SALT
AGREEMENT, AND WILL HELP BRING ABOUT
PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

WE MUST MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR
SOVIET JEWS TO EMIGRATE FREELY TO ISRAEL.
WE MUST DEVISE A JACKSON AMENDMENT
^{solution} COMPROMISE THAT WILL PERMIT AFFIRMATIVE
ACTION ON TRADE BUT AT THE SAME TIME SHOW
THE RUSSIANS THAT THE CONGRESS BACKS FREEDOM
OF EMIGRATION. WE MUST DO EVERYTHING WITHIN
OUR POWER TO ALLEVIATE THE PLIGHT OF

SOVIET JEWRY WITHOUT WRECKING THE
MOVEMENT TOWARD A SOVIET-AMERICAN
IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS.

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.

EVERY JEW WHO WISHES TO EMIGRATE
TO ISRAEL SHOULD BE FREE TO DO SO. THE
WORDS OF GENESIS ARE JUST AS MEANINGFUL
TODAY AS THEY WERE 4,000 YEARS AGO WHEN THE
LORD GOD SAID TO ABRAHAM: "GO FORTH FROM
YOUR COUNTRY . . . TO THE LAND THAT I WILL
SHOW YOU. AND I WILL MAKE OF YOU A GREAT
NATION."

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REMARKS BY REP. GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.
REPUBLICAN LEADER, U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AT THE AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE LUNCHEON
ROOM B-339 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
TUESDAY NOON, MAY 8, 1973

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY

Ladies and gentlemen, we are gathered here to formally note the close friendship which exists between the United States and Israel.

This is a most auspicious occasion because it marks a great moment in history -- the celebrating of Israel's 25th birthday. The official date, of course, was yesterday. But I am exercising 24 hours license so that I too can be part of this historic observance.

This is a most appropriate time to reaffirm American-Israeli friendship and our traditional bipartisan foreign policy -- because both this friendship and this policy serve the cause of peace.

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.

It is vital that this bipartisan backing of Israel continues. The fact that it is flourishing is dramatically demonstrated by the presence in this room today of leaders from both parties.

We must retain our unity. Such unity strengthens the hand of our President in his efforts to promote a just peace in the Middle East.

It is important, too, that this luncheon we are attending be more than simply an occasion for expressing pro-Israeli sentiment. Our ultimate and over-riding objective is a permanent and just peace in the Middle East. This is in America's national interest.

Those who truly care about Israel's survival must express bipartisan support through actions and not only words.

I personally am pleased to be part of an Administration that is maintaining the balance of power in the Mideast by supplying Israel with some of the finest U. S. weapons and assisting her in other ways.

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The Administration is selling Israel four squadrons of combat jets and is helping the Israelis set up production of an advanced jet fighter of their own design.

These additional American warplanes will keep pace with shipments of Soviet aircraft to Syria and Egypt and of French aircraft to Libya.

By the end of this year, Israel is due to have about 120 F-4's, and by the middle of next year, about 200 A-4's.

Our backing for Israel should continue at the levels of recent years through military credits, supporting assistance, and grants to resettle immigrants.

It is reassuring to know that my country is providing Israel with the means of deterring aggression and is helping new settlers in Israel get started in a new life.

We are, of course, constantly exploring every means of deterring a renewal of hostilities and promoting a lasting peace settlement.

In the Congress, our bipartisan 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 call upon our friends, the Israelis, to negotiate with the United States rather than Egypt on the territorial question.

The United States must continue to give Israel the backing necessary to maintain the credibility of our friendship. The central aim of our policy in the Middle East must be to prevent events that would cause a breakdown in the emerging structure of world peace.

There is another important matter which concerns both the United States and Israel. That is the fate of Soviet Jewry. This matter has become tightly bound up with the entire subject of U. S.-Soviet relations and, most directly, with possible expansion of U. S.-Soviet trade.

We all know that the Soviets have now suspended their infamous "education tax," which had been imposed on some persons seeking to leave the Soviet Union. This is substantial evidence of progress by negotiation. We are also familiar with the sizable annual

(more)

increase in Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to Israel.

It is clear that Senator Jackson is not satisfied with Soviet suspension of the tax and therefore apparently intends to press his amendment barring most favored nation treatment for the Soviet Union.

I fully support Senator Jackson's objectives but I feel we should continue to explore all alternatives to achieve the desired end. We want results, and progress has been made.

Let us consider the fact that Mr. Brezhnev recently met with a group of U. S. senators in Moscow and indicated he does not intend to let anything stand in the way of expanded U. S.-Soviet trade. He was quoted as saying Moscow will do whatever is necessary to remove the exit fee issue as an obstacle.

I support the Jackson Amendment in principle. But my hope is that we can work out a compromise which will make possible an expansion of U. S.-Soviet trade, will promote improved relations between the U. S. and the Soviet Union, will help us realize a second SALT agreement, and will help bring about peace in the Middle East.

We must make it possible for Soviet Jews to emigrate freely to Israel. We must devise a Jackson Amendment compromise that will permit affirmative action on trade but at the same time show the Russians that the Congress backs freedom of emigration. We must do everything within our power to alleviate the plight of Soviet Jewry without wrecking the movement toward a Soviet-American improvement of relations.

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.

Every Jew who wishes to emigrate to Israel should be free to do so. The words of Genesis are just as meaningful today as they were 4,000 years ago when the Lord God said to Abraham: "Go forth from your country...to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation."

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