



Daniel Jeremy Silver Collection Digitization Project

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Israel, 25th Anniversary program, correspondence and speech,
1972-1973.

September 26, 1972

Mr. Harold Manson
American Friends of the Hebrew University
11 East 69th St.
New York, N. Y. 10021

Dear Harold:

In conjunction with the twenty-fifth anniversary the Federation is planning to bring to Cleveland a number of Israelis who have specified skills in such fields as law, medicine, engineering etc. who can be presented as effective speakers to special groups. I know many men are in the United States on sabbaticals for various reasons and I wonder who you would recommend as a figure both of repute and as an effective lecturer. I am interested more now in international prestige and competence than an appeal to a lay audience. These would be professionals speaking to professionals.

Everyone is well here and send their love. Many thanks for your help. Happy New Year to you and to yours.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

They had endured the wilderness for forty years in the hope of reaching the Promised Land. Theirs had been a cruel trek but they were now camped on the far bank of the Jordan. It would be a matter of a day to ford the river. The long awaited goal was at hand. It was a moment of anticipation. It was a moment of parting. Moses could go no further. What was Moses' valedictory to his people as he passed the mantle of leadership to Joshua ~~that day~~? Did he tell them that their troubles were over? No, he spoke of cities to be conquered, fields to be cleared and planted, and of God's law which must be obeyed. He warned them ~~to be~~ ^{to be} strong and of good courage.

We have never been a naive people. We know that the time of trouble is never over. Our myths do not speak of a return to the Garden of Eden, to an ~~idyllic~~ ^{idyllic} paradise where everything is always quiet and pleasant. The symbol of our hope is the Promised Land - the opportunity to settle and cultivate a place which is our own and to create there a good and Godly life. The challenge is unending, we take our celebrations in stride enjoying the accomplishment they signal; but ^{we are} aware that tomorrow there will be new challenges. The Zohar ^{אין יום בלי לילה אין לילה בלי יום} phrased it this way "There is no day without its night, there is no night without its day." In today's terms; Israel at 25 is strong, vibrant and found it prudent to celebrate this anniversary with a cautionary display of power.

What are we celebrating tonight? That Israel is 25 years young and that Israel is a vital 25. I remember being challenged in 1947 by my college tutor, a learned political scientist who was sympathetic but skeptical: "The proposed State is not economically viable", he said "it's too small, Whatever industrial and agricultural possibilities the settlements now have will be drowned by the flood of refugees. You won't have a State, you'll end up with an extended displaced persons' camp". Had there not been a prodigious sacrifice of effort and will - Israeli austerity, the UJA, foreign aid - he might have been right. Israel at 25 might have been an extended ^aMa'bara. There were only 87,000

industrial jobs in the Yishuv in 1947 with $1\frac{1}{2}$ million people waiting to come. The boundaries ^{of} ~~for~~ the Jewish State as drawn by the United Nations included only 300,000 producing acres which at that time harvested less than one-half of the food supply needed for those already there. Israel's total industrial output was a mere \$16,000,000.00, hardly ^{A SECURE} ~~the~~ foundations ^{FOR AN EMERGING} ~~of a vibrant~~ State, ~~which would necessarily multiply its population five times in the next years.~~ Yet today Israel's employment rate is higher than that of the United States, and the level of per capita consumption is higher than that of Japan. Over the last 25 years the gross national product has grown at an annual rate of 10%. Intensive irrigation and scientific agriculture have brought three times ^{The pre-state} ~~more~~ acreage under cultivation. Israel today produces 80% of her food requirements. The displaced have looked well to their place, and to the future. Perhaps the most impressive figure of all is that a State that was sand dunes and temporary housing and ~~has~~ ^{has} throughout its history been burdened with heavy security costs, will this year educate 960,000 children and young adults in its classrooms - 45,000 of them in six universities, honing sharp the minds which will provide her future.

What are we celebrating tonight? That Israel is and Israel is one! The people came from here, there and everywhere and were tied by little more than the insecurity of the Galut and some bonds of tradition. There were Sabra~~s~~ and immigrants, ~~Some~~ came out of Zionist conviction, some out of Messianic expectation, some because they had no other place to go. Some believed, some denied. Some were Arab Christians, Arab Moslems, European Christians, Druse as well as Jews. There are graduates of western ^{UNIVERSITIES} ~~activities~~, and graduates of North African Mellahs. The State might have been little more than a heap of human flotsam but at 25 it is united in purpose as well as in fate.

Not all the tensions between these groups have been ~~un~~resolved - but Israel has not become unstitched and there is a slow, perceptible identification of all groups ^{with} the nation's present and future.

We rejoice tonight that Israel survives. She was attacked before she was born, and she was attacked after she was born - repeatedly. ~~The~~ years have ~~not~~ brought ^{peace but} fedayeen and guerillas, alarums of war and war. We rejoice that God ^{guardian} has been a shield - that the ~~garden~~ ^{guardian} of Israel did not slumber. We rejoice that Israel has retained sensitivity and humanity. It is not Israel that has trumpeted cries of vengeance and promised endless fighting: "No negotiations, no recognition" The enemies shout for blood and Israel's Prime Minister replies that the only thing for which ~~we~~ ^{she} cannot ~~for~~give the Arabs is that they have forced young Jews to fight and kill. Given the viscous world in which she has survived, Israel's patience under trial has been remarkable and mocks the moralism of governments which take oil and trade concessions as proof of the justice of the Arab cause, and mask their own ^{cupidity} ~~greed~~ by accusing Israel of obstinacy. Israel has been obstinate only on one point, that she is / that she has a right to be / and she will survive. I look upon Israel's record as a triumph of the human spirit; besieged she has avoided the siege mentality and has sustained an open society. Alone among the nations of the Middle East, Israel maintains open borders, avoids censorship and cherishes free debate. In Israel the social revolution goes on and a flourishing cultural, literary and artistic life expresses itself. Rarely has so much freedom and progress been achieved under such adverse conditions.

Israel is our response to Auschwitz, to the anti-Semitism and the racism of the ~~so-called Christian~~ ^{LANGER} world. Israel is our symbol that

¹⁷ ^{11/28/61} ~~for~~ the people of Israel live, that the Messianic drama continues to unfold, that Israel ~~is committed to the~~ ^{will have a} future.

Israel is both an ^{EVOLUTIVE} ~~emotional~~ symbol and a functioning State with all the problems of any State; security, social justice, balance of trade, inflation

pollution.. ^{UNFORTUNATELY} yet there are some who cannot see the State for the symbol ^{AND} who find it difficult to accept ^{IN ISRAEL THE COMPROMISES} ~~incomplete~~ and the adjustments which are natural and

necessary in ordinary affairs. They want perfection and they expect perfection

in the world of Munich and Phantom.

~~now~~. I am frankly impatient with those who judge Israel by the ^{REALIZATIONS} ~~standards~~ of

a saintliness no nation on earth has ever attained, and who forget that Israel

is young, poor in natural resource, laden with new citizens and troubled by

^{AND HAS NEVERTHELESS EMERGED IN DEFENCY,} implacable enemies. Let the test be one of direction, not one of perfection.

Is Israel struggling ^{SENSITIVELY} with the political and moral paradoxes of power in a

situation where power is all that protects her borders. ^{I submit she is} Is Israel taxing herself

to close the gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots", between the East and

the West: despite a budget which requires that 50% of her income is spent for

^{I submit she is} defense. Are her citizens cooperating in common purpose or have they only one

wish - to ^{SURE} fill themselves with the good things of life? To all these questions

^{A GENERALLY COMPLIMENTARY ANSWER CAN BE MADE.} ~~the answer is complimentary.~~ Israel is trying, working hard, prodigious

^{THESE ARE FAILURES, MISTAKES, BUT FEW FAILURES OF WILL} sacrifices are being made. May I suggest to anyone who demands more, that you

cast the first stone ^{AFTER} when our own house is set in order - when 30,000,000

Americans no longer go to bed hungry, when race no longer separates our

citizens, when the threat of administrative power no longer shadows the land,

when we no longer bomb in Southeast Asia. ^{HUMAN} This ~~house~~ calls for humility before

Israel's accomplishments. ^{FROM AMERICAN TERRY} This hour calls for honesty. Have we matched

Israel's accomplishments in our communities,? Are our ^{INSTITUTIONS} ~~houses~~ as vital and

^{DO OUR CITIZENS MAKE SIMILAR SACRIFICES?} ethically sensitive as Israel's. Have we been as determined in the cause of

justice or peace? When tempted to be critical of Israel, let us ask about

our own credentials. Many in the West demand of Israel a standard of conduct

that they do not ask of their own nations and do not demand of the economically

futile and incredibly backward Arab states. It is one thing to love peace in

the United States and to demand ^{OUR} ~~the~~ withdrawal of ~~our troops~~ from Southeast

Asia, it is another thing to love peace in Israel, ^{AND} to confront the ^{REAL} dangers

of any unilateral withdrawal. Southeast Asia is 7000 miles from ^{ASIAN FRONTIERS} ~~our borders~~.

↓ HOW FAR CAN I EXPOSE MY OWN CHILDREN?

~~Henel will not attack her.~~ Sinai and the Golan are minutes from ^{Tel Aviv} ~~Israel's~~
~~AND Tiberias, and~~ ^{is pledged to attack.}
~~cities and behind the enemy lines sit those who are~~ ~~the best in America should think before they speak.~~
The best of Israel know that it takes two to untangle. Let us accept Israel
for what ^{she} it is and has become and not ask her to play the Christian saint to
an unfeeling and uncaring world.

At 25 the ties are close. There are ties of family, ^{of} shared institutions
and activities of friendship, partnership and hope. The diaspora is close to
Israel and Israel is close to the Diaspora. Our lives have been deeply etched
by the revival of Hebrew, by the naturalness of Jewish life in the Promised
Land, by the joyous recognition that we have transcended genocide. In a
substantial way, Israel has stimulated the development of an organic American
Jewish community; but Israel cannot sustain that community. Israel cannot
give us the will to learn or to train the young or to engage in activities which
protect our rights, ^{can} ~~but~~ to live by the Prophets ^{high} moral challenge, or to
demand that the world accept our will to survive. This anniversary is a
challenge to us, not only to do more for various Israel ^{related} causes but to es-
tablish ^{A CAUTIOUS} ~~firmly~~ our communities so that the partnership of Israel and the
Diaspora will long endure. As we meet tonight ^{ד' שיס"א} The people of
Israel lives, ^{DEMOCRACY BUILDS IN AT LEAST ONE AREA OF THE MIDDLE EAST} but let us ~~honestly~~ recognize that our people will live ~~only~~
^{only} as long as they and we bend every effort to ^{keep it} ~~make it~~ so. The future is ^{That the miracle}
bright and dark, full of challenge ^{with three}
There is no day without its night and there is no night without its day
"but tonight we can say with a full heart:

... 2 1 2

ISRAEL'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

- SEPTEMBER 26, 1972 - 3:30 p.m. General Community Reception, Flame of Israel Jewish Community Federation
8 p.m., Delegate Assembly and Women's Organization, Jewish community reception, Flame of Israel, J.C.C.
- OCTOBER 10, 1972 - 8 p.m., Garden Center, Neot Kedumim
- OCTOBER 15, 1972 - 12 Noon, B'nai B'rith Women's Council, at Casa Di Borally. Luncheon - "Adopt A Child" - for children's Home in Israel. Bea Sandler speaker on Israel's 25th Anniversary and Children's Home. 200 - 250. Mrs. Emil Klein, 221-3819.
- OCTOBER 22, 1972 - J.N.F. Annual Meeting, Sheraton-Cleveland, 6:30 p.m. 1,000 people.
- NOVEMBER 5, 1972 - 7 p.m., Park Synagogue, Federation Annual Meeting. Moshe Davis, Director Institute for Contemporary Judaism Hebrew University.
- DECEMBER 5, 1972 - 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Israel Student Organization, Park Synagogue Auditorium, Hagashah of Israel, Community Wide.
- DECEMBER 6, 1972 - Council of Jewish Women, Major Meeting.
- MARCH 24-27, 1973 - Israel Student Organization, J.C.C., Cleveland Zionist Organization at J.C.C. Israel Expo, Bazaar, Cultural Events. Rachel Shipley: 423-3387. Community wide.
- APRIL 2, 1973 - Pioneer Women Council, evening, about 300, open event.
- APRIL 7-11, 1973 - Fairmount Temple at Fairmount Temple. Program: A Fair. Entire community. David Sarnat, Jewish Community Federation.
- APRIL 25, 1973 - Technion luncheon. Open meeting.
- MAY 10 or 14 - Community Wide Celebration. ← MUSIC HALL
- FIRST WEEK IN OCTOBER 1973 - Israeli Government and Higbee Co. at Higbee's. Display and sale of Israeli merchandise. David Sarnat, Jewish Community Federation.

IMPORTANT JEWISH WELFARE FUND APPEAL CAMPAIGN DATES

November 11-16	Cleveland Prime Minister Mission
December 12	Special Gifts Meeting No. 1
January 16	Special Gifts Meeting No. 2
February 20-21	Trade Division Rallies

MARCH 15 - APRIL 12 - 1973 JEWISH WELFARE FUND APPEAL CAMPAIGN