

TR-3805 Transcription

United Jewish Appeal Executive Directors meeting [Plaza Hotel,
New York, N.Y.] [2]. 2 June 1967.

Nachum Shamir:

Mr. Chairman, friends, I have a very difficult task today. First, as everybody in this room, I am moved by what was said, and maybe more about what remained unsaid, but we all heard in our hearts.

I am here [0:01:00] at the request of minister of finance Pinhas Sapir. He wanted very much to be with you tonight, but went on another issue to Chicago to meet with the committee there. From there on, he goes to South America to meet with the leaders of the South American communities and [inaudible] there.

I can just tell from my own heart that the times we are passing now are the most crucial times, probably, that we face. And as Pinhas said, it's not '48 and not '56 [0:02:00]. We think, we are determined, we are sure that this won't be a Masada. And even when you hear the discussions in United Nations and read the papers, and sometimes get the feeling that you are alone, sitting in this room, I know we are not alone, because we are together as a group.

Herb Friedman made an announcement about the Israel Emergency Fund. He said there are no roads [0:03:00], there are no targets. There is one road, I would say: To assist as much as you can Israel in its struggle. But just to give a dimension of what we need, according to our economists, according to all estimates, the optimists are putting the figure at about \$600 million, if there is no war. The pessimists think it's closer to \$1 billion. That's the direct cause and the indirect damage to our economy. There is also tourism, and there is also exports, and the sad [0:04:00] bag of what we have worked hard for the 11 years since Sinai. We will take our share, and now sitting here, I am sure that you will also take upon your shoulders your part and fulfill your responsibility.

I was asked to advise you about the position of the government of Israel regarding the Israel Emergency Fund, and all the other fundraising organizations, and the Israel Bond Organization. The prime minister of Israel has announced that the Israel Emergency Fund [0:05:00] of the United Jewish Appeal has full primacy to provide in free dollars assistance of Israel so urgently requires to meet vital human needs. The prime minister has called upon all Israeli social and educational institutions to urge their American friends and supporters to stop forthwith all

special fundraising for their institutions, and to give complete and unlimited support to Israel Emergency Fund of the United Jewish Appeal.

The minister of finance, in his speech yesterday before the executives of the council, has reiterated this primacy about all forms [0:06:00] of aid. And as you have heard from Mr. Friedman, all the institutions, not only Hadassah and the labor movement and the [inaudible] campaign, but also in regard to this advisement, Institute and all other organizations have stopped, indeed, all their emergency fundraising operations, and all are putting at your disposal their members and officers, and I'm sure you will make great use of them.

In addition to the largest possible gifts people can contribute to the Israel Emergency Fund through the United Jewish Appeal, Israel is calling upon its friends to invest in the state of Israel bonds and has asked the Israel [0:07:00] Bond Organizations to intensify these efforts. The United Jewish Appeal and Israel Bond Organization, after long deliberations and discussions that we had in the last few days, have agreed to coordinate their actions fully, in keeping with the above statements of the prime minister and the minister of finance. In order to achieve the results essential to Israel and its people,

the United Jewish Appeal, the Welfare Fund, and the Israel Bond Organization will have to mobilize their manpower and resources for the most intensive and rapid activity of [inaudible].

I know that not everything seems so clear or simple, but we [0:08:00] say to you clearly, [inaudible] the gift. Get the [inaudible] money for the kind of expenses we have to cover. We can't commit very much. We are already very heavily in debt to the state of Israel. But we need more than maybe you can raise to give. Therefore, the state of Israel bonds have to go on with their sales and investments. There are many possibilities, and there are many avenues, but we [let justice do very close?] to operate. The first one, gifts. The second, [default?], even if through cooperation we can [0:09:00] appoint [inaudible] the friction and discussions [inaudible].

We know, as you know, that in some places, there are already joint campaigns. I know that [inaudible] officers and the leaders of the [inaudible] organizations are people that are willing to cooperate and work for you. And I am sure you will also be ready to work for bonds if necessary. [pause] The leadership of the three organizations that we have discussed with them the problems are in full agreement [0:10:00] that this can be done and this should be done. You have just read and

heard that the government in Israel has been enlarged. We have in Israel achieved what the hour has required, the unity from wall to wall. Every party is today representative of the government. We believe and we hope that you people, too, will unite in this one effort to help in this [inaudible]. Thank you very much. [applause]

