

Motion Picture No. 172 Transcription

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M1: There has never been a more momentous week in our nation's history than that which we all lived in early June. Israel passed from mortal danger to successful and glorious resistance. On June the 3rd, she was embattled and besieged, surrounded by massive Arab armies, by more than a thousand tanks, by hundreds of hostile air craft poised to strike. She was cut off from Asia and Africa, across the Gulf of Aqaba. Her commerce and her economy were beating with feeble pulse. Nearly all her manpower was tied down in defensive mobilization. The empty streets of Israel were heavy with a sense of doom. It was in that agonizing solitude at she heard Nasser's voice. We knew what was being prepared for us. [01:00] He said, "This is the hour. This is the hour of total war. Israel's destruction is now our immediate aim.

We have found operation instructions in Egyptian headquarters that have been recently captured, announcing the plan and the design, which was to bring about the final blow, leading to the extinction of a state, and not of any state, but

the State of Israel, with everything that that ancient name evokes, recalls, signifies, and inspires.

Now, in that ordeal, we were buoyed up by the sympathy, which flowed towards us, across the humane and friendly world. Above everything else, a massive wave of solidarity, of your solidarity, for eternal, intimate, concrete, passionate, flowed in towards us [02:00] from the depths of Jewish memory and history. On behalf of every citizen of Israel, I send you the tribute of our undying gratitude and love.

We'll see how our fortunes have now changed. Those who sought to extinguish us and to blot out the pride of our sovereignty have been flung back in defeat and disarray. The heroic armies and air forces of Israel have repelled the danger. Never in all history has armed force been used in a more righteous cause. Jerusalem is fully liberated. The straits of Tehran and the Gulf of Aqaba is open. The threatening guns have been pushed away from our throat. General Rabin's forces have written a glorious page in the annals of Jewish heroism.

But the danger has not yet passed. The enemy may still rally here and there. [03:00] Pressures may be exerted, whether through malice, or folly, or inadvertence, to recreate the previous conditions of our vulnerability and our danger. We must surmount the danger. We must resist the pressures. Never, never will Israel go back to a position of danger and insecurity,

whereby she will lie at the mercy of her foes. The clock will not go back to 1957 or 1956 or 1949. The clock moves forward. This, then, is our watch word. Not backward to belligerency, but forward to peace.

With the battle lines established, the next stage must be a firm and final settlement, assuring our vital interests, our security, and our legitimate peace. [04:00] Surely, world opinion, which stood with us in our danger, will accompany us until we reach this destination. That is why I send my voice today, in urgent summons, to every Jewish home. This is not a time to relax your tension, but to tighten it to an even higher pitch. Let us not squander our opportunities. Let us translate them into a new epoch of peace. This is Israel's message to the Jews of the United States: sustain us, reinforce us, give us the means and the instruments of our strength. Make concrete demonstration of your undying Jewish fraternity. Do all of this and we shall advance beyond the darkness, towards a brighter and a better dawn.

M2: [05:00] Mr. Eban has expressed his gratitude to us in the American Jewish community for the manner in which we responded instantaneously, almost, and in such tremendous volume. The gratitude is deep felt. It's genuine. I've spent a few moments talking to him before he made this message, and his words are

not perfunctory. However, he wanted to make sure that we would all understand that because of the enormous military victories, there was no justification for us at this moment to relax our tension. He said it very clearly. We should maintain the tension and not relax it. Instead, we should increase our efforts.

This is so important to understand at this time. There are so many problems ahead that haven't been solved, even though we have behind us, now, a great and crashing victory for freedom. The economy must still be reconstructed. [06:00] Everything that we said a week and ten days ago about the dangers to the economy exist now even more so. The problems of the peace settlement will be tremendous, and lie only in the dim future. The ultimate solution is not clear at this moment.

Never forget that a huge, new problem has been added now, because with the taking of certain territories on the West Bank of the Jordan, Israel also has taken almost a million new Arabs, who are now part of the population of Israel. No one knows what the implications are of this, certainly not the economic implications. The UJA problems of social welfare and relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction on behalf of the immigrants, and the settlements, and the farms, and the villages, will go on in tremendously increased dimensions. Good friends, they, in Israel, exerted themselves with maximum skill and with

magnificent effort. [07:00] We must do no less. Failure of nerve on our part, at this time, would be shocking and shameful.

We must understand that because the events of the past few days have moved so swiftly in the direction of success that now our efforts must go on, unrelentingly and unremittingly. We must guarantee with our continued support what they have managed to achieve already in these few days. As the days ahead unfold, meeting after meeting continues to be held in the highest tempo of excitement and achievement. As the days ahead go on, and the mass rallies are held, and the fundraising meetings are held, the American Jewish community must demonstrate the strength and the solidarity, which it gave so magnificently in the first few days. Let us not be found wanting, as the time goes on, because we've been deluded into some feeling of achievement and final accomplishment. The final task still lies ahead to be achieved.

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