

Leonid Kuchman

ISRAELI BOND ORGANIZATION'S DINNER

PLAZA INN
DECEMBER 20, 1971

REMARKS BY SENATOR BOB DOLE

Shalom

*Non-Partisan
Congress!
Hang Dole
Israel!*

IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH YOU THIS EVENING AND
A HIGH HONOR TO RECEIVE THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEDAL.

THE JEWISH PEOPLE ARE A GREAT AND CAPABLE AND COURAGEOUS
PEOPLE. AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL IS A DYNAMIC AND PROGRESSIVE
COUNTRY WHOSE DEVOTION TO FREEDOM AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY HAS BEEN
A BEACON OF INSPIRATION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

IN THE PAST QUARTER-CENTURY, THE WORLD HAS WATCHED AN
IDEA, A DREAM, A FOND HOPE FIRST TAKE ROOT, THEN FLOWER, AND
FINALLY ACHIEVE MATURITY IN A DIFFICULT, UNPREDICTABLE AND
HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT. TODAY, NEARLY THREE MILLION PEOPLE
LIVE AND STRUGGLE AND THRIVE IN WHAT ONLY ^{a few} YEARS AGO WAS BUT
A PRAYER ON THE LIPS OF COUNTLESS MILLIONS.

Committee on Senate

*it was
desert*

ISRAEL'S WILL AND ABILITY TO SURVIVE HAS WEATHERED SEVERE TESTS OF NATURE, WORLD POLITICS AND MILITARY HOSTILITY. DEFENSE READINESS HAS BEEN A CONSTANT ELEMENT OF ITS NATIONAL LIFE FROM THE BEGINNING. REGRETTABLY -- AS THE UNITED STATES HAS LEARNED IN ITS OWN CASE -- DEFENSE READINESS WILL CONTINUE TO BE A PART OF LIFE FOR THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE. FOR THE UNITED STATES, THIS MEANS MANY THINGS -- THE ABM, A MODERN NAVY, AN UP-TO-DATE AIR FORCE, A STRONG ARMY. FOR ISRAEL, A SMALLER NATION WITH NO GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITIES, BUT HEAVY LOCAL ONES, THIS MEANS OTHER THINGS. MANY OF THESE ISRAEL CAN SUPPLY ITSELF -- THE MEN, THE SPIRIT, THE COURAGE. BUT, BEING A SMALL NATION, IT MUST DEPEND ON OTHERS FOR SOME ELEMENTS OF ITS ARSENAL. AND IN THE CURRENT CONTEXT, THIS PARTICULARLY MEANS AIRCRAFT TO MAINTAIN THE COMBAT AND DETERRENT CAPABILITIES THAT HAVE PROVEN SO IMPORTANT IN THE PAST.

THE UNITED STATES, I AM PROUD TO SAY, HAS PROVIDED MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO ISRAEL IN THE PAST. ~~IT~~ IT HAS BEEN A RELIABLE AND SOUND PARTNER FOR THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT -- IN CONTRAST TO A CERTAIN OTHER GOVERNMENT, WHICH TOOK PAYMENT FROM ISRAEL FOR AIRCRAFT AND THEN REFUSED TO DELIVER THEM.

BUT THE TIME HAS COME WHEN MORE JETS ARE NEEDED. SOVIET AID TO EGYPT INCREASED AND CONTINUED AT AN ALARMING PACE AFTER THE 6-DAY WAR. THE SOVIET UNION SHOWS LITTLE SIGN OF INDULGING IN ANY RESTRAINT, AND THE SITUATION HAS REACHED A CRITICAL POINT.

I CO-SPONSORED A SENATE RESOLUTION LAST MONTH CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT TO PERMIT THE SALE OF ADDITIONAL PHANTOM JETS TO ISRAEL. THAT RESOLUTION IS NOT BINDING ON THE PRESIDENT. BUT PRESIDENT NIXON FEELS IT IS IMPERATIVE TO MAINTAIN THE

BALANCE OF POWER IN THE MID-EAST. IF THIS MEANS MORE JETS,
THERE WILL BE MORE JETS. BECAUSE OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S COMMITMENT
TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL, HE IS DOING HIS UTMOST TO BRING A REAL
AND LASTING PEACE TO THE MID-EAST.

NOW, I KNOW THERE HAVE BEEN PLEDGES OF HELP. I UNDERSTAND
THE ASSUMPTION THAT IF WAR BREAKS OUT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES PLACING
ISRAEL AT A DISADVANTAGE, WE WILL PROVIDE THE ASSISTANCE ISRAEL
IS SEEKING. MRS. MEIR OFTEN SPEAKS ABOUT THE JEWS' SECRET WEAPON
THAT MAKES THEM INVINCIBLE IN BATTLE: THEY HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE.

BUT THERE ARE OTHER SECRET WEAPONS WHICH ARE ALMOST
EQUALLY EFFECTIVE. GENERAL RABIN'S SECRET WEAPON IN THE SIX-DAY
WAR WAS SPEED. AND SPEED WILL, I THINK, BE VITAL IN ANY FUTURE
CONFRONTATION. I AM CONCERNED THAT, EVEN WITH THE BEST POSSIBLE
INTENTIONS, WHETHER WE COULD PROVIDE ISRAEL WITH THE PLANES SHE
WOULD NEED TO DEFEND HERSELF IN SUFFICIENT TIME FOR THOSE PLANES
TO PLAY THE PIVOTAL ROLE THAT THEY MUST PLAY. SO, WE MUST CONTINUE
TO PRESS FOR THIS NEEDED ASSISTANCE FOR ISRAEL.

WE MUST RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS CAUSE IS NOT QUITE SO POPULAR TODAY AS IT WAS IN 1967 WHEN IT LOOKED LIKE ISRAEL COULD BE DESTROYED. IN THOSE DARK DAYS, OF COURSE ALL THE LIBERALS WERE CONCERNED. AND THEY WERE COMMITTED, AND THEY WERE COMPASSIONATE -- AND ALL THOSE OTHER WONDERFUL WORDS THEY APPLY TO THE PEOPLE WHOM THEY PATRONIZE. BUT WHEN ISRAEL DEMONSTRATED THAT SHE DIDN'T NEED ALL THAT LIBERAL CONCERN TO SURVIVE -- WHEN SHE WAS A LITTLE CONTEMPTUOUS OF ALL THE RHETORIC AND THE PHONEY HAND-WRINGING, THEN THE LIBERALS TURNED AROUND AND DECIDED THAT ISRAEL WAS MILITARISTIC AND THE ARABS WERE BEING OPPRESSED BY HER AND SO FORTH. AND, TODAY, YOU DON'T HEAR SO MUCH ABOUT SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL FROM THAT SIDE OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM.

~~_____~~ THERE IS AN OLD SAYING IN AMERICAN POLITICS THAT
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CANNIBALS AND LIBERALS IS THAT CANNIBALS
ONLY EAT THEIR ENEMIES. THE WISDOM OF THAT SAYING HAS BEEN
DEMONSTRATED IN THE MONTHS SINCE JUNE, 1967.

BUT WHETHER THE CAUSE IS POPULAR OR UNPOPULAR, IN HARD
PRAGMATIC TERMS, ISRAEL IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SECURITY INTERESTS
OF THE UNITED STATES. THAT IS NOT SENTIMENT. IT IS A SIMPLE
FACT BASED ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF POWER AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF
VITAL RESOURCES IN THE WORLD. THE MID-EAST IS OF CRUCIAL IMPOR-
TANCE TO US, AND THE ONLY FIRM, RELIABLE FRIEND WE HAVE THERE IS
ISRAEL. SO, IF WE ARE GOING TO PRETEND THAT SHE IS A MATCH FOR
THE SOVIET UNION -- IN ADDITION TO THE AGGRESSIVE ARAB STATES --
THEN WE HAD BETTER PROVIDE HER WITH THE DEFENSE ARMAMENTS SHE
NEEDS TO PUT TEETH INTO THAT PRETENSE.

IN ADDITION, AND IN CONCLUSION, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT ON THE PRESIDENT'S AGENDA FOR MOSCOW, THERE WILL BE TWO MATTERS OF PRIORITY. ONE IS TO SEEK ASSURANCE THAT THE OUTFLOW OF JEWISH IMMIGRANTS FROM THE SOVIET UNION -- WHICH WORLD OPINION HAS BROUGHT ABOUT -- WILL BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE. AND SECOND, I HOPE THAT THE ASSURANCES GIVEN TO MRS. MEIR THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT STAND IDLY AS ISRAEL IS THREATENED -- THAT THOSE SAME ASSURANCES BE MADE UNQUESTIONABLY CLEAR TO MR. BRESHNEV AND MR. KOSYGIN, WITH A REQUEST THAT THEY BE TRANSMITTED TO MOSCOW'S CLIENTS IN THE MID-EAST.

I REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT WE SHALL SOON SEE THE ADVENT OF REAL PEACE ON A FIRM AND LASTING BASIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. I FIRMLY SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT IN HIS EFFORTS TO SECURE IT THERE AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. ALL MEN OF GOOD WILL CAN HAVE BUT THE HIGHEST HOPES FOR THE SUCCESS OF HIS JOURNEY FOR PEACE IN THE COMING MONTHS.

BUT IN THE MEANTIME, I BELIEVE WE MUST TAKE FIRM ACTION TO ASSURE THE SECURITY AND INTEGRITY OF OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES WHO FACE THE THREAT OF AGGRESSION AND WHO CONFRONT ARMED HOSTILITY TOWARD THEIR RIGHT TO SURVIVE AND FULFILL THE DESTINIES OF THEIR PEOPLE.

I AM PROUD TO RECEIVE THIS HONOR FROM A GREAT AND GALLANT PEOPLE. THANK YOU.