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The fifth anniversary of the State of Israel, 1953.

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THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

April 19, 1953

Tomorrow, dear friends, our people throughout the world will celebrate the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel. It was my privilege five years ago, at the United Nations, to announce the establishment of the State of Israel. At that time, I made the following statement to the representatives of the nations of the world:

At ten o'clock this morning the Jewish State was proclaimed in Palestine. The hour was advanced out of respect for the sanctity of the Jewish Sabbath. The statement - and I read only one sentence of that statement - is as follows:

We, the members of the National Council representing the Jewish people in Palestine and the Zionist movement of the world, meeting together in solemn assembly, by virtue of the natural and historic right of the Jewish people and of the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, hereby proclaim the establishment of the Jewish State in Palestine, to be called "Israel".

Thus, what was envisaged in the resolution of the General Assembly, which was overwhelmingly adopted by the United Nations last November, has been, as far as the Jewish State is concerned, implemented. Thus, too, there has been consummated the age-old dream of Israel to be re-established as a free and independent people in its ancient homeland.

The Jewish State is grateful to the United Nations for having placed the stamp of its approval and the stamp of the approval of the world community upon the historic claims of Israel, and for the efforts which it made in the face of opposition to achieve that which the Jewish people have accomplished. The Jewish State, in setting out upon its career, is conscious of the many grave problems, foreseen or unanticipated, which confront it. It prayerfully appeals, therefore, to all freedom-loving peoples, and especially to those who gave their fullest endorsement to the establishment of the Jewish State a few months ago, to give a full measure of their support and of their strengthening to this newest republic established by this, the most ancient of peoples. The Jewish State will strive to be worthy of the confidence which has been placed in it by the nations of the world, and will endeavor to realize, as far as it is humanly possible, those prophetic ideas of justice, brotherhood, peace and democracy which were first proclaimed by the people of Israel in that very land.

The new Jewish State is being threatened - threatened by neighboring states, threatened with invasion. Invasion will mean war. The Jewish State will be compelled to defend itself. And the world community may be faced with a widening and dangerous area of conflict, which everyone deploras.

It is not yet too late to avert such an eventuality. The Jewish State of Palestine seeks peace with all peoples, and will dedicate itself, under Providence, to the ways of peace and to the friendliest cooperation with all peace-loving peoples.

Five years have elapsed since that time, and some observations which I made in this statement to the United Nations have since been partially or fully fulfilled. I spoke of the establishment of the State of Israel as the "consummation of an age-old dream." No people in the world had carried a dream so long - 1900 years - a dream which was frustrated time and time again, but which was never defeated; the hope that some day "the Redeemer will come to Zion" never forsook the people. It's an amazing illustration of the love of a people for its ancestral home, and an amazing faith of a people in itself, in its indestructibility.

The Jews have given evidence indeed to the world that they are "the stiff-necked people", a remarkable stubbornness, which has remained with the people from the days of Moses to this day. The Rabbis speak of "Israel as being the toughest among the peoples of the earth". Perseverance - that is the first lesson the world learned with the establishment of the State of Israel and since, and the Jewish people has re-learned. Most people said it couldn't be done. The wise, the practical, the experts all declared that it couldn't be done. The worldly-wise pronounced it as a fantastic dream, laughed it to scorn. The knowing statesmen smiled at the idea right to the very end. But it was done! And it was done because tough-minded, loyally-minded, humble men and women and their faithful leaders throughout the years clung to the dream. They felt that it was more than a dream. It was a grim and dire necessity, a desperately needed haven of refuge for our people, a sorely needed rehabilitation in status, an urgency towards normalcy in Jewish life.

And these men and women began their work of the realization of this dream long before 1948, eighty years before - the movement back to Palestine, back to a national existence, began when the first Zionists established their first colonies in that

little, barren, neglected but beloved land of promise. And 55 years ago the first Zionist Congress was held in Switzerland, where the movement was organized politically and set upon its mission, destined to be consummated triumphantly in our lifetime.

The beginnings of the Movement were small, very small, and very disheartening. The Turkish government in those days gave the Movement very little encouragement indeed. The world opinion was unfavorable to it, and those Jews who were in a position to help materially and substantially were cold, indifferent and even hostile. But these faithful men and women who made the dream and knew the need persisted, and the First World War gave the Movement its first great political impetus. The Balfour Declaration was issued in 1917 during the First World War, and it was a landmark in the history of the fulfillment of this dream. Great Britain undertook, with the backing of the members of the League of Nations, to facilitate the establishment of a Jewish national home in Palestine. But it was not long before Great Britain recanted, and then there set in a long and weary period of frustration for the Movement. Attempts were made time and time again to circumvent the letter and spirit of the Mandate, to curb immigration of Jews into Palestine, to restrict their right to acquire land in Palestine. Numerous committees of inquiries were sent into the country to find ways and excuses for liquidating the Movement, and all that culminated, you may remember, in the notorious White Paper of 1939 which practically spelled the death warrant to the whole Movement.

But the Jews persisted and resisted. The Movement in Palestine went underground and the Haganah, the Irgun took up their forcible and violent methods to achieve what diplomacy was evidently unable to achieve. And illegal immigration set into the country, and the story of the many attempts on the part of Jews fleeing from the hells of Europe, trying to get into the forbidden though promised land, is now the epic of Jewish history. That the work of this resistance and persistence was so impressive and so undeniable, that in 1947 Great Britain finally turned over the whole Palestine question

to the United Nations which appointed, you may recall, a Special Commission on Palestine and which brought in in the fall of 1947 the plan for the partition of the country which was to set up an independent and sovereign Jewish state as well as an independent and sovereign Arab state. On October 2, 1947, in the name of the Zionist Movement of the world and in the name of the Jews in Palestine, I accepted the proposal of partition, and on November 29 of that same year, the United Nations voted by an overwhelming vote of 33 to 13 to approve the plan, and thus, political sanction was given by the nations of the world to the establishment of an independent state, Israel in Palestine.

And then, war began. The Arab States refused to abide by the decisions of the United Nations of which they were members, and they set about invading the country ^{un-}and/doing by force and violence what had been achieved in the United Nations.

And this brings me to the second thought which I mentioned in the statement which I made before the United Nations when I announced the establishment of the State of Israel, and the second lesson which the people of the world learned. I stated that "the new Jewish State is being threatened, threatened by neighboring states, threatened with invasion. Invasion will mean war. The Jewish State will be compelled to defend itself." And defend itself, it did.

The world didn't think that the Jews would fight. The Arabs figured that the Jews wouldn't fight. Many of them expressed the thought that the Jews would cut and run as soon as the first Arab fired his first shot in Palestine, so that gaily five Arab armies marched on Jewish Palestine, but they were completely and decisively beaten and hurled back. The Jews at that time were poorly armed, but they supplemented the paucity of their arms with an abundance of resoluteness and valor and courage, courage reminiscent of the ancient Maccabees. I don't know how the world came to believe that the Jews wouldn't fight. The Jews have always been valiant warriors from the days of Joshua. They never idealized war as the Teutons and other barbarians did, but the

ancient Phillistines knew the valor of Jewish armies, the Jewish fighters who were "swifter than eagles and stronger than lions", and the mighty empire of Rome knew it. The mighty empire of Rome was compelled to hurl its mightiest legions and bring them from all parts of the far-flung empire against Judea for years before they finally quenched in blood the passion for freedom of that little people. And assuredly, no people could have survived the fiery persecutions of centuries unless it had a fighting heart.

And so the world in the last few years re-learned another lesson, that the Jews can and will fight for their independence, for their freedom, for their existence. There are some Arab leaders who are still talking about a second round, and that would be a great mistake for them, for if war comes again, war will be carried into their territories.

And the third lesson which these last five years have taught us and the world, I intimated in that statement when I said, "The Jewish State in setting out upon its career, is conscious of the many grave problems, foreseen and unanticipated, which confront it." It wasn't moving towards a picnic. There was first of all the problem of setting up the machinery of government. Could the Jews do it? They hadn't had a government of their own for 19 centuries. There were doubters - many of them. Here again I don't know why there should have been so many doubters. History records numerous instances where Jews were ministers, were the ambassadors, were the diplomats and empire builders in many parts of the world, but the Galut created many of these myths about our people which fortunately the State of Israel has begun to dissipate.

Well, the machinery of government was quickly and smoothly set up, and it began to function within a week after the establishment of the State, even while fighting was going on on all its borders.

And then came the problem of immigration. How could a little state of very limited resources take in hundreds of thousands of additional immigrants, most of them

impoverished and penniless, bringing with them nothing but their love of the country, their desire to rebuild their lives, and some of them perhaps with some skills. Eight hundred thousand of them in five years! How could the little country absorb them? Well, it did, not without severe strain, of course, a strain which is still very keenly felt. But they were absorbed and they are steadily being integrated into the life of the country.

Where could the little state find the resources to take care of this increased population? Well, it was a terribly difficult and perplexing problem which has not yet been fully solved. But the Israeli went to work, in spite of the seeming insurmountable difficulties, undismayed, and in four years the land under cultivation in Israel increased from some 1,650,000 dunams to 3,700,000. Vast stretches of desert land was irrigated, vast swamps reclaimed, industry was expanded. There are 50% more workers in Israel today than five years ago, 120,000 of them engaged in various kinds of industrial undertakings. The national income over a period of four to five years increased from 240,000,000 pounds to 800,000,000 pounds. Feverish activity in the field of building, of construction - building of homes, of ships, of roads - the entire country is one vast, busy workshop. There were 300 new settlements and colonies and villages established in four to five years. Great enterprise has been put in in the field of exploring for new mineral resources in the country.

Where did this people find that ruggedness, that pioneering skill, that stick-to-it-iveness, that inventiveness to do all this, many of them who came from the ghettos of Eastern Europe, whose hands were never accustomed to the hard labor of the settler, the colonist and the pioneer? Well, they found them. They have given an example to the world of an amazing skill in colonization, using the most advanced methods, which has amazed the world. Israeli had help, of course. We helped them. Bigger states than Israel, much older states than Israel, had needed economic assistance in the last

years, and our own country has poured out billions upon billions of dollars to undergird the economies of great empires, numerous countries, who couldn't sustain themselves in these desperate times. So Israel needed and received help, but the greatest help which they received was self-help. They want to become as speedily as they can entirely self-dependent and sufficient unto themselves. And I am persuaded that the dynamism which is in them, which has carried them over these numerous dangers and difficulties will stand by them in the years to come and will help them solve all these problems.

And this is the third lesson which the world learned. Jews are state-builders, from the ground up, from ditch-diggers to diplomats. They are state builders! Their own hands have built this country. They did not exploit the labors of other peoples.

And finally the fourth lesson which these five years have taught us, to which I also referred in the statement which I addressed to the United Nations by way of a forecast, a prophecy: "The Jewish State will strive to be worthy and will endeavor to realize, as far as it is humanly possible, these prophetic ideals of justice, brotherhood, peace and democracy which were first proclaimed by the people of Israel in that very land." Justice - the young state of Israel has endeavored to give concrete expression to the highest standards of social justice in all forms of its economic and social life. There is no exploitation of labor in Israel. There is no living on account of others and profiting from the sweat of others. Israel has experimented with some 250 settlements wherein people work collectively and share collectively, where the passion is to build and to aggrandize, every protection is given to the needy, the aged, the sick and the dependent.

Brotherhood - what nobler example was given to the world than the act of this amazing little people in 1948 when, beset by war, when facing seemingly insurmountable economic problems, when their own standard of life was low and in danger, when they themselves were in want - I say, what nobler example of the solidarity of a people,

in brotherhood could have been given than by this people which enacted as its first piece of legislation and which the State has proclaimed a law, which ordered the doors of Israel wide open to all the Jews of the world. They knew what they were doing; they knew what burdens they were taking on because these people whom they were expecting to come were poor, indigent, the victims of Hitler's concentration camps. They would have to be cared for by them; they would have to share with them their own meager resources, their own private dwelling places. But loyal to the ancient mandate of our people - "all Jews are brothers" - they opened their doors and their homes and their hearts, 800,000 immigrants, forcing themselves to submit to even greater austerity, lowering still further their own standard of life, but they did it for the sake of brotherhood.

Peace - the State of Israel has been seeking the peace of its neighbors, and time and time again it stretched out the hand of friendship to the peoples across its borders which hand has so far been thrust aside, but it still persists, seeking peace, and the happiness of that entire part of the world will depend upon an early peace to Israel and its neighboring peoples.

And democracy - I don't know of any country in the world today that is striving so hard to defend the democratic way of life in a part of the earth where democracy is fairly well unknown, as the little State of Israel, which recently brought down upon itself the anger, the wrath of the great Soviet government because it showed definite leanings toward the Democratic West. Given time, the State of Israel will establish, in my firm belief, as far as it is humanly possible, a country which will be resonant of the ideals of the prophets of Israel. It would be surprising to me indeed if something great does not come out of that little country after a while, after they have had an opportunity to consolidate themselves spiritually, to unify these fellow-Jews who have come from 50-60 different countries of the world, bringing with them different backgrounds, different traditions, different ways of life, different

languages - I say, it would not be surprising to me if after time has had a chance to amalgamate and consolidate, given a chance to the genius of the people and the genius of the land, to fashion them into a real unified, culturally distinctive people - it would not be surprising to me that out of that little country will again come great values - cultural, artistic, scientific - which will astound the world.

It is unthinkable to me that these Jews who are coming to Israel from many parts of the world, bringing with them many of their rare talents and skills, some of them genius, eager to vindicate themselves, eager to return in achievement for the meanness and the cruelty and the degradation which they suffered at the hands of their persecutors, and coming into a land where every hill and valley is prophetic of ancient greatness and glory, stimulating, exciting, filled with challenge - it would be surprising to me if such people working in this kind of an environment, ~~will~~ not in the days to come create things of rare beauty, of rare truth, of rare insights, and again bless the world in the days to come, as their forefathers out of little Judea blessed the world in the days gone by.

So that as we stand on the threshold of the fifth year of the new state, we have every reason for pride in its achievements, we have every reason to be grateful to a kind Providence who finally, after nearly 1900 years, has enabled this people to re-establish its national center in its ancient home, and we have great reason to re-consecrate ourselves to continued help and support to that little country, that brave little people, until it is able to stand firmly on its own feet and carry on as it wishes to.

The State of Israel has given us many compensations already in terms of dignity, in terms of self-respect. It has given our young people a pride which will mean so much to their inner souls in the days to come. It has already taken off our hands the most tragic problem of the century, the homelessness of 800,000 of our fellow Jews, and it has given to the world a marvelous example of how Jews on their own, given a chance,

given a chance, can do. We salute our fellow Jews in Israel on this occasion, and pray for their wellbeing, their peace and their prosperity.



1/5th - My privilege - p.193.

① "Consummation of an age-old dream" - No people had carried

a dream so long - (19C) - Frustrated time again - but
never defeated - 11/12 11/3 11/21 -

(The amazing love of a people for its ancestral home -
The amazing faith of a people in itself - indefatigably)

The first step in history - these knew it - O the

many faults - Stubbornness - 11/12 11/3 11/21

Persistence - first lesson - world learned the re-learned

(a) It couldn't be done! The wish - the practical - the effort

debated - the unlikely - will be pronounced

a fantastic dream - and laughed it to scorn - the Krumpholtz Statesmen

(b) But it was done! Because forth-winded, loyally
mindful - humble men devoted and then

faithful leaders clung to the dream - Felt
that it was > a dream - a pain and dire

necessity - a desperately needed haven of

refuge - a sorely needed rehab. factor in

the status - an urgent and in normalcy

(c) These men & women began working for it long before
1948 - Eighty years the movement back to
Palestine began and the 11/2 12/13 established

their first colonies on that little barren, rejected but
beloved land. And 55 yrs ago - the first World Zionist Congress
was convened

(d) Beginnings not only small but dishonouring - Torah sent -
gave it no encouragement - World question unfavorable -
Jews who could help cold, indifferent and hostile -

(e) Persecuted - First World War - gave it first great pop. impulse
Balfour Declaration 1917 - A land - want - J. B. van Antwerp
with backing of League of Nations to Israel -
But it soon recoiled - a long, weary period of frustration
set in - attempts to circumvent, even liquidation - Reduce
immigration - restrict self planned White Paper

(f) Jews resisted - & persisted -
Went underground - Hitler and "Lepus" - Illegal Aliyah
1947 - Eng. turned over Sol. question to United Nations

Special Commission appointed - Partition

~~Strongly~~ - On Oct 2 '47 I accepted
Strongly

Nov. 29 '47 Vote 33-13 Invaded
Attacks

4. This brings us to 2nd that mentioned in my U.S. State war
and 2nd lesson -

"The new J. State is being threatened - threatened by neighboring
states, threatened with invasion. Invasion will mean for the
Jewish State will be compelled to defend itself!"

And defend itself it did!

World didn't think Jews would fight - Arabs feared
Jews would cut & run as soon as they fired a shot -
Gail) 5 armies marched on Jew. Pol. = and were completely
and decisively beaten & pushed back
Jews were proply armed - But they had the ancient courage
of the Maccabees.

Jews have always been valiant warriors - tho they did
not idealize war - as the Teutons & other barbarians did
the ancient Philistines knew the value of Jewish arms and the
mighty Goliath, Rome - was compelled to crush its
mightiest enemies for years before they crushed in
blood the passion for freedom.

No people could have survived the fiery persecutions the
Antisemites unless it had a fighting heart.

(a) And so would re-born another lesson - Jews can &
will fight for their independence & their freedom

(b) Second Round - Great Fight - he will be
carried into their territories -

3 / 3rd lesson. "The Jewish State, in setting out upon its
career, is conscious of the many grave problems, however
or unanticipated, which confront it."

① There was the problem of setting up the machinery of a new state
could the Jews do it? Doubtless - Jews have no

political sagacity - altho history records how few were kind
murderers, ambushes, diplomats & Empire builders in many parts
the road

The machinery of govt. was ^{put up & running} set up & functioning almost within

a week - even while fighting was going on -

(2) Problem of Immigration - how could - 800,000! They didn't
NOT without severe strain, still barely felt. Steadily
being absorbed

(3) Where will they find the resources to take care of the
increased population - a difficult problem not
easily solved -

But they went to work - undelayed - In 4 years

"I will open rivers
in the high hills and
mountains in the midst
of the valleys. I will make
the wilderness a pool
of water, and the
dry land
springs of water."

land under cultivation increased from 1,650,000
acres to 3,700,000 (900,000 acres) Desert land
irrigated and made reclaimed -

Industry was expanded - ~~There~~ Then as 50% new workers
in formal industries than 5 yrs. ago - 120,000 / this
The value, industrial work produced in 1957 - 130 M. pounds
The Nat. income has increased from 240 M. in 1948 to
500 M. this year -

- Physical resources

Buildings, houses, ships, roads - Workshops
300 towns

(4) They were helped - US helped them - Begins state
has needed help - U.S. →

But greatest factor - Self-help - Love & service
Dynamic in - will solve all their further indep. & artistic
help.

⑤ 3rd lesson - Jews ~~are~~ are state-builders - from
Round - up - Ditch diggers to Diplomats -
Their own hands - no exploiters - make the best
of miners - colonists - Can stand the stuff!
Hardcore

4/ "The J. State will strive to be worthy - and will endeavor to
realize, as far as it is humanly possible, those prophetic ideals
justice, brotherhood, peace and democracy which were first proclaimed
by the people of Israel on that very land",

① Israel has in its power / own - Social life (justice)
- highest standards ^{CS 127} ^{250 collection from} - Brotherhood = opened doors to hundreds of
thousands - Peace = Arabs; - Democracy = the citizens
(Soviet). ^{Time, Education} ^{Melba Post}

Given time will establish model state - but first
another transformation - It would be very surprising, indeed