



Daniel Jeremy Silver Collection Digitization Project

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Israel, 1967 Arab-Israeli war, correspondence, memoranda, press releases, and speeches, 1967.

Copy to Mr. Gross

June 14
1967

Dear Rabbi Silver,

Thank you for your letter
of June 9th, together with the note
from John Gross and his check for
\$200.00.

Please extend to Mr. Gross
our deep appreciation for his gesture
of help and for his concern for my
country.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Avraham Harwan
Ambassador

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver,
The Temple
University Circle at Silver Park,
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

CHARLES H. PERCY
ILLINOIS

COMMITTEES:
BANKING AND CURRENCY
AERONAUTICAL AND SPACE SCIENCES

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 14, 1967

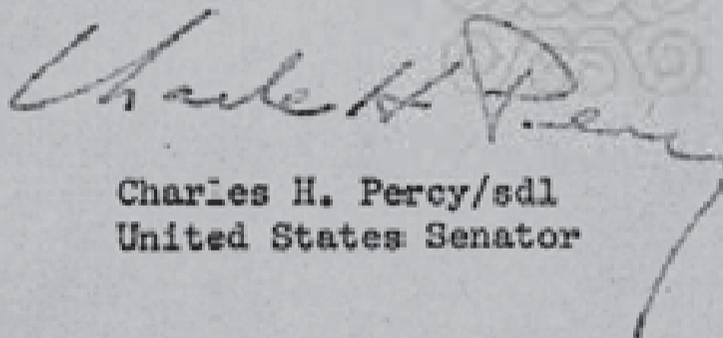
Mr. Daniel Jeremy Silver
The Temple
University Circle at Silver Park
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Mr. Silver:

I am grateful to you for your kind remarks concerning my position on the Middle East crisis.

In the days and weeks ahead, we must make strenuous efforts to obtain a settlement which does not sacrifice Israel's legitimate rights. I will do all I can to assure a settlement which is fair to Israel.

Sincerely yours,



Charles H. Percy/sdl
United States Senator

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

June 15, 1967

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver
The Temple
University Circle at Silver Park
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Rabbi Silver:

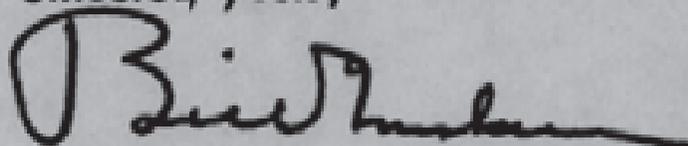
Thank you for your gracious letter regarding our meeting last week in my office and for my statement on the Floor of the House.

The sentiments I voiced are heartfelt. Like you I hope that permanent peace can be established and maintained to freedom's advantage, as you so eloquently phrased it, in the Middle East.

Please do not hesitate to let me know whenever I can be of service to you in any manner and I will welcome your continued counsel on this and other critical issues.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,



William E. Minshall,
M. C.

WEM:jr

June 15, 1967

**Mr. S. Lee Kohrman
Well, Kohrman & Cook
309 Leader Building
Cleveland, Ohio 44114**

Dear Lee:

Pray God. Thanks for the note.

Sincerely,

DANIEL JEFEMY SILVER

DJS:rvf

June 15, 1967

**Mrs. Harry J. Elconin
2187 Edgerton Road
University Heights, Ohio 44118**

Dear Mrs. Elconin:

I am most grateful to you for your kind note. These are themes in which we all believe deeply. I pray that the spirit of last Sunday will stay with us in the difficult weeks ahead.

Sincerely,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:rvf

June 15, 1967

Mr. Philip Bernstein
Council of Jewish Federations
and Welfare Funds, Inc.
315 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10010

Dear Phil:

Henry Zucker told me that he spoke to you about the problem of volunteers. I know that the Agency has apparently abandoned the summer volunteer program. The Emergency Council here, however, is getting a number of requests from people with specific abilities and talents and as yet we have no way of handling these. I agree that there ought to be one central service for volunteers and the more quickly we establish this the better.

Let me make you an offer. I would be happy to fly over to Israel and talk with responsible authorities about this type of undertaking. I would hope that one or two qualified Federation people would also go. Perhaps we can speed things up a bit if we can make proper arrangements for the use of volunteer manpower on the other side.

You can imagine that life continues at a frantic pace. Adele joins me in sending our love to you and Florence.

As always,

DJS:mgm

Daniel Jeremy Silver

June 15, 1967

Mr. Sidney Vincent
Jewish Community Federation
1750 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Dear Sid:

This is to apprise you formally of an action by the Zionist Emergency Council requesting the C. R. C. and its constituent agencies not to send community speakers to participate in public debate with Arab nationals. It is our feeling that this confuses the image of the Jew and by its very nature gives the Arab the opportunity to build up the stigma of dual loyalty.

We further question the validity of debates generally. Our willingness to debate gives Arab propaganda spokesmen the credibility of our position and a platform which might not be offered to them otherwise. I was asked to discuss this matter with you and the C. R. C. informally. We can do so when we have five minutes together. Further, I should like to be kept in touch insofar as speakers are concerned.

Sincerely,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:rvf

June 16, 1967

Mr. John Gross
% Mr. Merrill D. Gross
2565 Warwick Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44120

Dear John:

The enclosed letter is self-explanatory. With all good wishes in your career, I remain

Sincerely,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:rvi

June 16, 1967

Mr. Fred Yenkin
East Fifth Avenue at Leonard
Columbus, Ohio 43219

Dear Mr. Yenkin:

A number of us have met with Senator Lausche and I am sure there will be much need for further meetings. His position is varied and is not at all clear. Those of you who did see him in Washington, I am sure, thanked him personally and, for the moment, frankly, I think that is quite sufficient. Brachman is a fine young man and I know the next time I see him I will thank him in your behalf. Keep up the pressure. The need is now for a complete re-evaluation of the American foreign policy in the Middle East. It would seem the very time for the State Department to relieve itself of its bad habit of demanding concessions by Israel.

Sincerely,

DANIEL JEEEMY SILVER

DJS:rvf

Shaker Savings Association
Shaker Heights, Ohio

ALEXANDER MINTZ
PRESIDENT

June 16, 1967

Dear Leo:

This morning received a telegram signed by you and others regarding an emergency meeting on Tuesday, June 20, 1967, being called by the Jewish Community Federation.

Several years ago, for reasons which I consider important, I stopped giving to Jewish charities through the Jewish Community Federation. I have, of course, carefully maintained my contributions but have done so direct.

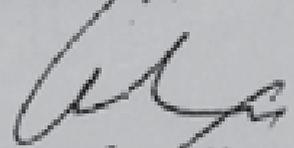
The same course of action has been followed by me in connection with the current Israeli situation. In addition to purchasing several thousand dollars in Bonds within the past month, I have paid in advance a pledge to the American Friends of the Hebrew University of several thousand dollars and have this morning sent a check to Rabbi Silver payable to the United Jewish Appeal.

I have bought Israeli Bonds every year since the beginning of the program and each year have given in gradually increasing amounts to worthy Jewish charities.

Since the practices and policies of the Jewish Community Federation, which I do not approve of, continue to exist, I am unable as a matter of conscience to make my contributions through this organization.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,


Alexander Mintz

Mr. Leo J. Schultz
L. J. Schultz & Co.
Union Commerce Building
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

bcc: Rabbi Daniel J. Silver ✓



The Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland

1750 EUCLID AVENUE • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115 • PHONE (216) 861-4360

June 16, 1967

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver
The Temple
University Circle at Silver Park
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Rabbi:

Here are the facts in regard to the issue you raise in your letter of June 15. Sanford Markey, our Public Relations Director, came to me several days ago to say that Allen Douglas, who runs a controversial, open ended radio show late at night, had determined on a "debate" on the Mid-East situation and requested that Sandy furnish two speakers to represent the Israeli point of view. I expressed strong objections, for all the reasons very well known to you that I do not have to repeat here.

Sandy informed me that under any circumstances, Douglas was going ahead with his show, that he had pointed out all the objections in the procedure as he had outlined it, but that if we did not furnish spokesmen, there was no doubt at all that Douglas could get two Jews from one place or another to represent "a viewpoint". Time was of the essence, since the show was going on within 24 hours and, all things considered, it seemed better in this particular case, despite all the reservations that we recognize, to furnish qualified spokesmen rather than the type that would otherwise appear. Therefore, Bennet Kleinman and Billy Goldfarb appeared on the show, with results that were unhappy, but would have been even more unhappy with other kinds of spokesmen.

There is absolutely no difference of opinion between us as to the dangers of engaging in debate, and we will never do so of our own choice. I very much hope it will be possible to quash any program of this kind in the future, but I think the conditions require sufficient flexibility so that we must judge each issue as it arises. I might add that the CRC as such was not involved in this procedure at all, and would undoubtedly take the same stand that we both agree is proper - not to engage in debate if that is achievable.

Best regards.

Cordially,

Sidney S. Vincent
Executive Director

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Associate Treasurer CAROL ANN A. ROSENTHAL Executive Vice-President HELEN L. ZUCKER Executive Director SIDNEY S. VINCENT

Shaker Savings Association
Shaker Heights, Ohio

ALEXANDER MINTZ
PRESIDENT

June 16, 1967

Dear Rabbi:

Enclosed is my check payable to the United Jewish Appeal in the amount of \$5,000.

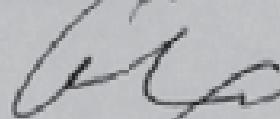
The card you sent me is a solicitation from the Jewish Welfare Fund. Several years ago, for reasons which I consider valid and important, I stopped giving to Jewish charities through the Welfare Fund. I have scrupulously maintained the level of my giving, but have done so directly to the proper recipients.

Since the Jewish Welfare Fund is on notice that I will make no contributions to them, I cannot understand why they carry an account number for me on their books and records.

The ways of bureaucracies are strange, indeed.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,



Alexander Mintz

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver
The Temple
University Circle at Silver Park
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

June 19, 1967

Mr. Alexander Mintz
Shaker Savings Association
Shaker Heights, Ohio

Dear Mr. Mintz:

In the absence of Rabbi Silver, who is attending a convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, I am gratefully acknowledging your most kind and generous contribution to the United Jewish Appeal.

Rabbi Silver will be in touch with you upon his return from Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

MGM:mgm

Margurite G. Mihok
Secretary to Rabbi Silver

THE MICHELSON CLUB
3403 Euclid Hts Blvd
Cleveland Hts, Ohio 44118

June 20, 1967

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President

Zelmar Barson
Vice-President

Rudolph Greenwald
Treasurer

Lionel Levinson
Corresponding Secretary

Joseph Etzkin
Recording Secretary

Arthur Ness
Membership Chairman

Milton Gross
Counselor

Rabbi D.I. Silver
The Temple
University Circle & Silver Park
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Subject: Engineering Manpower for Israel

Dear Rabbi Silver:

In reference to the various short conversation we had concerning the above subject, we are presenting to you the following memo.

We understand during the present surge of emotions and good will it is extremely difficult to suggest what kind of help the State of Israel really needs from this Jewish Community. However, things are beginning to slowly settle and a realistic appraisal of the situation seems possible.

All indications point today toward the fact that Israel will be forced to maintain in a mobilized state at least part of her military reserves for the foreseeable future. It is conceivable that this situation will create serious voids in Israel's industrial manpower. We cannot estimate how much this will be true for skilled professions and in particular for engineers, but we are sure that skilled professionals can never be replaced by untrained people.

We also believe it will be very doubtful if Israeli officials will make requests for skilled manpower from the American Jewish Community. Similar requests have met with little response during the past years unless, for Israeli standards, exorbitant salaries were offered to American Jewish engineers who had neither the means nor the will to accept employment in Israel.

THE MICHELSON CLUB
3403 Euclid Hts Blvd
Cleveland Hts, Ohio 44118

Marvin Sternfeld
President

Zelmar Barson
Vice-President

Rudolph Greenwald
Treasurer

Lionel Levinson
Corresponding Secretary

Joseph Eitzkin
Recording Secretary

Arthur Ness
Membership Chairman

Milton Gross
Counselor

Rabbi D.I. Silver

(2)

June 20, 1967

However, the seriousness of the present situation in the middle east has changed the attitudes of some people and the Michelson Club as an organized group is willing to make a sacrifice if it is required.

We therefore urge the emergency committee to contact and inform the responsible Israeli agency of this available manpower. The local "COMOI" representative is obviously not the proper authority in this matter.

Please advise what steps have been taken to pass this suggestion to the interested Israeli authorities.

Very sincerely,

MICHELSON CLUB EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

CJFWF

COUNCIL OF JEWISH FEDERATIONS AND WELFARE FUNDS, INC.

NATIONAL OFFICE: 315 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10010

TELEPHONE: AREA CODE 212, 873-8200

June 21, 1967

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver
The Temple University Circle at
Silver Park
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

PRESIDENT
LOUIS J. FOX, BALTIMORE

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CECIL USHER, MONTREAL
JUDGE NOCHEN S. WINNET, PHILADELPHIA

SECRETARY
MRS. JOSEPH COHEN, NEW ORLEANS

TREASURER
CARLOS L. ISRAELS, NEW YORK

ASSISTANT TREASURER
BENJAMIN LAZRUS, NEW YORK

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PHILIP BERNSTEIN

Dear Daniel:

After receiving your letter of June 15, I called but found that you were at the CCAR Conference. After talking with you last week, I spoke to Ted Comet about volunteer service. I also discussed it with Nachum Shamir, who is the key liaison person of the Israel Government. Both told me that all questions of volunteer service in Israel were being centered in the American Zionist Youth Foundation which is directed by Comet. We included that information in the enclosed bulletin.

I told him of your suggestion regarding a small expert group going to Israel to assess the needs for volunteer service, particularly related to how Americans might be most helpful. I told him, too, of your own readiness to serve in that way. He is exploring that, and will keep me informed.

On the whole, however, he confirmed the previous information we had that the need for short term volunteers has been met, and Israel's concern now is with persons in specialized fields who can serve for at least a year.

You note from the enclosed bulletin that close to 7,500 people are registered for volunteer service with specific information regarding them.

Overall, my impression is that this is being handled in an orderly way, and with a good deal of competence at this end at least.

With warmest regards,

As always,

PHILIP BERNSTEIN
Executive Director

cc: Henry L. Zucker

36th general assembly

NOV. 15-19
1967

SHERATON
CLEVELAND

Reserve
this date

CLEVELAND,
OHIO

COUNCIL OF JEWISH
FEDERATIONS & WELFARE FUNDS

AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

COLORADO BUILDING • 1341 G STREET, N.W. • WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005 • 638-2256

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Ralph Wechsler, Essex Falls
Lewis H. Weinstein, Boston
Dr. William A. Wexler, Savannah

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I. L. Kenen, Alexandria

June 21, 1967

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Here is the list of people whom we have invited to attend the June 28 dinner meeting at the Mayflower Hotel.

If there are additions, I will send them on.

With best regards,



Rabbi Daniel J. Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio



Sincerely,

Esther Chesney
(Mrs.) Esther Chesney

Albert Arendt
1815 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Maurice Atkin
1218 - 16th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dr. Nathan Bailly
5516 Greystone Street
Chevy Chase, Maryland

Dr. Harver H. Bernstein
Woodrow Wilson School
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

Benjamin V. Cohen
1727 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Sheldon Cohen
5518 Trent Street
Chevy Chase, Maryland

Wilbur J. Cohen
9819 Capitol View Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland

Rashi Fein
3312 Rowland Place, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Myer Feldman
1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Herbert A. Fierst
4114 Rosemary Street
Chevy Chase, Maryland

David Ginsburg
1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Nathan Gordon
5215 - 31st Road
N. Arlington, Virginia

Samuel Halparin
6812 - 6th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Noel Hamendinger
1000 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Max Kampelman
1700 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Morris Levin
3229 Coquelin Terrace
Chevy Chase, Maryland

Robert Nathan
1218 - 16th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Nathan Falkovits
3620 Cumberland Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dr. Howard M. Sachar
8600 - 16th Street
Silver Spring, Maryland

Dr. Walter S. Sallant
2335 California Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

James Silberman
2110 Popkins Lane
Alexandria, Virginia

Hon. Theodore Tannenwald
2516 Albemarle Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Alfred Weissler
5511 Uppingham Street
Chevy Chase, Maryland

Bernard S. White
Shoreham Building
Washington, D. C.

Lee White
3216 West Coquelin Terrace
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

Manuel Cohen
6403 Margery Lane
Bethesda, Maryland



The Temple

UNIVERSITY CIRCLE AT SILVER PARK

CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106

TELEPHONE: 761-7755

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER
RABBI

LEO S. BAUMBERGER
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

LAWRENCE A. FORMAN
ASSISTANT RABBI

MORTON H. POMERANTZ
ASSISTANT RABBI

June 27, 1967

Mr. Arthur Weyne
Cleveland Jewish News
2108 Payne Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Dear Arthur:

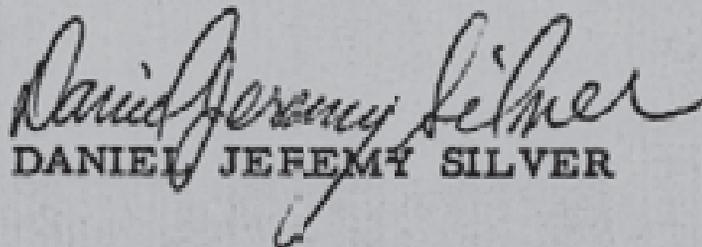
I propose to call this column Israel And The World.
The first article is enclosed. It runs somewhat longer
than I had anticipated but the issue is a complex one.

I propose in the next few weeks to discuss those
issues about which questions are being asked. I hope
in this way we can make a small contribution towards
keeping a positive climate of opinion.

Next week's article will deal with The Vatican and
Jerusalem.

With all good wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours,


DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:mgm
Encls.

June 23, 1967

Mr. Alexander Mintz
Shaker Savings Company
Shaker Heights, Ohio

Dear Alex:

I had your most generous check mailed to the Israel Emergency Fund and I am sure that they will acknowledge it directly.

These are tense and trying days but the instinctive understanding of Israel's case has been heart-warming.

Sincerely,

DJS:mgm

Daniel Jeremy Silver

June 30, 1967

Mr. I. L. Kenen
American-Israel Political Affairs Committee
1341 G. Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear Sy:

I trust the Wednesday night meeting went well.

On the Gallagher matter both Taft and Bolton have been and are being contacted. More later.

Why, oh why, has Eban been double talking about the Jerusalem problem?

I am enclosing another check for you. More is on the way.

Keep well.

Sincerely,

DJS:abh
encl.

Daniel Jeremy Silver

Report

American Israel Public Affairs Committee

COLORADO BUILDING • 1341 G ST., N.W., SUITE 720 • WASH., D. C. 20005

from
I. L. Kenan
Executive Director

SO FAR IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1967

Many national leaders responded generously with time and effort to our appeal for funds during the last month.

*

Appropriately, top support came from Rochester, home of our Chairman, Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, who was joined by Howard J. Samuels in a campaign that brought in more than \$12,000.

Here in the Capital, Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz assumed the chairmanship of AIPAC's Washington committee. With the help of Mrs. Alexander Hassan, Mrs. Raphael Tourover and Aaron Goldman, Rabbi Rabinowitz brought Washington's support to a record \$10,000.

Another city which exceeded the \$10,000 mark was Boston, with Aaron J. Bronstein, Morton S. Grossman and Justin L. Wyner in the forefront.

In New York City, a luncheon celebrating Rabbi Bernstein's 65th year was turned into a demonstration of support for Israel and AIPAC through the efforts of Mrs. Rose Berkenblit, Mel Dubin, Carl Henry, Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Isaacson, Mrs. Mortimer Jacobson, Howard J. Samuels, Lawrence Schacht, Josselyn M. Shore and David Zucker, who helped raise more than \$26,000 for that affair.

In Cleveland, Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver was joined by Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, Edward Ginsberg and Irving Kane in an effort which raised Cleveland's support to \$6,500. Rabbi Silver also came to Washington several times to help our political work.

Detroit topped the \$6,000 mark through the continuing efforts of Morris Brandwine.

The Robert Lauters raised funds in San Francisco and initiated a local drive to combat adverse propaganda. They sponsored a community-wide meeting for AIPAC.

Charles E. Schwartz of Akron advanced his annual summer campaign, which has topped its previous peak every year since 1955.

James Ross, with a large personal contribution, and Oscar H. Altshuler of Youngstown brought their city to a new high, 33% above the previous peak.

Dr. Harry Schnur of Stamford became AIPAC's largest contributor.

Utica was outstanding. Martin Abelow more than tripled Utica's past record with a drive raising \$5,000 in a city with a modest Jewish population of 3,700. The idea for the Near East Report came out of Utica just ten years ago.

(see next page)

Raymond Buch and Mrs. Sidney G. Handler have doubled Harrisburg's old record and continue to solicit funds.

Benjamin Roe elicited widespread community support in Salt Lake City, raising three times the amount of any previous campaign.

Mrs. Henry Goldman of Jersey City revived that area's fundraising.

Will Shocket advanced Richmond's fundraising effort.

Robert B. Golder of Philadelphia has already raised more than in 1966 - a peak year for his community.

Bert Liss, new national committee member from South Bend, has passed last year's mark in his area.

*

We are hoping to hear from the following communities in the weeks ahead:

Atlantic City, Baltimore, Buffalo, Chicago, Cincinnati, Columbus, Dallas, Dayton, Houston, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Manchester, Miami, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Nashville, Newark, Peoria, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Portland, Providence, St. Louis, Schenectady, Seattle, Springfield, Toledo, Vineland.

Statement by President

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 23—Following is the text of a statement on the Midcast made by President Johnson at the White House today:

In recent days, tension has again arisen along the armistice lines between Israel and the Arab states. The situation there is a matter of grave concern to the whole international community.

We earnestly support all efforts, in and outside the United Nations and through its appropriate organs, including the Secretary General, to reduce tensions and to restore stability. The Secretary General has gone to the Near East on his mission of peace with the hopes and prayers of men of good will everywhere.

The Near East links three continents. The birthplace of civilization and of three of the world's great religions, it is the home of some 60 million people; and the crossroads between East and West.

The world community has a vital interest in peace and stability in the Near East, one that has been expressed primarily through continuing United Nations action and assistance over the past 20 years.

The United States, as a member of the United Nations, and as a nation dedicated to a world order based on law and mutual respect, has actively supported efforts to maintain peace in the Near East.

The danger, and it is a grave danger, lies in some miscalculation arising from a misunderstanding of the intentions and actions of others.

brought a new and grave dimension to the crisis. The United States considers the gulf to be an international waterway and feels that a blockade of Israeli shipping is illegal and potentially disastrous to the cause of peace. The right of free, innocent passage of the international waterway is a vital interest of the international community.

3 Elements of Danger

The Government of the United States is deeply concerned, in particular, with three potentially explosive aspects of the present confrontation.

First, we regret that the general armistice agreements have failed to prevent warlike acts from the territory of one against another government, or against civilians, or territory, under control of another government.

Second, we are dismayed at the hurried withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force from Gaza and Sinai after more than 10 years of steadfast and effective service in keeping the peace, without action by either the General Assembly or the Security Council. We continue to regard the presence of the United Nations in the area as a matter of fundamental importance and shall support its continuance with all possible vigor.

Third, we deplore the recent build-up of military forces and believe it a matter of urgent importance to reduce troop concentrations. The status of sensitive areas, as the Secretary General emphasized in his report to the Security Council, such as the Gaza Strip and Gulf of Aqaba, is a particularly important aspect of the situation.

In this connection, I want to add that the purported closing of the Gulf of Aqaba to Israeli shipping has

U. S. Seeking Clarification

The Government of the United States is seeking clarification on this point. We have urged Secretary General Thant to recognize the sensitivity of the Aqaba question and to give it the highest priority in his discussions in Cairo.

To the leaders of all the nations of the Near East, I wish to say what three Presidents have said before—that the United States is firmly committed to the support of the political independence and territorial integrity of all the nations of the area.

The United States strongly opposes aggression by anyone in the area, in any form, overt or clandestine. This has been the policy of the United States led by four Presidents—President Truman, President Eisenhower, President Kennedy, and myself—as well as the policy of both of our political parties. The record of the actions of the United States over the past 20 years, within and outside the United Nations, is very clear on this point.

Wants Friendship With All

The United States has consistently sought to have good relations with all the states of the Near East. Regrettably, this has not always been possible, but we are convinced that our differences with individual states of the area and their differences with each other must be worked out peacefully and in accordance with accepted international practice.

We have always opposed—and we oppose in other parts of the world at this moment—the efforts of other nations to resolve their problems with their neighbors by aggression. We shall continue to do so. And we appeal to all other peace-loving nations to do likewise.

We call upon all concerned to observe in a spirit of restraint their solemn responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations and the general armistice agreements. These provide an honorable means of preventing hostilities until, through the efforts of the international community, a peace with justice and honor can be achieved.

I have been in close contact and will in the days ahead with Ambassador Goldberg at the United Nations, where we are pursuing the matter with great vigor, and hope the Security Council can act effectively.

Text of Soviet's Statement

Following is the text of the Soviet Government's statement yesterday on the situation in the Middle East, as distributed in English by Tass, the Soviet press agency:

A situation giving rise to anxiety from the viewpoint of the interests of peace and international security has been taking shape in the Near East in recent weeks.

After the armed attack by Israeli forces on the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic on April 7 of this year, Israel's ruling circles continued aggravating the atmosphere of military psychosis in this country.

Leading statesmen, including Foreign Minister Eban, openly called for large-scale Israeli "punitive" operations against Syria and the striking of "a decisive blow" upon her.

The defense and foreign policy committees of the Knesset (Parliament) on May 9 granted the Government powers for military operations against Syria. Israeli troops moved to the frontiers of Syria were alerted. Mobilization was proclaimed in the country.

Encouragement Seen

It is quite clear that Israel could not act in this way if not for the direct and indirect encouragement it had for its position from certain imperialist circles which seek to bring back colonial oppression to Arab lands.

These circles regard Israel in the present conditions as the main force against Arab countries, which pursue an independent national policy and resist pressure from imperialism.

Israeli extremists apparently hoped to take Syria by surprise and deal a blow at it single-handed. But they miscalculated. Showing solidarity with the courageous struggle of the Syrian people who are upholding their independence and sovereign rights, the Arab states—the United Arab Republic, Iraq, Algeria, Yemen, Lebanon, Kuwait, Sudan and Jordan—declared their determination to help Syria in the event of an attack by Israel.

U.N. Forces Recalled

The United Arab Republic, honoring its allied commitments for joint defense with Syria, took steps to contain the aggression.

Considering that the presence of United Nations troops in the Gaza area and the Sinai Peninsula would give Israel in this situation advantages for staging a military provocation against Arab countries, the U.A.R. Government asked the United Nations to pull out its troops from this area.

A number of Arab states voiced their readiness to place their armed forces at the disposal of the Joint Arab

Command to repel Israeli aggression.

As is known, the Soviet Government warned the Government of Israel in connection with the April 7 armed provocation, that it will bear the responsibility for the consequences of its aggressive policy. It appears that a reasonable approach has not yet triumphed in Tel Aviv. As a result, Israel is again to blame for a dangerous aggravation of tension in the Near East.

Colonial Aim Charged

The question arises: What interests does the State of Israel serve by pursuing such a policy? If they calculate in Tel Aviv that it will play the role of a colonial overseer of the imperialist powers over the peoples of the Arab East there is no need to prove the groundlessness of such calculations in this age when the peoples of whole continents have shaken off the fetters of colonial oppression and are now building an independent life.

For decades the Soviet Union has been giving all-round assistance to the peoples of Arab countries in their just struggle for national liberation against colonialism and for the advancement of their economy.

But let no one have any doubts about the fact that should anyone try to unleash aggression in the Near East, he would be met not only with the united strength of Arab countries but also with strong opposition to aggression from the Soviet Union and all peace-loving states.

Oil Monopolies Accused

It is the firm belief of the Soviet Government that the peoples have no interest in kindling a military conflict in the Middle East. It is only a handful of colonial oil monopolies and their hangers-on who can be interested in such a conflict. It is only the forces of imperialism, with Israel following in the wake of their policy, that can be interested in it.

The Soviet Government keeps a close watch on the developments in the Near East. It proceeds from the fact that the maintenance of peace and security in the area directly adjacent to the Soviet borders meets the vital interests of the Soviet peoples.

With due account taken of the situation, the Soviet Union is doing and will continue to do everything in its power to prevent a violation of peace and security in the Near East and safeguard the legitimate rights of the peoples.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

In recent days, tension has again arisen along the armistice lines between Israel and the Arab States. The situation there is a matter of grave concern to the whole international community. We earnestly support all efforts, in and outside the United Nations and through its appropriate organs, including the Secretary General, to reduce tensions and to restore stability. The Secretary General has gone to the Near East on his mission of peace with the hopes and prayers of men of good will everywhere.

The Near East links three continents. The birthplace of civilization and of three of the world's great religions, it is the home of some sixty million people; and the crossroads between East and West.

The world community has a vital interest in peace and stability in the Near East, one that has been expressed primarily through continuing United Nations action and assistance over the past twenty years.

The United States, as a member of the United Nations, and as a nation dedicated to a world order based on law and mutual respect, has actively supported efforts to maintain peace in the Near East.

The danger, and it is a grave danger, lies in some miscalculation arising from a misunderstanding of the intentions and actions of others.

The government of the United States is deeply concerned, in particular, with three potentially explosive aspects of the present confrontation.

First, we regret that the General Armistice Agreements have failed to prevent warlike acts from the territory of one against another government, or against civilians, or territory, under control of another government.

Second, we are dismayed at the hurried withdrawal of the United Nations Emergency Force from Gaza and Sinai after more than ten years of steadfast and effective service in keeping the peace, without action by either the General Assembly or the Security Council. We continue to regard the presence of the United Nations in the area as a matter of fundamental importance and shall support its continuance with all possible vigor.

Third, we deplore the recent build-up of military forces and believe it a matter of urgent importance to reduce troop concentrations. The status of sensitive areas, as the Secretary General emphasized in his report to the Security Council, such as the Gaza strip and the Gulf of Aqaba, is a particularly important aspect of the situation.

In this connection, I want to add that the purported closing of the Gulf of Aqaba to Israeli shipping has brought a new and grave dimension to the crisis. The United States considers the gulf to be an international waterway and feels that a blockade of Israeli shipping is illegal and potentially disastrous to the cause of peace. The right of free, innocent passage of the international waterway is a vital interest of the international community.

*Enclosed in letter
of acknowledgements
from President's
office to Mrs.
Belda Epstein
in answer to
telegram she
sent which
was composed
by Margie
Nishok, Rabbi
Silver's
secretary -
Jan, 1967
mgm*

The government of the United States is seeking clarification on this point. We have urged Secretary General Thant to recognize the sensitivity of the Aqaba question and to give it the highest priority in his discussions in Cairo.

To the leaders of all the nations of the Near East, I wish to say what three Presidents have said before—that the United States is firmly committed to the support of the political independence and territorial integrity of all the nations of the area. The United States strongly opposes aggression by anyone in the area, in any form, overt or clandestine. This has been the policy of the United States led by four Presidents—President Truman, President Eisenhower, President Kennedy, and myself—as well as the policy of both of our political parties. The record of the actions of the United States over the past twenty years, within and outside the United Nations, is very clear on this point.

The United States has consistently sought to have good relations with all the states of the Near East. Regrettably this has not always been possible, but we are convinced that our differences with individual states of the area and their differences with each other must be worked out peacefully and in accordance with accepted international practice.

We have always opposed—and we oppose in other parts of the world at this moment—the efforts of other nations to resolve their problems with their neighbors by aggression. We shall continue to do so. And we appeal to all other peace-loving nations to do likewise.

We call upon all concerned to observe in a spirit of restraint their solemn responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations and the General Armistice agreements. These provide an honorable means of preventing hostilities until, through the efforts of the international community, a peace with justice and honor can be achieved.

I have been in close contact and will in the days ahead with Ambassador Goldberg at the United Nations, where we are pursuing the matter with great vigor, and hope the Security Council can act effectively.

The White House

May 23, 1967

NIK
Ohio

RUHN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20518
225-6331

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

CLEVELAND OFFICE:
107 FEDERAL BUILDING
CLEVELAND, OHIO

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C.

June 12, 1967

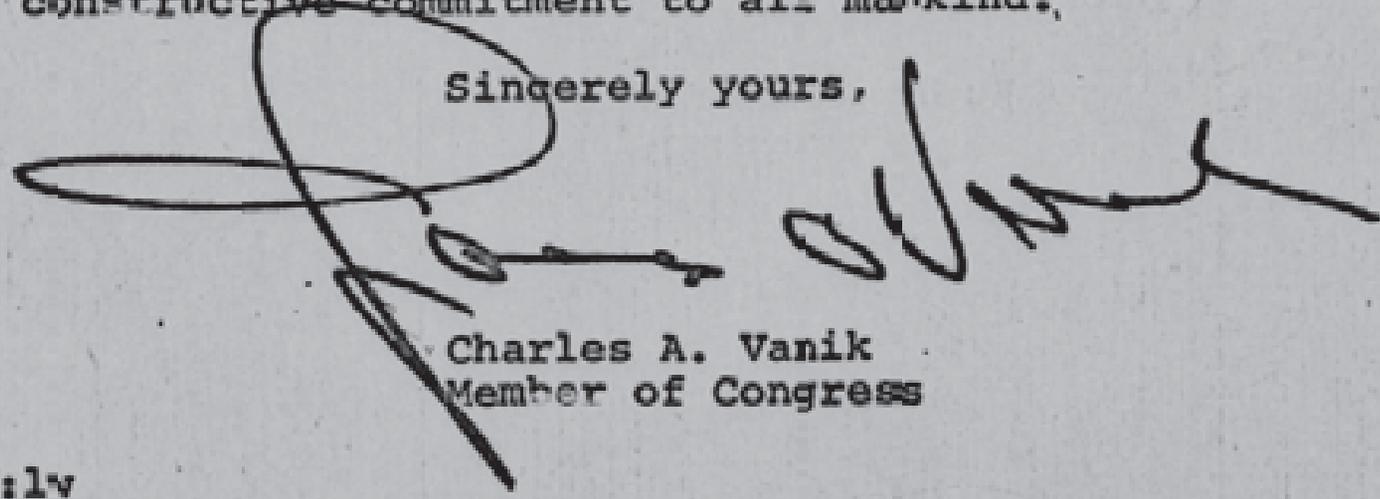
Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver
The Temple
University Circle at Silver Park
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

In reply to your recent letter, I want you to know that I made the following statement with respect to the Middle East crisis:

The American people will never countenance an attack on Israel. This brave country is Democracy's showcase in the Middle East. Our defense of Israel is not an obligation of treaty, pact, or contract. It is an obligation of conscience. Our commitment is to free men and the government forms which dignify this effort. It is our constructive commitment to all mankind.

Sincerely yours,



Charles A. Vanik
Member of Congress

CAV:lv

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
WAYS AND MEANS
OFFICE
BUILDING
CLEVELAND, OHIO

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

June 12, 1967
June 15, 1967

The Honorable Charles A. Vanik
2463 Rayburn Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

My dear Congressman:

You have been most helpful in recent weeks and I am sure that you recognize the many concerns which we still have with our foreign policy in the Near East. It should be reoriented from the shabby and hollow practices of the last decade.

With all good wishes and many thanks, I remain

Sincerely,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:rvf

Charles A. Vanik
Member of Congress

CAV:lw

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

התאחדות הציונית של ארצות הברית

CLEVELAND ZIONIST DISTRICT



The Maylee Building • 2490 Lee Boulevard • Cleveland, Ohio 44118 • Phone: 321-8933

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July 5, 1967

Dear Friends

Much has happened since our last letter to you concerning the establishment of the Cleveland Zionist Emergency Council. Your letters and telegrams to President Johnson and others voiced your concern for Israel's safety and the need for a firm stand on the part of our government. Rabbi Silver and I joined many community leaders who went to Washington to talk with our Senators and Congressmen, urging them to use their influence in bringing about a long-range stable settlement in the Middle East. The Zionist Youth Council and others joined a Z.O.A. bus caravan which went to Washington to attend the mass rally held outside the White House on June 8th. Many of our members visited their Senators and Congressmen and discussed with them the urgent need for firm action in the Middle East.

Sharing your opinion with your Representative and Senators continues to be an important part of our work for many months to come. Letters to the President should commend him for what he has done so far and remind him of the encouragement given Administration policy through recent congressional support which overwhelmingly opposed any call for withdrawal by Israel until other conditions concerning a peace settlement can be met.

Write to Mrs. Frances Bolton, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, urging her to support the Gallagher Amendment, BEFORE JULY 12th. This Amendment would grant Foreign Aid only to those nations who have not broken diplomatic relations with the U.S. Ask Mrs. Bolton to support the President's program in the Middle East and urge her not to grant Foreign Aid to those States cooperating with the Soviet Union.

We must all continue to keep ourselves fully informed of the issues at stake, so that we can share this knowledge with our friends and associates.

Sincerely,

Gilbert Savransky
Gilbert Savransky, Pres.

July 6, 1967

Mr. Phillip Bernstein
Council of Jewish Federations
and Welfare Funds, Inc.
315 Park Avenue South
Corner East 24th Street
New York, New York 10010

Dear Phil:

I am planning to be in Israel, if all goes well, from the 23rd of this month through the 6th of August. There are a number of things I must do in connection with our archeological exhibit for next spring and I have the normal inquisitiveness that you might expect. I thought I would talk a bit with the University people, Davis, Hermann, etc. on our report. Is there anyone else you would wish me to talk to in this matter? I know that over the years you have made good and interesting friends in Israel and I would be delighted with any help you can give me in my fact-finding and in opening doors for visits to the newly-conquered areas etc.

Everyone here is well. Mother is preparing for her trip to Scandinavia and the summer is flying by.

As always,

DJS:mgm

JUNE 8, 1967

STATEMENT PREPARED
FOR REPUBLICAN DINNER
SEN. PERCY - SPEAKER

The Arab blockade of the Straits of Tiran and the Gulf of Aqaba is an attack on the very life of the State of Israel and its people. It is also an attack on principles of international law and order, without which the condition of the world becomes "a condition of war of everyone against everyone."

As responsible members of the academic community, we must not stand by in silence in the face of Arab threats, illegal blockades and massive mobilization aimed at the destruction of the people and State of Israel. We condemn these acts. In the words of President Johnson, the blockade of the Gulf of Aqaba is "illegal and potentially disastrous to the cause of peace."

We therefore call upon the administration and Congress of the United States firmly to maintain its commitment to safeguard the integrity of the State of Israel and to restore the freedom of passage through the Gulf of Aqaba, an international waterway.

Our generation has witnessed the monstrous results of silence.

DRAFT

Peace is the basic requirement of civilization. Over 19 years the unremitting determination of certain Arab states to destroy the sovereignty of Israel has delayed the establishment of peace in the Middle East. Israel is the creation of the nations of the world. Born out of the carnage of the Second World War it provided new hope for the Jewish people in their ancient homeland. The world has watched with pride the growth of Israel - its freedom and democracy.

True to its founding tradition the United States was the first nation in the world to recognize Israel and close ties of friendship and common purpose have bound our beloved democracy and Israel. Conscious of the need to exert a restraining hand against those who unwisely cry vengeance, the United States committed itself to the inviolability of all borders in the Middle East. Determined to preserve the basic principles of international law the country properly undertook to defend the principle of free passage, through international waters.

Recent acts of terrorism and of military build up have ^{again} raised the spector of war ~~again~~ in the Middle East. Supported b y the Soviet Union, which has served its own economic and political purposes by encouraging Arab dreams of conquest and by providing their armies with modern weapons, the United Arab Republic and its allies threaten to close the straits of Tiran and perpetrate acts of terrorism against Israel, which can very easily precipitate war. As Americans committed to the principles of peace, freedom and respect of national sovereignty we deplore this aggressiveness and we commend the President of the United States for re-stating our commitments and for re-emphasizing the principles of justice on which they are based.

We recognize the burden of these commitments but it is our firm belief that aggression must be nipped in the bud and that the basic principle of world order must be sustained at all costs.



CLEVE JEWISH NEWS

FOR FRIDAY

July 7, 1967

ISRAEL IN THE WORLD

Daniel Jeremy Silver

In the political backwash of the recent Arab-Israeli War, an old cry has been raised again: Let Jerusalem be internationalized. The Vatican has chosen this moment to revive a proposal it championed twenty years ago. At the United Nations, a representative of the Pope has circulated this statement: "The Holy See remains convinced that the only solution that offers a sufficient guarantee for the protection of Jerusalem and of its holy places was to place that city and its vicinity under an international regime".

Despite the conviction of the Vatican, it is not at all clear that the internationalization of Jerusalem is a precondition of any program to safeguard the holy places of the city. The various faiths certainly have the right to expect reverent treatment of their shrines, even jurisdiction over them, and the right of free access by pilgrim and visitor. As long as such rights are guaranteed does it matter that the commercial city remains under Israel sovereignty? Such rights have been pledged by the State of Israel. Protestant leaders like Eugene Carson Blake, Secretary-General of the World Council of Churches, have expressed their full satisfaction.

The Vatican's position seems to be based on a desire to create a permanent Catholic presence in the Holy Land. One is struck also by the fact that the demand for internationalization was not put forward by the Vatican during the entire period of the British Mandate, though the mandatory power made no attempt to give Church bodies full jurisdiction even over the shrines themselves. Could it be that the Church has emotional difficulty in accepting that its holy places

exist within a Jewish sovereignty? Could it be that the Church is still imprisoned by a theology which can assert its claim to be the new Israel only by pointing to the exile and dispersion of the old Israel?

The United Nations included a stipulation that Jerusalem was to have a sovereignty of its own in the Palestine Partition Resolution of November 1947. This international body had the responsibility "to protect and preserve the unique spiritual and religious interests in the city" and to raise a special military force "to insure that peace and order reign in Jerusalem". Not without heartache the Jewish Agency accepted this proposal. The Jewish hope for Zion centered on Jerusalem. "If I forget thee, Oh Jerusalem..." The Arab states rejected the proposal out of hand and cast their ballot not only at the United Nations; but by initiating a violent fight for control of the city. Though it had voted internationalization, the United Nations never acted to establish its control. Faced with Arab attack, the Jewish community of Jerusalem requested the United Nations to exercise its sovereignty and to protect the peace of the city and its holy memories. No soldiers were ever sent. The United Nations dallied and did nothing. Necessarily, Jerusalem's Jews rose in self-defense, 1490 of them were killed in the ensuing battles.

Having secured their community by their own blood, Jerusalem's Jews understandably took the position that the United Nations had abandoned the internationalization proposal when it abandoned Jerusalem in its hour of need. Dr. Chaim Weizmann spoke for Jerusalem and Israel when he said:

In addition to the historical connection between us and Jerusalem, in addition to the unbroken chain of Jewish settlement in this city, in addition to the fact of our being a majority in it, your supreme bravery in defending the city gives us the right to proclaim that Jerusalem is ours and shall remain ours. Where are all those who spoke high-sounding phrases about the spiritual significance of Jerusalem to the entire civilized world?

Did they raise a finger to protect Jerusalem, its men, women and children, its buildings and houses of prayer against the shells of the Arabs who for months, day and night, rained death upon your homes? Did they do anything when the Jewish quarters of the Old City with their revered synagogues were turned into rubble heaps by Arab cannon and were desecrated after the surrender? Did they protest by one word that for over a year Jews have been prevented from approaching the Wailing Wall which is the holiest of our Holy Places?

After the first Armistice, Abdullah of Jordan, whose Arab Legion now controlled the Old City, rejected a renewed United Nations internationalization proposal. To the Jews who had built a vast new community outside the old walls this renewed demand seemed a specious land grab. In 1950 the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations admitted that it could not implement the plan. That same year the General Assembly, by defeating a Belgian proposal, refused to reaffirm its own internationalization proposal. The project to internationalize Jerusalem was stillborn. It had never been a viable scheme nor a wise one. Logic does not require that Rome be internationalized in order to protect the Vatican.

Unfortunately, the Vatican has reopened this issue and by doing so it is contributing to the difficulties of effecting a peace settlement. Internationalization is not in the political cards but to raise the issue raises Arab hopes that Catholic countries can be turned against Israel in the current political infighting. Two facts should be added. When Jordan began shelling Jerusalem, Israel asked Hussein to desist; this was not his war. He refused. The Israeli Army then made the deliberate decision to capture the Old City with men and small arms so as to protect the shrines. This was a costly decision. One in three of the Israeli soldiers who died during the June war, died in Jerusalem. As yet there has been no public expression of gratitude for this human sacrifice.

Religion is a matter of sacred memories and a living teaching. The ancient stones have a certain virtue, but peace and justice are the supreme virtues. The shrines are protected. All religious men must now be concerned with peace. It would be a fine move toward peace and justice if the Vatican would speak a deliberate word about the viability and propriety of Israel. It would be a constructive move if the Vatican would recognize the State.

The shrines are in no danger. They are more amply protected than ever before and finally open to all. For 19 centuries either Christendom or Islam has zealously monopolized the shrines. For 19 years Jews were denied access to the Old City and the Wailing Wall. In less than 19 days Israel granted access to all shrines to all who wished to come. In the best sense of the word, Jerusalem has again become an open city.



ISRAEL IN THE WORLD

Daniel Jeremy Silver

for *July 12, 1967*
for Core Jewish
News

Can Jews and Arabs live side by side? The Arab propaganda machine says "no." The Jew, according to their controlled press, is a foreign body in an Arab sea, a dark and indissoluble oil slick which will be tossed about until it is finally cast out onto the shore. Arab Chiefs of State insist that coexistence is impossible and to prove their point they have created a myth which they label the Arab Nation. Presumably this Arab Nation, that is the Mid-East, cannot permit any non-Arab state within its boundaries.

The Mid-East is not wholly Arab and it never was. Ethnically, only Jordan and Saudi-Arabia are Arab States. Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon are polyglot nations in which Arab and ^{SEMITE AND CAUCASIAN} Aryan, Muslim and Christian mingle more or less easily. As many Israeli as Lebanese speak Arabic. An Arab ethnic monopoly over the area is a recent pretension. In 1919 Emir Faisal wrote to Felix Frankfurter: "We will do our best to wish the Jews a most hearty welcome home."

There is no essential teaching in the Muslim faith which sets up a restricted global subdivision labeled an Arab nation. There are non-Muslim Arabs and Muslim non-Arabs. Large segments of Egypt's population are Copt, that is Christian. The conceit of an Arab nation is an artfully contrived piece of political propaganda, which, at one and the same time, rationalizes the ambitions of Arab leaders and permits these men to meet despite long standing feuds. Twenty years ago Abdullah of Jordan used this conceit to justify taking over that portion of Palestine which had been partitioned as an Arab State. Nasser uses it today to create for himself a leadership role over rival Near Eastern rivals. Born of greed,

of ambition and fear of Western influence, Pan-Arabia feeds on ignorance, fear of the foreigner and dim memories of a long gone time when Mohammed's legions erupted out of Arabia and conquered most of the Mediterranean world.

No one can deny the existential power of this passion. Yet, what man has created man can dismantle. Arab belligerency is not inevitable. One of the most exciting sidelights of the recent mobilization and brief war was the enthusiastic loyalty of Israel's 340,000 Arab citizens; Muslims, Druze, Christians and Circassians. A Druze delegation visited the Defense Ministry and refused to leave until orders had been issued that all Druze of military age would be recalled to the forces. In Arab Nazareth long lines cued up to give blood and the Mayor, Mussa Ketily, spoke earnestly of the Israeli-Arab and the Israeli-Jew "sharing one country, one fate." Money was sent to Mr. Eshkol from remote Arab villages and even from wandering Bedouin groups. Arab trade unionists went out to work in the settlements, volunteered their cars for mobilization, built shelters and trenches, and voluntarily held loyalty rallies. Despite the shrill summons of Radio Cairo to commit sabotage and create a fifth column, not a single disloyal act was reported. A pleased government summed it up in this way: "In our wildest dreams we had expected that organized bodies, local and municipal councils, societies and unions might pledge their loyalty to Israel, but we certainly never thought that from a passive expression of solidarity, there would be an overnight switch over to a massive, active spontaneous and voluntary movement to manifest this loyalty by deeds - not by words only." A

A few weeks later this same spirit of neighborliness was evident in Jerusalem when Israel threw open the gates of the old city and Arab and Jew shared again their patrimony. In Katamon, which had been an Arab suburb twenty years ago,

Israelis entertained Arab guests who had once rented their apartment. The streets were filled with Arabs and Israelis looking up old friends and talking of new plans and new hopes. The Mayor of Bethlehem petitioned to have his city included in the new Jerusalem arrangements. Jerusalem possesses an educated Arab community - people of sufficient sophistication to hate war and see the possibilities inherent in peace.

Arab hate of Israel and of the Jew is a carefully contrived political event. It was first systematically developed by the Mufti of Jerusalem, who in pre-World War II days was an ardent admirer of Hitler. It was carefully spread by ~~the Arab leadership~~^{Sukheiry} and Nasser and Atassi to achieve their ^{PRIVATE} goals. It is routinely whipped up by Radio Cairo.

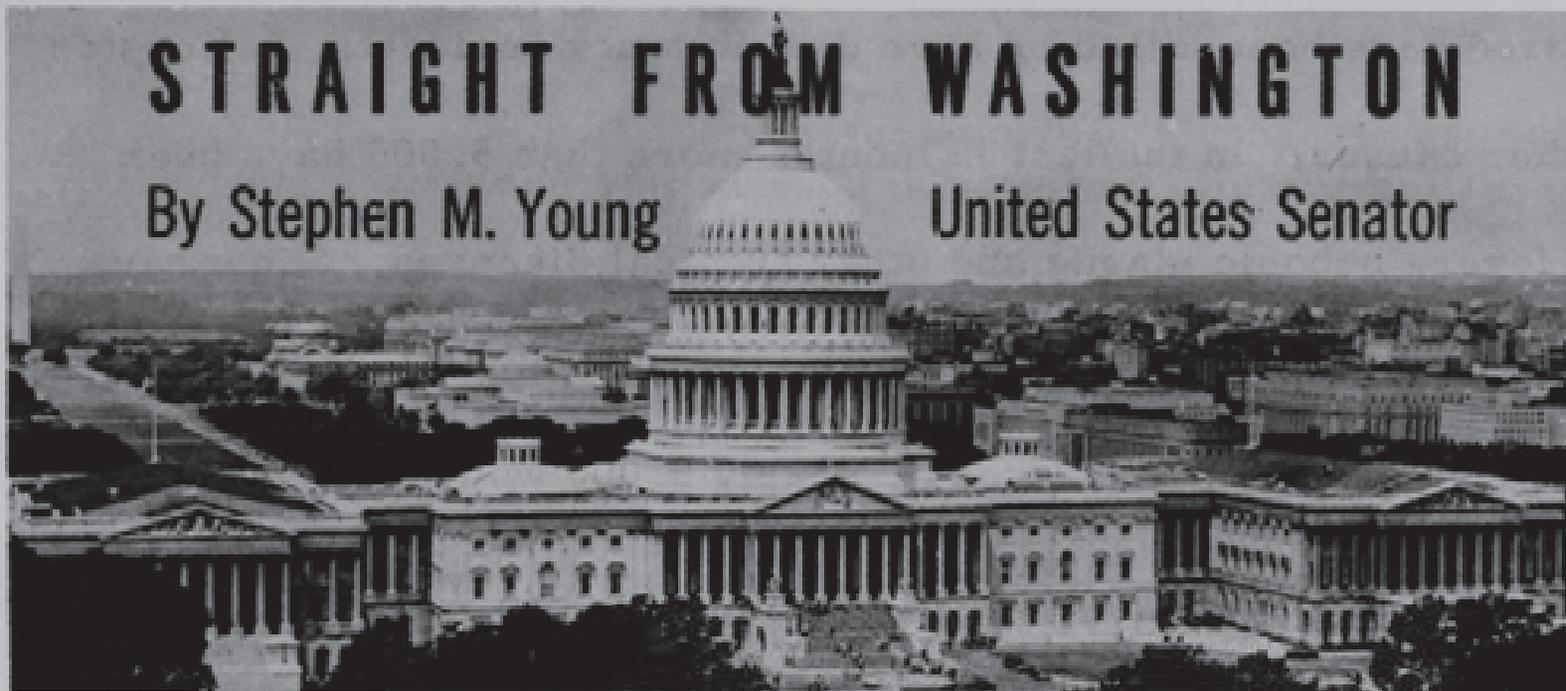
The war uncovered evidence of this continuing propaganda program. At Khan Yunis, in the Gaza Strip, troops found a third grade school room in which a wall mural showed a Zionist Jew with a huge hook nose being bayoneted by a handsome Arab soldier and another of a Zionist Jew ravishing an Arab woman in front of a horrified group of spectators. The arithmetic text for this class began with the problem, "If 10 Fayedeen crossed the border into Israel and killed 20 Zionists what is the average number of Jews killed by each Fayedeen?"

What man has created, man can discipline. ^{ISRAEL'S} Recent experience reinforces ^{her} ~~the~~ conviction that coexistence is possible. Arabs and Jews, given the opportunity, can cooperate for their mutual benefit ~~of all~~. That is why Israel insists on direct negotiations and why there is real hope in such meetings.

STRAIGHT FROM WASHINGTON

By Stephen M. Young

United States Senator



Washington. Israel earned the esteem of free men everywhere in defending itself against Arab aggression. Israel unaided won the victory. It must not now lose in peace what it was compelled to win in war. It must be guaranteed defensible borders. It must have freedom of navigation not only in the Gulf of Aqaba but in the Suez Canal as well. The Israeli must no longer be compelled to live in an intolerable state of siege. The Arab war on Israel will not end if the nations of the world again resort to evasive devices and diplomatic machinations. No longer can the free world be satisfied with temporary truces and armistices, which are flouted and forgotten. The international community must summon the Arab nations to recognize that Israel exists and must call for direct Arab-Israeli peace negotiations leading to permanent peace. The folly of

STRAIGHT FROM WASHINGTON

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VIETNAM REPORT

More than ten thousand American soldiers have been killed in combat in Vietnam.

Two thousand one hundred have been killed or have died in truck accidents, helicopter collisions and from other causes. In the last 15 months more than 5,000 have been afflicted with malaria fever, bubonic plague and other tropical diseases. Some have died. More than 60,000 G.I.'s have been wounded in combat. Coming close to home, more than 400 Ohioans have been killed in combat, nearly 3,000 wounded and more than 150 have died from other causes in Vietnam. In other words, every community in Ohio has been stricken with the tragedy of losing priceless lives of fine young men.

ORCHID FROM CONSTITUENT

"That great Ohio statesman, Warren Harding, must be spinning in his grave every time you vote. You creep! It won't be long before you get your due out of the barrel of a shotgun."

MODERN TRAGEDY

In Greece, the cradle of democracy, right-wing generals overthrew the duly elected government and are ruling by decree. They have thrown more than 6,000 political opponents in jail, suppressed personal freedom, established control over press and radio, abrogated the constitution and canceled free elections. We have accepted these actions. There have been no expressions of profound concern from the Administration, no special ambassadors dispatched to Athens, no threat of intervention in behalf of the Greek people to choose their own form of government, no exertion of pressure through economic or military aid to restore constitutional government in Greece. If instead of right-wing generals, a ragtag group of left-wing extremists and communists had staged a coup d'etat and established a communist government or quasi-communist government in Greece, it would be interesting to note whether we would have taken action military or otherwise to restore democracy to that land. The fact that we have not done so is remarkable in light of the Truman Doctrine which was invoked to justify the intervention in the Greek civil war 20 years ago and which is frequently cited as a justification for our intervention in the civil war in Vietnam. Very definitely, we should withhold further military and economic aid to Greece until its present dictators give firm assurances that free elections to restore democratic government to their country will be held as soon as possible. The United States should exert its influence to the utmost to restore freedom to the birthplace of democracy.

Note: If you are not on my mailing list and wish to receive this newsletter regularly, please write Senator Stephen M. Young, Washington, D.C.



THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON LAW REVIEW

Dear Rabbi Dan,

Enclosed please find an indorsed check which I would like to go directly to the State of Israel. I would appreciate your assistance. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

John W. Brown



\$ 200

[June, 1967]

Dear Dan:

I met Evron this a.m. and said that Israel had lost many friends who were now confused because of the failure to reply to hostile propoganda when vast network facilities were available.

I told him of your strong statements along this line.

Other newspapermen present, JTA, etc. concurred.

Couple of hours later I had opportunity to make the same point to Rafeal's deputy who~~xx~~ called me from NY about something else.

He said that originally Rafael had exercised restraint because he had been under the impression that Eban ~~was~~ was flying back (we all thought so) to handle this television assignment at the UN, as he did so masterfully in 1956-57.

But at last minute, they learned that Eban was not coming. I stressed need to take all the hours of television they could to reply to vicious and hostile attacks.

(Even I have been jarred by the claim which I never heard before that Israelis had illegally occupied Eilat after and in violation of UN agreement. I do not believe this but, never having heard it, I too would like to hear the reply.)

Best regards, see you next Wednesday.

Si.

Gideon Rafael called me this morning to assure me that he had reacted to the Arabs ~~to~~ yesterday afternoon. He confirmed

STATEMENT OF SENATOR STEPHEN M. YOUNG

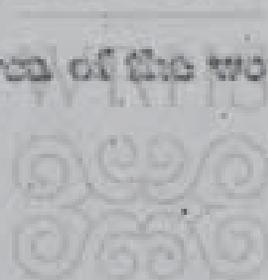
Against overwhelming odds Israel has again successfully defended herself against Arab aggression. This valiant young nation has again earned the esteem of free men everywhere. She has won the war. Now she must win the peace and achieve the security to which Israel, like every other nation, is entitled.

Israel showed remarkable restraint in not going to war when Nasser first unleashed his forces of aggression a few weeks ago. Today she is showing equally remarkable restraint in accepting the U.N. ceasefire request. I feel positive that were the Arabs winning this war, many of the U.N. powers now favoring a ceasefire would not be doing so and the Arab nations would not be showing similar restraint.

It was Israel alone that won the victory and is winning all along the line. It must not now lose in peace what it was compelled to win in war. It must be guaranteed nothing less than defensible borders. It must have freedom of navigation not only in the Gulf of Aqaba but in the Suez Canal as well. The Israeli must no longer be compelled to live in an intolerable state of siege. They must be permitted to walk and work in peace.

The Arab war on Israel will not be brought to an end if once again the nations of the world resort to evasive devices and diplomatic machinations. No longer can we of the free world be satisfied with temporary truces and armistices, which are flouted and forgotten. There is but one way. Once and for all the international community must summon the Arab states to recognize that Israel exists, and they must call for direct Arab-Israel peace negotiations which will lead to a lasting and permanent peace in the middle east.

You may depend upon it that, as your United States Senator, I shall do my utmost in urging the Administration to take leadership both in the United Nations and out of the United Nations to help bring about a peace treaty that will bring permanent peace to that area of the world.



The Mayfield Temple

3040 Mayfield Road
Cleveland Heights, O. 44118
932-6000

JACOB SHTULL
Rabbi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP & ALL COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA IN YOUR COMMUNITY

A CALL TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF OHIO

The Rabbis of the State of Ohio, in solemn assembly, herewith summon the Jewish Communities of this State to assemble in their Synagogues at the Services of Parshas Naso, June 9th and 10th, for services of concern.

In this grave hour of war, Jews everywhere are called to stand witness that morally and spiritually we are at one with the defenders of the Jewish Homeland.

O God of Israel, grant strength and valor to the noble sons and daughters of our people who are engaged in defending their land from the openly proclaimed hostility and evil designs of agressor Arab nations.

O Keeper of Israel, Secure the State of Israel. Strengthen your people in this hour of call.

OHIO REGION OF RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY
Rabbi Jacob Shtull

ORTHODOX RABBINICAL COUNCIL OF GREATER
CLEVELAND
Rabbi Israel Porath

CLEVELAND BOARD OF RABBIS
Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld

ASHTABULA, LAKE, & LORAIN COUNTY OF
RABBIS
Rabbi Samuel Meyer



BERNARD KATZEN
VICE CHAIRMAN

STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
270 BROADWAY, NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

PERSONAL AND
UNOFFICIAL

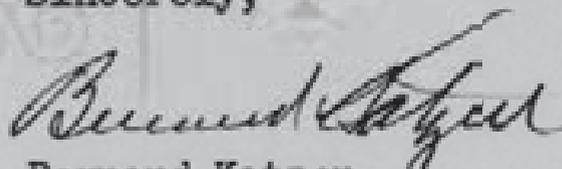
August 11, 1967

Dear Dr. Silver:

I am transmitting herewith the full text of the paper entitled "Middle East Crisis and Opportunity" which was approved by the Republican Coordinating Committee in Washington July 24.

I have agreed to canvass opinion as to its reaction. I would appreciate your comments.

Sincerely,


Bernard Katzen

Dr. Daniel Silver
The Temple
University Circle at Silver Park
Cleveland, Ohio 44106



Republican National Committee

1625 EYE STREET, NORTHWEST, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

NATIONAL 8-6800

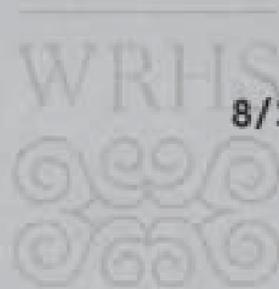
NEWS

FOR RELEASE

FRIDAY A.M.'s
August 4, 1967

The attached paper, "The Middle East--Crisis and Opportunity," was approved by the Republican Coordinating Committee at its meeting in Washington, July 24.

The paper is released by Republican National Chairman Ray C. Bliss for publication in AM papers of Friday, August 4, 1967.



8/2/67



Adopted by
The Republican Coordinating Committee
July 24, 1967

Presented by
The Task Force on the Conduct of
Foreign Relations

THE MIDDLE EAST - CRISIS AND OPPORTUNITY

Prepared under the direction of:
Republican National Committee
Ray C. Bliss, Chairman
1625 Eye Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

7/31/67

THE MIDDLE EAST - CRISIS AND OPPORTUNITY

I. INTRODUCTION

Comprehension of the current Middle Eastern problem requires that it be viewed as having two separate and distinct facets, both with long-term implications for the United States:

First, the basic Arab-Israeli conflict which has resulted in three wars in the Middle East in less than 20 years;

Second, the historic Russian drive, constant under Czars and Commissars alike, to obtain a controlling position in the Middle East -- a traditional aim conforming to Soviet tactics to create many trouble spots around the world to confuse and confound the free world.

However, in the recent Arab-Israeli war, the proponents of Middle Eastern instability (the Soviets and certain radical Arab clients) have suffered a crushing defeat. The resulting situation affords an excellent opportunity to the United States to work toward a lasting peace. This nation should not look to others for initiative in this difficult and critical task.

The task is not impossible, but the Administration must move sensibly and vigorously with policies appealing to moderate groups in every Middle Eastern country. It is outside pressure that has generated much of the radical and irresponsible leadership in the area; the United States now is positioned to encourage moderate, responsible Arab and Jewish leaders to discard the self-defeating politics of hatred and violence and to join in the pursuit of equitable, long-term solutions.

The Republican Party recommends these proposals to meet the Middle East situation:

II. REPUBLICAN RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The United States should exert its influence to secure a Middle East peace settlement which will confirm Israel's right to live and prosper as an independent nation.

Arab refusal to acknowledge permanent boundaries for Israel is an attitude hardly exceptional in the Middle East.

Most Arab states and Israel have gained their independence only since World War II. Ever since, difficulties over new boundaries have consumed the region. Two "neutral zones" were created in the oil-rich Persian Gulf area to help separate the oil-producing countries of Kuwait, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. The frontiers between Saudi Arabia and the states on the southern periphery of the Arabian peninsula are still undemarcated, and strife afflicts Yemen and Aden and threatens south Arabia. Algeria has provoked border clashes with two of its peaceable neighbors, Morocco and Tunisia. Morocco claims the entire country of Mauritania and adjacent Spanish territories. For years the Kurds have been militantly agitating for an independent state which would comprise lands detached from Iraq, Iran, Turkey, and possibly Syria.

Clearly, a stable Middle East awaits the permanent solution of all such boundary disputes, but most important of all is the Arab-Israeli dispute. These border problems can be best resolved by the parties directly concerned, employing, if necessary, the good offices of the United Nations or other third parties. Stability and peace require the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict to agree upon permanent boundaries for Israel. Such territorial arrangements as are determined must provide security for all and permit the disengagement of opposing military forces. The United States should be prepared to join other powers in guaranteeing borders thus confirmed, in order to ensure the permanency of the peace settlement.

2. The United States should insist on an international guarantee of innocent passage through international waterways, including the Straits of Tiran and the Suez Canal, as an inalienable right of all nations.

This guarantee would help to undergird the strategic and economic viability of Israel, as well as the Arab states, and would remove a major source of conflict in the Middle East.

This recommendation reaffirms an explicit Republican view, which was clearly enunciated by President Eisenhower following the Arab-Israel war in 1956.

3. The United States should join with other nations in pressing for international supervision of the holy places within the City of Jerusalem.

Circumstances must be created which will provide the best protection of, and access to, the holy places so that freedom of religious worship in these places will be assured to peoples of all faiths. The holy places should not be the subject of political controversy. Their administration by a religious council comprising all directly-affected faiths is one solution that should be most carefully weighed.

4. As an essential part of a permanent settlement in the Middle East, the United States should insist on, and aid in, the rehabilitation and resettlement of the more than one million Palestine Arab refugees who have been displaced over the past 20 years.

Since 1948, \$625 million has been spent by the United Nation's Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to provide simple subsistence to the Palestine Arab refugees. The United States has voluntarily contributed \$425 million, or more than two-thirds of the total. The U.S.S.R., the strident champion of the Arabs, has never contributed to this program.

Before there can be stability in the Middle East, a just and enduring solution of the refugee problem must be found. As the leading contributor to refugee support, the United States is uniquely situated to press powerfully for the permanent resettlement of all Arab refugees. Israel, as well as the Arab states, must share substantially in this effort. We, with other nations, should challenge the U.S.S.R. to prove the sincerity of its professed concern for the welfare of the Arabs by matching future U. S. contributions toward refugee rehabilitation.

5. The United States should propose a broad-scale development plan for all Middle Eastern states which agree to live peacefully with their neighbors.

The Republican Party would not willingly see the rehabilitation of the Middle East become a political issue in the United States. Our country's efforts to bring peace to that war-torn region should continue to be bipartisan. In this spirit we hope for vigorous Administration and widespread public support for the bold and imaginative Eisenhower Plan to bring water, work and food to the Middle East.

This constructive proposal would provide huge atomic plants to desalt sea water, the first of which would produce as much fresh water as the entire Jordan River system. This in turn would irrigate desert lands to support the Arab refugees and bring yearned for prosperity to both Arab and Israeli territories.

The Eisenhower Plan is sufficiently far-reaching to encompass all Middle Eastern states, and all should be invited to adhere. However, even if some should decline, the Plan could be initiated pending their later cooperation. The construction of the first plant would require the agreement of only two or three countries, such as Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, or Lebanon. Once the immense benefits of the vast increase in water supplies become evident for all to see, it would be difficult for any Middle Eastern leader to deny his people the opportunity to share in the prosperity being created.

6. The United States should make a determined effort to expose and isolate the radical troublemakers in the Middle East. We should aid only those states following non-aggressive, non-Communist policies.

Republicans oppose the continuation of past attempts to win over leftist leaders by giving large amounts of aid. We believe our aid should not reward our enemies and, in effect, punish our friends.

Nasser has received more aid (\$1,133.3 million) than Israel (\$1,104.5 million), and nearly double the aid given to any moderate Arab leader (Jordan under King Hussein, for example, has received \$572.8 million).^{1/} By contrast, the average aid given to the U.A.R. during the Eisenhower years was \$31.6 million per year. The average yearly aid to Nasser rose sharply during Democratic Administrations to \$172.1 million.

Republicans have long opposed such aid. On January 26, 1965, every House Republican voted to terminate all surplus food shipments to Nasser.^{2/}

Moreover, at the outbreak of the Middle East war one-quarter of a billion dollars^{3/} was obligated for the seven Arab states which later broke relations with the United States, partially as a result of Nasser's false charge that American planes aided Israel. (See Appendix A, "The Administration Ignored Signs of Crisis in the Middle East.") Republicans believe aid should not be reinstated to any of these countries until the United States decides to reestablish diplomatic relations, restitution has been made for damages to American property and people, and allegations, which falsely impugn the good name of the United States before the world, have been retracted.

^{1/} Analysis of these aid figures is a complex matter. The per capita figures are disparate -- and the periods, types, and currency and payment requirements varied widely.

^{2/} The New York Times, January 27, 1965.

^{3/} This figure includes some \$200 million earmarked as aid and \$51 million in outstanding Export-Import Bank commitments.

7. The United States, in furtherance of peace in the Middle East, should strive with other nations for agreed limitations on international arms shipments to the area.

Limitation on the wasteful and destructive arms race was temporarily achieved by the Tripartite Declaration of 1950 and the Eisenhower Doctrine of 1958. However, Soviet shipments of large amounts of sophisticated weapons to the radical Arab states have thwarted arms controls. There should be unrelenting effort to obtain Soviet adherence to a workable system of arms control in the Middle East. Their cooperation could be a significant indication of Soviet desire for world peace and East-West détente.

8. The United States' leadership and diplomacy must be alert, firm and resourceful to prevent extension of Soviet imperialism into the Middle East and North Africa.

The U.S.S.R. has suffered a serious reverse in terms of both power and prestige in much of the Arab world. The United States should now apply its own influence toward inhibiting the Soviets from again creating disturbances in this area.

Russian aspirations in the Middle East have not varied for centuries. Their major aim has been to obtain direct access to warm water ports, and to the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean. The emergence of many new nations in the Middle East following World War II provided increased opportunities for advancing Soviet interests. In 1945-46, the Soviet army moved into northern Iran, but troops were finally withdrawn after the U. S. and the U. K. objected in the United Nations. In 1947, as in 1877-78, the Soviets attempted to gain a dominating position over the Turkish straits, and in 1946-47, they tried to overthrow the Greek government. The United States responded decisively with its Greek and Turkish aid programs.

Following the death of Stalin, the Soviets sought to by-pass the Middle Eastern countries with which they share a common border and began cultivating Arabs further to the south. Since then, Soviet aid to the radical states in the Middle East has been dispensed on a massive scale. The U.A.R. alone has received about one-sixth of total Soviet economic aid. If economic aid to Algeria, Iraq, Syria, Somalia and Yemen is added, the total becomes \$1,824 million or nearly one-third of total Soviet economic aid. In addition, Soviet military aid has clearly been on a massive scale.

Considering the traditional Russian goals and the vast Soviet military and economic aid to the area, it is not surprising that the Soviets are profoundly concerned over the results of the recent Middle East conflict.

One area of importance only incidentally affected by recent Arab-Israeli battles is the Red Sea, the vital link between Europe, Asia, and much of Africa. The Soviets are deeply involved in promoting instability along the Red Sea coasts in an effort to dominate this key passage. Via Nasser, the Soviets have supported a four-year war in Yemen; they are fomenting rebellion in Aden; they are arming Somalia to stir trouble in the critical region of the African Horn. It would seriously menace the Western position if Yemen and Aden were allowed to come under the control of hostile elements, whether Egyptian or Soviet. We believe the nation can rightly expect its leadership to have the capability and responsibility to avoid such a tragedy -- a catastrophe for all the free world should Soviet designs be allowed to succeed.

Appendix A

The Administration Ignored Signs of Crisis in the Middle East

Although Republicans reject categorically Arab and Soviet claims that the United States was in any way involved in the Middle Eastern conflict, either overtly or covertly, it is apparent that President Johnson's Administration cannot avoid all responsibility, or even some blame, for the events which have taken place. In fact, it appears that the Johnson Administration was so devoid of policy ideas on the Middle East that it could not have seriously affected the situation even if it had wanted to.

The following points give some idea of how badly the White House misjudged the Middle Eastern situation:

- 1) For the crucial three months preceding the crisis there was no United States Ambassador to the Egyptian government. Moreover, the post of Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs was vacant from October 19, 1966 to April 7, 1967, a period of nearly six months just preceding the crisis.
- 2) When the new American Ambassador to Cairo, Richard Nolte, arrived on May 21 he was reported by the Baltimore Sun to have asked, "What crisis?" when questioned by a correspondent at the Cairo airport. The Sun comments that Nolte was simply reflecting the State Department's thinking and his bland remark showed how little Washington appreciated the gravity of the situation even at that late date.
- 3) David G. Nes remained Charge d'Affaires of the American Embassy in Cairo even after Nolte arrived, because the new Ambassador never had an opportunity to present his credentials to President Nasser before the war started and diplomatic relations were broken. Nes, a senior career diplomat, was so disturbed by Washington's lack of interest in the Middle Eastern situation that he took the almost unheard of step of complaining to newsmen that his reports showing a crisis was developing had been totally ignored by the Administration.

4) A resume of events which Nes reported but which he claimed Washington	1
ignored is highly instructive. Quotations are from the <u>Baltimore Sun</u> ;	2
"Beginning in January Nes was convinced that Nasser was plan-	3
ning a major confrontation with Israel and the West... The real	4
tip-off to Nasser's intentions was a series of violently anti-	5
American articles published in Cairo's authoritative <u>Al Ahram</u>	6
early in March at about the time (U.S.) Ambassador Lucius Battle	7
left without a successor being named.	8
"Mohammed Heikal, editor of <u>Al Ahram</u> and a confidant of	9
Nasser, reviewed United States-Egyptian relations from 1949 to	10
date. The Heikal articles indicated Nasser was headed for and	11
wanted a confrontation with Israel and the West."	12
"Nasser apparently tested U.S. intentions in early April by	13
precipitating the incident which resulted in the removal of the	14
U.S. AID mission from Taiz in Egyptian-controlled Yemen ."	15
"The final clue to his (Nasser's) intentions was his May 2	16
speech in which he characterized America as the enemy of Egypt."	17
Once the opposing sides had mobilized their troops, and even after hostil-	18
ities had broken out, the actions of the Johnson Administration indicated that	19
our efforts were poorly coordinated. Although it was perfectly obvious from the	20
nature of the policy statements and military preparations on both	21
sides that war was imminent, the Administration floundered about with a	22
make-shift attempt to organize maritime powers of the world into	23
a group which might convince Nasser to back down from his Gulf of Aqaba block-	24
ade.	25
Moreover, the Administration failed to see beyond the impending crisis and	26
appraise the needs for a permanent settlement in the Middle East. Instead of	27
adopting a flexible position, the President stated on May 23, 1967, that	28
"the United States is firmly committed to the support of	29
the political independence and territorial integrity of	30
all the nations of that area."	31
This unilateral declaration even went beyond the 1950 Tripartite Declaration in	32
which the United States, the United Kingdom and France guaranteed boundaries	33
<u>but only on the condition that peace treaties were signed.</u>	34

During the first days of the conflict the Administration revealed its 1
confusion by changing its stand on the war three times in one day. First, 2
the State Department announced that the United States was "neutral in thought, 3
word and deed." Second, a White House Press Secretary stated that this 4
statement was "not a formal declaration of neutrality." Third and finally, 5
Dean Rusk issued a clarification stating that by "neutral" we meant we were 6
not going to become a belligerent, but this did not mean to imply that we 7
were indifferent to the outcome of the war. 8

Beyond expressing great interest in Middle Eastern events, 9
the Administration never said whether our sympathies were with Israel or the 10
Arabs. By contrast, the declared Soviet position was 100 percent pro-Arab. 11

By subsequent action, the Administration has as much as admitted that it 12
still has no policy for the Middle East: a special committee has been established 13
to study the Middle East, and Mr. McGeorge Burdy has had to be recalled from 14
private life to direct this group's work. 15

Republicans wish to underscore our long-established opinion that the 16
government would do better to rely on the judgment of our professional diplomats, 17
who are familiar with the area in question, than to organize a new committee 18
every time a new crisis develops. 19

August 14, 1967

Mr. Bernard Katzen
State of New York
Executive Department
State Commission for Human Rights
270 Broadway
New York 7, New York

Dear Mr. Katzen:

Rabbi Silver is currently on vacation and will not return to his study at The Temple until after the first of September.

This is to acknowledge receipt of the text entitled "Middle East Crisis and Opportunity" which was released by the Republican Coordinating Committee and its Chairman Mr. Ray C. Bliss. I can not suggest when an evaluation would be forthcoming.

Sincerely,

MGM:mgm

(Miss)Margurite G. Mihok
Secretary to Rabbi Silver

ISADORE I. KASTIN
PRESIDENT

KENT PROVISION CO., Inc.

Fancy Meats and Meat Products

KENT, OHIO 44240

August 18, 1967

Rabbi Daniel Silver
The Temple
University Circle
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Daniel,

Thought you would be interested in the enclosure.

Apparently, the same was circulated to every president of every Rotary Club in this hemisphere or probably throughout the world.

By Adolf



It's the best...

August 28, 1967

Mr. Isadore I. Kastin
Kent Provision Co. Inc.
Kent, Ohio 44240

Dear Isadore:

Thank you for sending on the material from the Rotary. I suppose that nothing can be done. Fortunately the press is running with us. With all good wishes, I remain

Sincerely,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:rvf

August 28, 1967

Mr. Sidney Z. Vincent
Jewish Community Federation
1750 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Dear Sid:

For your files a copy sent to every Rotary president
by the Egyptian Rotary.

Sincerely,

DANIEL JEREMY SILVER

DJS:rvf

BALDWIN-WALLACE COLLEGE
BEREA, OHIO

Rabbi Dan:

Mr. "Dead Sea Scrolls" rides again. I wanted to share this with you especially since you, too, agonized (and prayed) over the situation in Israel during the past year. I am always amazed when a person who professes to be learned and a man of God can come up with such a simple (-minded) solution to a

December 8, 1967

Dear Colleagues:

Many of us, I am sure, have agonized over the tragedies of the Middle East this past summer. After much serious study of the total situation, I decided to compose a letter to Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, as a first step toward expressing my concerns.

The attached letter, with only very minor changes, represents that which went to Eshkol on November 12. Now I want to share the letter as widely as possible to make clear to many what I believe to be a forthright approach to the deadlock that exists in the Middle East. Please share it as you feel moved to do so.

I feel that it is appropriate to send this as a Christmas letter.

May the Advent season be a blessed one for all of you.

Most cordially,

John C. Trever
John C. Trever

problem which concerns and continues to perplex some of the most brilliant minds of our day. Arrogance and bigotry somehow seem to have become a substitute for humility and understanding. Forgive me — but it troubles me when I see a document such as this. I would like to have your reaction. Warmest regards,
Thanks —

AN OPEN LETTER TO ISRAEL

I have spent many months in the Near East, especially in Jerusalem, both Arab and Jewish. My heart has indeed been heavy these past months, as I have lived very personally through the struggle in the area that I love and among people for whom I have much concern. I agonized over the Israeli dilemma last spring as the noose of Arab hate tightened around your small country; but now I agonize over the tragedy which has befallen so many Arabs for a second time. But even more, I agonize over the tragic, seemingly hopeless deadlock in the efforts toward peace. You see, my concern is for all the people of the Near East, not just Arab or just Jew. I have pondered the situation long in the midst of the conflicting tensions of my concerns; and I am now writing, because I believe I have a suggestion to offer for a solution to the dilemma. Your Prime Minister has indicated a feeling of hopelessness in the situation in his response to the Khartoum conference ("News from Israel," Sept. 21, 1967). (My own response to that same conference was, however, that a tiny crack of hope had been opened in the door toward peace.)

The State of Israel, being comprised to such an extent of western trained and oriented leaders and thinkers, seems far from understanding the nature of the Arab mind. Certainly Zionists in my country have little or no comprehension of the Arab as a human being. There are two factors of the Arab attitude which seem constantly to be ignored: 1) that the Arab world has never recognized or accepted the 1947 United Nations decision to partition Palestine, and therefore the Arabs look upon your country as existing illegally and as a colony of imperialism achieved by world connivance and invasion by western forces; and 2) that Arab fatalism is longsuffering to the extent that setbacks, such as three defeats by Israeli forces, merely produce more deeply entrenched hatred, greater determination and more watchful waiting, as has been so clearly exhibited in Nasser's miscalculations of last spring as well as his attitude since.

Much as we in the West naturally consider such factors as resulting from stupidity and refusal to face reality, we are forced to recognize that these are precisely the factors which have created the deadlock which now exists. Despite the fact that Israel has strengthened her position by virtue of brilliant, swift and courageous military action, she must face the reality of the fact that this additional humiliation to the Arabs has served only to deepen the hatreds and intensify the Arab fatalism and longsuffering.

It is going to take something new and radical to break this deadlock, it seems to me; and I think this "something new and radical" could come from Israel in the coming months. May I, therefore, outline a proposal and my reasoning behind it?

In spite of all the brilliant rhetoric and logic which have been so effectively displayed in the United Nations and everywhere the present situation has been discussed by Israelis, the really basic issue has been constantly evaded by Israel, and that is the problem of justice in the total situation. No one can deny the fact that it was the world's shock over the terrible injustices to the Jews in Europe that contributed significantly to sentiments in favor of a Jewish State and the actions that finally led to Partition. In the heat of concern over the amelioration of the injustice to the Jews, however, the world failed to take adequately into account the injustice which Partition inflicted upon the Arab world, and specifically the native Palestinians. An equal degree of concern for these unfortunate people has not been manifest in the world these past twenty years. (We need to remember that it was specifically this concern which the Balfour Declaration sought to spell out in its ambiguous statements about a "Jewish homeland in Palestine.") Two wrongs do not make a right, and thus it has been this imbalance of reasoning which has bothered many of us since 1947. Now we see the deadlock of the present situation as a direct result of that basic injustice of 1947.

As a student of the Bible (I earned a Ph.D. in Old Testament at Yale Graduate School in 1943) and ancient Jewish history, I have come to feel that the radical move that can be made to break the present deadlock is for Jews everywhere, but especially in Israel, to reexamine and reappropriate their religious heritage. In their coveted Scriptures the centrality of justice is found in the ancient Covenant of Sinai, the Torah and especially the Prophets. It was the ancestral founders of Judaism who contributed to the religious world the concept of God as One for whom justice was central. The words of Amos (5:24), Isaiah (1:17, 27), Micah (6:8), especially Deutero-Isaiah (42:1, 4-7), and a host of other prophetic utterances flood through my mind, as I think of Israel as the 'ebed YHWH.

It is paradoxical indeed that Jews today should be the benefactors of justice, yet themselves the perpetrators of injustice, in the light of their significant heritage. I would propose, therefore, the following steps toward the solution of the deadlocked situation:

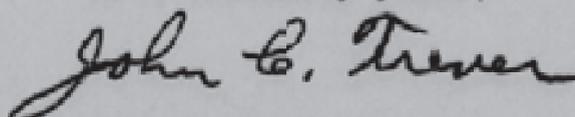
- 1) That Israel acknowledge the basic injustice of her existence as a nation in relation to the Palestinian Arabs.
- 2) That Israel emphasize the involvement of the world through the United Nations which, in response to injustice to the Jews, succumbed to a kind of imperialism to establish Israel as a State.
- 3) That Israel seek Arab forgiveness for the basic injustice which she recognizes.
- 4) That Israel seek means of atonement for this basic injustice, short of genocide, through the following efforts:
 - a) That Israel participate in arousing world concern for displaced Arabs and assist in a humanitarian solution to their plight.
 - b) That Israel agree to repatriation of a stated number (it should be large enough to be impressive--500,000 would not be unreasonable) of Palestinian Arabs of all economic classes, and especially those divided from close relatives, instead of pressuring more Jews to settle in Israel.
 - c) That Israel make clear what she considers to be necessary, reasonable, and ultimate boundaries to overcome the irrational and impractical boundaries of the UNO plan, as well as the pre-June 5 boundaries.
 - d) That Israel seek and develop methods to overcome the Arab concern for Zionist aspirations to restore the Davidic Kingdom boundaries and/or the fulfillment of the Ezekiel (chs. 47-48) prophetic vision. (Perhaps the southern boundary suggested in Ezekiel 47:19 might provide a reasonable solution to the Negeb problem.)
 - e) That Israel emphasize in her schools and synagogues those elements of her spiritual heritage that focus on the Covenant, justice, righteousness, and love toward all peoples, as so effectively portrayed in prophetic literature. And that the present emphasis upon the Maccabean period of Jewish history be supplanted by lifting up the unique political theocratic heritage found in Samuel, Saul and David.
 - f) That Israel continue to offer her assistance to the Arab countries toward solutions of common technological problems.
 - g) That Israel seek to bring into all phases of the situation her utmost effort to establish justice in the Near East.

In short, I am suggesting that Israel shift from the "hawk" approach to a "dove" approach to the present dilemma. Ever since 1947, when I mingled with Arabs and Jews freely in Jerusalem and Palestine, I have felt that the Jewish arrogance, pride and chauvinism were blocking peaceful relations in the area. The victory of Israel in the recent "six-day" war seems to have increased the danger that these same qualities may perpetuate the deadlock. I feel, therefore, that a reversal of this trend could become the basis for a new approach to the Arab world.

Could it be that this is the very time for which Israel has been called to become "a light to the nations?" (Isaiah 42:6; 49:6; 51:4; 60:3; etc.)

With sincere hope for peace in the Near East, I am,

Most cordially yours,



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