



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
**AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES**

**MS-763: Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman Collection, 1930-2004.**

Series H: United Jewish Appeal, 1945-1995.

Subseries 1: Sermons, Speeches and Writings, 1949-1982.

---

Box  
23

Folder  
16

Israel Emergency Funds speech at the Hollywood Bowl. 11 June  
1967.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the  
American Jewish Archives website.

---

We have come here today under tremendous tension and emotion. In New York at this very moment, Madison Square Garden is beginning to fill up. In Cleveland right now, there are two mass meetings going on. In London, Rio, Melbourne and Munich -- all across the world -- all across America, in city after city, the Jews are rallying today -- this week -- in a demonstration of solidarity and support for Israel which is so strong as to be almost breathtaking. We say for all to hear: We are with Israel -- and shall not let her down!

Not only the Jewish people is reacting. Americans of all faiths have lent their voices, their words and their money, in support of Israel's position, which the public opinion of the free world has judged to be a righteous cause.

This is the third war in 19 years which Israel has had to wage for the basic right to live.

An ancient people, returned to its ancestral homeland, and reviving its original tongue, 19 years ago renewed its nationhood and tried to live in peace, but faced each day the truculent refusal of its neighbors to accept its

very existence. After the first War of Independence was won in 1948, there was still no peace.

Armed raids and excursions, sabotage and infiltration, murder and pilferage were the hallmarks of daily life along the lengthy and uneasy borders. Shriill demands for Israel's annihilation were heard on the Cairo radio and on the Arab street. Egypt, with her Soviet arms, threatened so blatantly in 1956, that the second war -- the Suez campaign -- had to be undertaken in order to destroy this malicious arsenal and unloose the rope from Israel's throat.

Again the Arabs were badly beaten, but again there was no peace. Life resumed. Israel tried to get on with the peaceful and constructive task of building the country, but this was constantly interrupted.

In these latest months and weeks, the tempo of guerilla warfare, conducted particularly by Syria in the north, rose to such a crescendo of almost daily violence, that the Egyptian dictator, furious with envy and blind with rage, bellowed his hatred once again, just 14 days ago:

"We intend to open a general assault. This will be total war. Our basic aim is the destruction of Israel."

In the last days of May, Nasser threw out the UN, mobilized huge armies in the Sinai Desert, wheeled into position his new Russian tanks, massed his MIGs (unwisely, as it turned out), and then blocked the Gulf of Akaba, through which vessels of all flags, including Israel's, had peacefully sailed for the last 11 years. He knew he was throwing down the gauntlet -- for if this one lung were to be cut off and Israel could not breathe the air of trade and commerce with Asia and Africa, the use of force on someone's part would become an inescapable necessity.

Still Israel waited, restraining herself, hoping that the international councils of diplomacy would work out such a solution as would honor the previous commitments for open shipping. When Egyptian planes appeared on Israel's radar screens, the period of waiting came to an end. What happened is now history.

The gallant and skillful execution by the Israelis of this campaign excited the imagination of the world. What bravery -- what skill -- what daring! It is the story of David and Goliath again -- 2 million Jews against 100 million Arabs. David fought alone -- and won!

The cause was moral and just, and the governments of the free West, at least, all know that Israel fought for democracy's gain -- not merely her own. All freedom-loving men rejoice in the outcome.

The fighting is probably finished. What now? After the hectic drama of spectacular military events of the past 6 days, now we can go back and start to think again of those economic and financial problems which were of major concern a week ago, and which are still the paramount issue.

During the days of tension, severe economic shock was occurring. The citizen reserve army was mobilized. Factories began to shut down as men were taken into uniform. Dollars began to be lost as exports of goods dwindled. Tourists left the country, so that two weeks ago, when I

was in Tel Aviv, the hotels were almost empty -- and millions were lost in cancelled reservations for this summer's season. The harvest was in the fields and there were no men to bring it in. It was clear the people of Israel would need massive economic help.

The United Jewish Appeal called for the creation of an Israel Emergency Fund a full week before the outbreak of hostilities. The moneys raised will go directly to the people of Israel without any allocations to any other agencies. At the same time, the Israel Bond organization stepped up its activities to insure a larger flow of sales.

The need for these two types of aid is quite clear.

The main vocation of Israel for these past 19 years has not been the fighting of wars, but the twin job of building the country and taking in homeless Jews, beginning with those of the concentration camps in Europe, those who felt unsafe in Moslem countries of Africa and Asia, and all those who sought freedom.

Building and developing a nation involves everything from roads to electricity to ports to factories, and the financing for this has come from the Israeli citizen who pays his taxes, but also has come from the money lent to Israel by people who bought her Bonds. There are today, over a million Americans who have bought these Bonds, as well as hundreds of banks, insurance companies, pension funds and other institutions.

The second task of rescuing the immigrants has been accepted by us -- free world Jewry -- as our obligation. Each year we have raised funds, as free philanthropic gifts, for the purpose of transporting these immigrants and absorbing them into Israel, building houses, farms, new towns, to get them started. But we never raised enough money -- and had to turn again to the Israeli Jew and ask him to help us with this task also. Do you know that for every refugee rescued, we have paid only one-third the cost and our fellow Jews in Israel paid two-thirds?

So -- while it is true we helped build the economy by buying some Bonds -- and we helped rescue the refugees by giving some free dollars -- nevertheless, on both counts, the Israeli Jews were putting up more money than we were. Is

this fair -- when we compare their resources with ours? Must they fight the wars, shed their blood, lose the best of their youth, and at the same time carry the heavy financial burden? Well -- they can't do it -- and it is simply too much to expect. Here is where we come in.

Jews, and many non-Jews as well, are now working all over this country and all over the world, raising large sums for the Emergency Fund and selling large amounts of Bonds. Men of goodwill are responding as never before to this call for action. The response is swift and generous. There is a tremendous emotional surge and a desire to help. Every man, woman and child wants to participate. People are not waiting -- and should not wait -- to be asked. They are volunteering in a manner which has never been seen before. Every person should come forward with the maximum amount he can, directed into two clear and specific channels. The first priority is to make a contribution to the Israel Emergency Fund. We are not talking about dollar bills. People who ordinarily give 5 and 10 dollars are giving 100 and 1,000. People who ordinarily give 1,000 are giving 10,000. ~~For those who can do so,~~ The



second priority is to buy the Bonds which the State of Israel offers for sale. A generously-large gift, as well as the purchase of a Bond, is the order-of-the-day. Stand and be counted -- don't just sit on the sidelines and cheer. Match their courage with our courage. Match their giving with our giving. They gave blood -- we are asked to give only money.

Your hearts are filled with love and admiration and pride. Translate those emotions into concrete help.

We must not relax tension. There are many problems ahead: the long struggle for a political settlement; the reconstruction and rebuilding of the economy; the social welfare and relief programs. Do not be deluded into relaxation by the swiftness of the military victory -- for there is no final victory yet. Let there be a great surge of support so they can know we are with them in the difficult days ahead.

I believe that out of this turmoil will come a brighter day. War cannot continue every few years. The Arab nations must make firm peace treaties with Israel. This will be good for

both sides. The poor and downtrodden in the Arab world will then also benefit, as their rulers learn that wasting money to destroy Israel is a fruitless pursuit and instead may turn their energies to raising the levels of their own people.

A quarter-century ago Hitler went for our jugular vein and, as the world stood silently by, one-third of our people went up in smoke which drifted skyward -- also silently. We could have become a defeated, melancholic people -- sullen and withdrawn. Instead, we burst forth and recreated our ancient home with energy and enthusiasm.

We did learn one lesson -- that there can be no surrender -- no appeasement -- no Munich. We have rights like all men and shall fight for them when necessary. *Never again will a single Jew be led to the slaughter without fighting back!*

We kept our balance, not oppressed by what happened a fourth of a century ago, rather remembering that forty centuries ago, when we were first born, we dreamed a beautiful dream -- that the world could be a place of peace and plenty and brotherhood and love.

Our beautiful dream cannot be destroyed --  
no matter what madmen attack us.

The people of Israel and the land of  
Israel, forever attached, one to the other,  
shall go forward to a brighter future, working  
for all mankind, keeping alive the dream --  
and emerging from this ordeal a stronger and a  
better people.



Address delivered by  
Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman  
Executive Vice-Chairman  
United Jewish Appeal

Hollywood Bowl  
Los Angeles, California  
June 11, 1967