

DEDICATION OF THE MARSHALL MILLER MEMORIAL SANCTUARY
CONGREGATION OHEV SIGLOM
PRAIRIE VILLAGE, KNASAS
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 1970

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. MILLER, MEMBERS OF THE MARSHALL MILLER FAMILY, DISTINGUISHED RABBIS, OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF CONGREATION OHEV SHOLOM.

TODAY WE GATHER TO DEDICATE A PLACE OF WORSHIP AND TO HONOR
THE MEMORY OF A DEAR AND REVERED LEADER, FRIEND AND TEACHER. THAT WE
ARE HERE IS TESTIMONY TO MANY GREAT CHARACTERISTICS OF AMERICA AND
AMERICANS.

JEWS IN AMERICA

FIRST, TODAY'S GATHERING IS WITNESS TO AMERICA'S TRADITION
OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND DIVERSITY AND THE JOY AND PRIDE OUR PEOPLE
TAKE IN THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THEIR FRIENDS OF DIFFERING FAITHS.

AMERICA TAKES PRIDE IN HAVING BECOME HOME FOR MILLIONS OF JEWS WHO LIKE THE PURITANS, CATHOLICS, AND QUAKERS CAME HERE TO PRACTICE

THEIR FAITH WITHOUT RESTRICTION, WITHOUT HARRASMENT AND WITHOUT STIGMA.

AMERICA TAKES EVEN GREATER PRIDE IN HAVING PROVIDED A SANCTUARY FOR

OTHER MILLIONS WHO SOUGHT MERELY TO LIVE. MILLIONS HAVE COME AND THEIR

NUMBERS HAVE GROWN AND PROSPERED, AND AMERICA WITH THEM.

OUR COUNTRY IS PROUD AND FORTUNATE TO HAVE THE LARGEST JEWISH POPULATION IN THE WORLD, FOR JEWS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF EVERY ASPECT OF OUR NATIONAL CHARACTER. FROM THE ARTS, TO POLITICS TO BUSINESS AND THE PROFESSIONS, THE STRENGTHS AND GREATNESS OF JEWISH LIKE HAVE INCREASED THE RICHNESS OF LIFE FOR ALL AMERICANS.

JEWS IN RUSSIA

HOW GREAT A CONTRAST IS TO BE FOUND BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES WITH
THE TWO LARGEST JEWISH POPULATIONS. IN AMERICA FREEDOM TO WORSHIP, TO
GROW AND TO FLOURISH HAS MADE THE NATION AND LIFE FOR ALL ITS PEOPLE -JEWS AND OTHERS ALIKE -- THE FINEST EXPRESSION OF MAN'S IDEAL FOR A

FULFILLING EXISTENCE. IN SOVIET RUSSIA, HOWEVER, STATE ATHEISM AND A SYSTEMATIC POLICY OF ANTI-SEMITISM HAS STIFLED HUMAN GROWTH AND ADVANCEMENT FOR THE WHOLE RUSSIAN PEOPLE. NOT ONLY IS SOVIET JEWRY DENIED ITS RIGHTS OF DIGNITY AND FREEDOM, BUT THE NATION HAS BEEN DENIED THE STIMULATING, VITAL AND ENRICHING CONTRIBUTION OF ITS JEWISH CITIZENS.

SENATE RESOLUTIONS

IN CONGRESS WE ARE UNABLE TO EFFECT A DIRECT IMPACT ON THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POLICIES OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS. HOWEVER, FROM TIME TO TIME WE DO ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE AN INDIRECT BUT FORCEFUL INDICATION OF OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE ACTS AND POLICIES OF FOREIGN POWERS.

I RECENTLY ORGANIZED A BI=PARTISAN HOUSE-SENATE COMMITTEE TO DEMONSTRATE OPPOSITION AND OBJECTION TO THE TREATMENT OF AMERICAN S WHO ARE PRISONERS OF WAR AND MISSING IN ACTION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. WE FELT THAT OUR EFFORTS, INCLUDING A JOINT RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, WERE

NECESSARY TO SHOW THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND THE WORLD THAT WE KNOW OF THEIR UNLAWFUL AND INHUMANE ACTIONS AND THAT WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN OUR MEN.

IN THIS SAME SPIRIT A BI-PARTISAN RESOLUTION WILL SOON BE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE BY MY COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND, THE SENIOR SENATOR FROM NEW YORK JACOB JAVITS, AND MY DEMOCRAT COLLEAGUE, ABRAHAM RIBICOFF OF CONNECTICUT. THIS RESOLUTION WILL EXPRESS THE SENATE'S CONDEMNATION OF SOVIET ANTI-SEMITISM AND WILL CONTAIN A PLEA FOR THE JUST AND LAWFUL TREATMENT OF JEWS IN THE SOVIET UNION. WHEN A SIMILAR RESOLUTION WAS INTRODUCED IN THE 90th CONGRESS BY SENATOR JAVITS, IT HAD MORE THAN 70 CO-SPONSORS. IN THE LIGHT OF THE TREND OF SOVIET POLICY OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, THIS RESOLUTION SHOULD HAVE 100 SPONSORS WHEN INTRODUCED IN THIS CONGRESS. I KNOW I WILL BE ONE.

THESE RESOLUTIONS MAY NOT MAKE A GREAT IMPRESSION ON THE NORTH VIETNAMESE OR THE SOVIETS OR TO WHOMEVER THEY ARE DIRECTED. BUT THEY DO ALERT THESE GOVERNMENTS AND THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD TO THE REALITIES OF THESE SITUATIONS. AND, IF OUR RESOLUTIONS RESULT IN A SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN THE STATUS OF AMERICANS IN NORTH VIETNAM OR JEWS IN RUSSIA, OUR EFFORTS WILL HAVE BEEN WORTHWHILE.

ISRAEL

AT THIS POINT, I WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THAT SOVIET ANTI-JEWISH POLICY IS NOT CONFINED WITHIN ITS BORDERS. THE RUSSIANS SHOW INCREASING HOSTILITY AND RECKLESSNESS IN THEIR ANTI-ISRAELI FOREIGN POLICY. RECENT DISCLOSURES OF SOVIET PILOTS FLYING EGYPTIAN INTERCEPTOR WARPLANES RAISE GRAVE RISKS OF FURTHER DISTORTING THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND ENDANGERING THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL.

LAST WEEK MARKED THE 22nd ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF ISRAEL,
AN OCCASION WHICH PEACE-LOVING AND HUMANITARIAN PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE
WORLD CELEBRATED. THEIR JOY, HOWEVER, WAS MIXED WITH HEIGHTENED CONCERN.

I HAD THE GREAT HONOR OF VISITING ISRAEL IN 1967. I SAW
THEN, AND BELIEVE NOW, THAT THE UNITED STATES MUST INSURE THE SAFETY
AND SECURITY OF THAT GALLANT COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE. PRESIDENT NIXON
HAS REPEATED HIS ASSURANCES THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL STAND BY
ISRAEL AS WELL AS HIS DETERMINATION TO ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT
OF THE DISPUTES IN THE MID-EAST.

PRESIDENT NIXON, AS WELL AS THE SENATE, ARE PLEDGED TO THE CONTINUING SECURITY AND VITALITY OF ISRAEL, AND WE ALL PRAY THAT THE 23rd ANNIVERSARY WILL ALSO CELEBRATE THE COMING OF PEACE AND TRANQUILITY IN THAT TROUBLED REGION.

JEWS IN KANSAS CITY

ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF OUR MEETING HERE TODAY IS
THE MEANING IT HOLDS FOR KANSAS CITY AND ITS JEWISH COMMUNITIES.

IT HAS BEEN ALMOST A CENTURY SINCE THE FIRST JEWISH

FAMILIES CAME TO KANSAS CITY, KANSAS. AND FORTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

CONGREGATION OHEV SHOLOM WAS FORMED. YOUR GROWTH FROM FEWER THAN

SIXTY FAMILIES MEETING IN A RENTED BUILDING TO OVER 260 FAMILIES

AND THIS BEAUTIFUL SANCTUARY AND HALL IS A POINT OF JUSTIFIABLE

PRIDE FOR YOURSELVES AND THE ENTIRE JOHNSON-WYANDOTTE COUNTY AREAS.

AS YOU HAVE GROWN AND PROSPERED, SO HAVE THOSE AROUND YOU, AND

TOGETHER YOU HAVE MADE THIS AREA SUCH A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK

AND RAISE YOUR FAMILIES.

BUT PERHAPS MORE THAN SOURCES OF PRIDE, THE GROWTH OF YOUR CONGREGATION AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS HOUSE OF WORSHIP, ARE MEMORIALS TO THE MAN WHO GUIDED AND LED YOU FOR MORE THAN A QUARTER-CENTURY.

RABBI MARSHALL MILLER

RABBI MARSHALL MILLER WAS A DEDICATED RELIGIOUS LEADER,
BUT HE WAS ALSO A COMMUNITY-MINDED CITIZEN, THE HEAD OF A LOVING
AND DEVOTED FAMILY AND A VALUED FRIEND TO ALL WHO KNEW HIM.

FAMILIES CAN HAVE NO GREATER TREASURE THAN A PASTOR, PRIEST,
OR RABBI WITH WHOM THEY CAN REJOICE IN TIMES OF JOY, TO WHOM THEY CAN
TURN IN TIMES OF SORROW, AND UPON WHOM THEY CAN RELY FOR COUNSEL,
UNDERSTANDING AND STRENGTH FROM DAY TO DAY.

BY THESE MEASURES, THE FAMILIES OF CONGREGATION OHEV SHOLOM WERE RICH INDEED TO HAVE HAD RABBI MILLER WITH THEM, AND THE WEALTH OF HIS LEGACY REMAINS WITH YOU....AND WILL ENDURE.