

Motion Picture No. 173 Transcription

United Jewish Appeal. Israel Emergency Fund Bulletin No. 3.

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Max Fisher:

[00:00] I'm Max Fisher, General Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal. I will have two important messages for you from two distinguished guests from Israel, who are over here helping us on the Israel Emergency Fund. Golda Meir, Foreign Minister, has just arrived, and she will be with you in several cities. Louis Pincus is now departing after serving his assignment and visiting many cities throughout the country. I think you will be interested in what both of them have to say.

Golda Meir:

Friday, early in the morning, I went down to Jerusalem in order to go into the old city and go to the wedding ball. I was told beforehand our meeting with the general [01:00] in charge of the paratroopers, that group was always the first one to go to any place of trouble, of their spirit, their enthusiasm, of their braveness, of their devotion. I then went down to the wedding ball. That place that was prohibited to Jews for the last 20 years, despite the fact that, according to the agreement with

the Jordanian government, the armistice agreement, we were to have free access to the holy places in the old city.

I then witnessed a service that I don't think that anybody in the world has seen anything like it. It was these paratroopers, still in their paratrooper uniform, a religious group of young men, only a day before -- 36 hours before that, [02:00] were fighting their way through to the old city, in order to open it up to all Jews and to anybody that wanted to come in there for any religious service of any religion, whatsoever. There they were with their tefillin and their (break in audio) lacing, their praying shawls, with their STEN guns put away, temporarily, up near the Wailing Wall, some weeping. They didn't weep in battle. They didn't even weep when their comrades fell near them. But out of joy and out of the glory, they wept near the Wailing Wall, and then they prayed.

And then I knew, as everybody else knew, never again will this be closed to Jews of Israel or Jews of anywhere -- place in the world. Never again will there be Arab legionnaires on the walls of old Jerusalem, sniping and shelling at anybody in the new city. [03:00] This never again will be a divided city. This will be one. This is the symbol of all that has happened in the last few days in Jerusalem and in Israel. We didn't want to fight. We

didn't want a war. We didn't go out to conquer anything. We went out and sent our sons to make Israel safe. Never again will our settlement in the North be at the mercy of Syrian soldiers on the top of the hill. Never again will the road in the straits of Tehran be at the mercy of Egypt. Never again will our settlements near the Gaza strip, will our women, mothers have to keep their children underground the greater part of their lives.

We will, from now on, be in the open, above ground, safe as every other people has a right to be. And throughout this, [04:00] we had a feeling that you were always with us. You were with us throughout the years. You were with us when we were waiting and hoping that maybe we will be saved of going to war. But when we once went to war, we knew, as these paratroopers knew, each one of them, they were not alone. Not only Israelis were with them, Jews throughout the world were with them in spirit, in devotion, in anxiety. And now, we, together, as we have before, must go on to reconstruct, to build, to be safe, and to see to it that we are allowed, without a great struggle, to secure our safety and life in the future. We, together, can do it, as we have done it before.

I have been here, now, only two days in this country. The meetings that I have had with American Jews [05:00] have been

some of the greatest days of excitement in my life. I've seen them in Los Angeles. I've seen them last night in New York. As I'm going through, visiting several of the cities, I have no doubt in my mind. I knew the paratroopers would do it. I'm convinced that you, too, will do it, so that from now on, together, we will march onto peace and security.

**Louis Pincus:**

In a few hours' time, I will be leaving these shores to return to Israel. I have been in this country two weeks. Maybe these were the most important two weeks in the history of the Jewish people. I leave heartened, in full knowledge that the [06:00] Jews of America have understood what was at stake and have rallied in unlimited measure. It is this that I will convey to the people of Israel, because we need to know, day in and day out, that in this struggle, we are back to the hilt by the Jews of the free world. I have seen things in this country in the last two weeks that I didn't believe possible. Jews came, young ones, old ones, people who have been far removed from Jewish life. They instinctively felt that what was at issue was whether we, as a Jewish people, are to survive. What the People of Israel accomplished in these four or five days, when we established our just right to survival, the integrity of our country. I think we'll live long in the memory of many peoples,

[07:00] more particularly, in the memory of Jews. But the struggle is not over.

There will be the ravages of war, destruction of Jerusalem, settlements wiped out. Men and material will have to go into rebuilding. And it is in this struggle that we have to not only know that the Jews are behind us, but the Jews of the free world will have to support as unstintingly as we faced the battle for survival in Israel. That it is no secret that there are powers and forces, directly and by devious means, designing to bring our downfall, or to negate what we have gained by our courage and our spirit, at the tables of the councils of the world.

And therefore, the struggle is even more vital, even more vital from [08:00] the economic point of view, even more vital from the humanitarian point of view. We cannot allow the fabric of our people to disintegrate, now that the drama of war is over. It is my plea and my earnest desire that you, in the days that lie ahead, will realize that it is only by your consistent effort, day in and day out, dramatic and non-dramatic, to stand by us. So far, the Jews of this country have understood and given in the dimensions meeting the situation. You cannot relax your efforts. Just as we will stand on guard, mobilize during these negotiations and talks at the council tables of the world,

so you, too, must remain mobilized. You dare not your spirits to flag. You dare not allow over-optimism to dampen your order. You dare not allow yourselves to forget that the struggle is not over, [09:00] and your survival and our survival still remain the major issue. God give you strength to do it.

**Max Fisher:**

When I was in Israel in May 26, meeting with our friends, I promised them the full support of the American Jewish community. And I must say that the top level response to date has been absolutely fantastic. The efforts and the coordinated response of all the communities and workers has been something unbelievable. However, I must tell you that we should have no illusions about the future, because Israel faces a long struggle [10:00] ahead of it. During these tenuous periods of time when they will be dealing with peace negotiations, they must keep mobilized, and they'll be faced with many serious economic dislocations. So it is important that we organize at all levels to complete this emergency campaign. You will find it necessary to organize your trade divisions, your women's divisions, your junior divisions, down to your smallest contributors so that we have the support of the entire Jewish community. And we must remember that our responsibility now is to meet the full humanitarian program. Before this time, we were only meeting it

partially, but from this moment on, the full responsibility for the humanitarian needs lies upon the shoulders of the American Jewish community.

All I can say is keep up the great work that you've started. Let's complete the job. And I'm sure that we will be all proud of the great partnership that [11:00] we have with the Jewish agency and our friends in Israel. Good luck.

