

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
JEWISH RETIREES--RESIDENTS OF CENTURY VILLAGE
TEMPLE ISRAEL

DEERFIELD BEACH, FLORIDA
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1978

I AM DEEPLY HONORED TO BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY. AS
JEWISH COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE WORLD RECENTLY CELEBRATED
THE BEGINNING OF ANOTHER YEAR, THE WORDS OF LESHANA TOVA
(HAPPY NEW YEAR) HAVE TAKEN ON A NEW MEANING, AND HAVE
BEEN LINKED WITH NEW HOPES.

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WASHINGTON PEACE CONFERENCE

THIS IS A TIME OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE TO ISRAEL, AND THAT MAKES IT A TIME OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE TO JEWS ALL OVER THE WORLD, AS WELL AS TO THOSE OF US WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH THE WELL-BEING OF ERETZ-ISRAEL. BY USING THE TERM ERETZ ISRAEL, I AM EXPRESSING WHAT MENACHEM BEGIN MEANS WHEN HE SPEAKS OF ISRAEL'S BORDERS. I MADE THAT CLEAR LAST YEAR IN JERUSALEM, WHEN I SAID I AGREED WITH THE DISTINCTIONS HE HAS DRAWN BETWEEN LIBERATED TERRITORY AND OCCUPIED TERRITORY. PERHAPS A BETTER TERM FOR "LIBERATED TERRITORY" WOULD BE "REDEEMED TERRITORY". TODAY WE ARE WAITING, ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD, TO KNOW WHAT WILL ISSUE FORTH FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS NOW UNDER WAY IN WASHINGTON. I BELIEVE THAT THE DESIRE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS STRONG AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS. CERTAINLY, WE ALL SHARE A PRAYERFUL HOPE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL ACCOMPLISH THE AMBITIOUS GOALS SET FORTH EARLIER AT CAMP DAVID.

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A SECURE PFACE

THE PEACE THAT WILL BE CONCLUDED MUST BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN PARTISAN ADVANTAGE AND MUST NOT BE SACRIFICED TO THE POLITICAL NEEDS OF ANWAR SADAT OR JIMMY CARTER. THE PEACE THAT WILL BE CONCLUDED MUST TRANSCEND POLITICS. WE ALL SHARE THE SAME PRAYER THAT INDEED A LASTING PEACE WILL RISE OUT OF THE ASHES OF TOO MANY WARS, TOO MANY SHORT-LIVED ARMISTICES, TOO MANY LIVES LOST, TOO MUCH BLOOD ALREADY SHED. WE ALL PRAY FOR THE KIND OF LASTING PEACE THAT WILL NOT ONLY AFFECT THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL AND OF THE MIDDLE EAST TODAY, BUT ALSO THE GENERATIONS NOT YET BORN.

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LET ISAIAH'S DREAM BE FULFILLED, AND MENACHEM BEGIN'S
AND OUR OWN.

(LÖ TA-DA MEAL-HA-MA)
LO T'DAH MILCHAMA.

THEY SHALL NOT KNOW WAR.

LET THE DAY COME.

LET THE DREAM COME TRUE.

THAT IS OUR HOPE AND OUR WISH AND OUR PRAYER.

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BACKGROUND

HISTORICALLY, BOTH JEWS AND ARABS HAVE LIVED IN ERETZ ISRAEL, AND A NAME OF CONVENIENCE WAS APPLIED TO THEM AND THE LAND, BY THE MANDATORY POWERS. THE NAME WAS PALESTINE. SOME ARABS SOLD THEIR LAND LEGALLY AND PROFITABLY TO THE JEWS. SOME LEFT WILLINGLY, AND HOPEFULLY, TO AWAIT THE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL IN 1948. THEY WERE DISAPPOINTED. FOR THIRTY YEARS, WHILE WE HAVE BEEN A STAUNCH FRIEND OF ISRAEL, WE HAVE ALSO BEEN IN THE BUSINESS OF TRYING TO ALLEVIATE ARAB DISAPPOINTMENTS. WHEN THEY ATTACK ISRAEL AND ARE DEFEATED, WE ARE CONCERNED TO MITIGATE THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF THEIR INTENTION. WHEN THEY ATTACK ISRAEL AND LOSE LAND TO WHICH THEY HAD NO LEGAL OR HISTORICAL CLAIM IN THE FIRST PLACE, WE ARE CONCERNED TO SEE THAT LAND RESTORED.

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SOME OF THE ISSUES

PRESIDENT CARTER IS TO BE PRAISED FOR HIS INITIATIVE IN BRINGING TOGETHER MR. SADAT AND MR. BEGIN AT CAMP DAVID. BUT THE ISSUES THAT ARE NOW BEING DEBATED CAN ONLY BE RESOLVED BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT THEMSELVES. THE ROAD TO PEACE RUNS FROM CAIRO TO JERUSALEM. LET THOSE TWO CAPITALS DECIDE THERE WILL BE NO MORE WAR IN THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL REALITIES OF THAT AREA, AND THERE WILL BE PEACE. THERE CAN BE NO WAR WITHOUT EGYPT. AND THE ISSUE WHICH AFFECTS EGYPT IS THE SINAI. NOT THE WEST BANK, NOT THE GOLAN, NOT THE GAZA STRIP, NOT THE PALESTINIANS, BUT THE SINAI. THE OTHERS ATTACK SADAT'S PERSONAL INTEREST AND EGYPT'S NATIONAL INTEREST. IN SETTTLING THE SINAI QUESTION, WE FORCE THE OTHER ARAB NATIONS TO SETTLE THEMSELVES THE TRAGIC REFUGEE PROBLEM WHICH THEY THEMSELVES CREATED. IT IS NOT ISRAEL'S PROBLEM, AND IT SHOULD NOT BE VISITED UPON ISRAEL.

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SINAI AND WEST BANK

THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT A SOLUTION ON THE SINAI IS TO BE EXPECTED SOON. SHOULD THE ISRAELIS AGREE TO WITHDRAWAL FROM THAT TERRITORY, ISRAELI SETTLERS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO EVICTION BY THE EGYPTIANS. FINANCIAL AID WILL BE NEEDED TO COVER THE COST OF RELOCATING THE SETTLERS. THE UNITED STATES HAS ALREADY AGREED TO HELP FINANCE THE RELOCATION OF TWO ISRAELI MILITARY AIR BASES FROM THE SINAI TO THE NEGUEV. IF A DECISION ON THE SINAI IS EXPECTED TO BE REACHED WITH RELATIVE EASE, WE MUST REALISTICALLY BE PREPARED FOR LONG NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING THE WEST BANK. PATIENCE MUST BE THE KEY WORD, NOT SPEED. UNLIKE SINAI, THE WEST BANK IS CLOSELY LINKED WITH ISRAEL'S HISTORY, WITH ISRAEL'S RELIGION, WITH ISRAEL'S "RAISON D'ETRE": THE BIBLE. IT IS ON THE WEST BANK, IN THE TOWN OF HEBRON, THAT LIE ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND JACOB, SARAH, REBECCA AND RACHEL--NAMES THAT ARE EVER PRESENT IN THE LIVES OF RELIGIOUS JEWS, WHO ARE DAILY ADVISED TO PRAY TO "THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB". NAMES THAT, TO NON-RELIGIOUS JEWS SPELL ROOTS AND THE BEGINNING OF THE PEOPLEHOOD THAT MOSES WAS TO ACHIEVE, AND KING DAVID TO TRANSFORM INTO A POLITICAL REALITY.

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THE FUTURE OF JERUSALEM

AND THIS BRINGS US TO JERUSALEM, THE VERY CITY OF KING DAVID, A JERUSALEM THAT MUST REMAIN UNDIVIDED, AS IT WAS WHEN IT BECAME THE CAPITAL OF THE UNITED NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN KINGDOMS OF JUDEA AND ISRAEL, IN THE 10TH CENTURY B.C. THE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN GOING ON FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS BEAR WITNESS, IN THEIR CONSTANT REVELATIONS, TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JERUSALEM FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE, TO THE HEROIC BATTLES THAT WERE FOUGHT BY JEWISH ARMIES IN HER NAME. THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND EASY ACCESS TO HOLY SITES THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS MADE POSSIBLE FOR ALL TO ENJOY TESTIFY TO THE FACT THAT ISRAEL IS INDEED WORTHY OF BEING ENTRUSTED THE GUARDIANSHIP OF A CITY THAT IS HOLY TO THREE MAJOR RELIGIONS IN THE WORLD. AS THE NEGOTIATIONS PROCEED, IT MAY BE USEFUL TO RECALL HENRY KISSINGER'S WARNING THAT "A PALESTINIAN STATE ON THE WEST BANK IS BOUND TO BE AN ELEMENT OF INSTABILITY BOTH FOR JORDAN AND FOR ISRAEL. IT WILL COMPOUND THE CRISIS, NOT SOLVE IT".

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LASTING PEACE?

A PROBLEM OF SEMANTICS HAS SURFACED IN THE FORM OF AN EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL THAT THE TREATY ACHIEVED BE REOPENED FOR REVIEW AFTER FIVE YEARS. THE WORDS OF THE PROPHET JEREMIAH SEEM TO ECHO: "PEACE, PEACE WHEN THERE IS NO PEACE". MENACHEM BEGIN HAS RIGHTLY REACTED WITH THE POSITION THAT A PEACE TREATY BY DEFINITION SHOULD BE ETERNAL AND CAN ONLY BE REOPENED BY MUTUAL CONSENT. A PEACE LACKING PERMANENT STATUS WOULD BE AN IMPEDIMENT ON THE ROAD TO PROGRESS IN OTHER AREAS. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS MUST BE ESTABLISHED, AND ARE A SINE QUA NON AMONG NATIONS NOT AT WAR. ECONOMIC TIES MUST BE CREATED, AND WOULD BENEFIT BOTH NATIONS. WITHOUT THESE ACHIEVEMENTS, THERE CAN BE NO MEANINGFUL PEACE.

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CONCLUSION

WITH THE SUPPORT OF ISRAEL'S FRIEND, WITH CONTINUING CONGRESSIONAL COMMITMENT TO OUR ALLIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, I AM OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL, ABOUT THE WASHINGTON NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND EGYPTIANS, FACE TO FACE, AND I AM OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PEACE.

THANK YOU.