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Statement on broadcast of President Eisenhower, 1957.

STATEMENT
by
DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

on
National broadcast of
PRESIDENT EISENHOWER

February 20, 1957

on
The Mid East Situation

There is the temptation to analyze the President's speech in detail. Much was left unsaid which would have greatly qualified his conclusions. The statement is, in spots, weak on the side of logic; overstrained in national self-righteousness and in sharp contrast to the much softer words which are publicly directed to Arab Governments. But the President is earnestly seeking a way out of a dangerous impasse -- the result of a long series of diplomatic blunders in the Near East for which our government is not entirely free of responsibility.

The President acknowledges Israel's legitimate grievances and the justice of Israel's claim to free navigation through the Suez Canal and the Gulf of Aqaba and for security against Egypt's attacks from the Gaza area. He further acknowledges that neither the United Nations nor the United States has been vigorous enough in the past to see that justice is done ^{to} Israel in conformity with international law. He pledges that the United States will, in the future, press for greater efforts in the United Nations to secure that justice for Israel, and that the United States will vigorously seek it in association with like-minded nations. The President's address does not spell out these greater efforts which are contemplated. He urges upon Israel to put its trust in these earnest declarations of the American Government.

These declarations put our Government under the most binding moral obligations to see to it that Israel does not suffer in the future by reason of compliance with complete withdrawal. President Eisenhower recognizes this fact and clearly states it.

The citizens of Israel have great confidence in the moral integrity and the good will of President Eisenhower. This will weigh heavily in the scale as their Government considers and makes its final decision on this latest appeal of the President of the United States.