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REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION NEIL GOLDSCHMIDT TO THE RELIGIOUS ZIONISTS OF AMERICA, NEW YORK CITY, MARCH 9, 1980

I was not sent tonight to placate - I was invited before the United Nations and I'm honored you have kept the invitation open.

I come with gratitude for your mission, your work - your keeping the lamp of our faith burning brightly - here and in Israel.

My visit has become - of events - perhaps involuntary - one calling little for my skills as Secretary of Transportation and principal spokesman on this subject for our country - let me thus dispense with the table humor.

In this audience tonight there is anger -- anger of betrayal, of fear, of Jews being once again blamed for something they neither caused nor could avoid.

There is frustration -- that we're heading backward rather than toward an ultimate peace.

There is bitterness that anti-semitism born of these controversies is again causing cancerous pressure.

Anger - frustration - bitterness, are not new to us: we have lived for centuries with those whose views ignored truths, forgot lessons of God and history and perpetrated horrors.

An Indian philosopher Radikrishnan wrote:

"If we believe absurdities, we shall commit atrocities"

and our fathers and theirs have suffered them: these memories are of us -- and with us every day. We learned that history's crusades

were occasions "to exult in the opportunity to be vicious in the name of virtue."

From all of this we have strength, the lesson of remembering our teachings, patience and the reminder to return to our basic beliefs and principles.

So it is with the events of recent days.

Israel is of us -- her survival is our freedom. For if Israel is vulnerable to every wind of hate that may blow, then are we so secure? As Americans we fight for our land and its freedoms -- but all the while knowing that this having of "liberty is the luxury of self discipline." A self discipline which returns us to common decency and experience in the judgments we make in our collective national public life.

And so it must be with Israel. Our views are born of the pain of trial, the death of error, and a firm logic which unites Israel and America as common warriors for peace and freedom in a world hostile to these values.

We express no disloyalty to America in our faith nor in our support for Israel. They have been and they are properly a common cause.

They lead us to principles for us and for Israel which cannot be traded in any forum -- domestic or international.

For such trades would be exchanges of American worth -- our values and traditions -- for expediency. These trades are unmakeable if the union is to endure.

These America - Israel principles do not deed to Israel agreement on all matters. But neither do they allow those who would trade oil for Israel to make our foreign policy to have their way.

Our own American principles require:

1. Acknowledgment of the moral and strategic self interest of the United States in Israel's survival and success.
2. They require commitment to "achievement of a comprehensive peace on the basis of United Nations resolutions 242 and 338 and the Camp David accords."
3. They require opposition to an independent Palestinian State.
4. They require opposition to negotiation with, or recognition of, the Palestinian Liberation Organization unless and until it first recognizes Israel's right to exist -- and until it accepts the United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

5. They require a position that it is past time for a total end to terrorism against Israel and the people who live there.
6. They require financial support for the economic and military needs of Israel for so long as she is threatened.
7. And they require support - unyielding - for a unified Jerusalem.
8. And this is the position of this President, this Administration and of our American Nation.

I will say to you that one weekend ago I was at Camp David, by coincidence, a weekend my family shared with the Carters -- a weekend in which to my knowledge no one there understood the tragedy that was being committed at the United Nations. And had I known and believed that this government would support a resolution to divide Israel, I would not be here tonight.

Now let me close with some thoughts about our future. There are lessons for some of us, perhaps new, to be gained from these past few days.

First, there were those who cared very little for the creation of Israel and its survival in 1948. It is a lesson worth learning that they have descendants in our government.

Secondly, eternal vigilance will be required by all of those who believe as you do. It will be required not only by those of you who do not choose to provide your services to God and to mankind through government -- but it will also be required by people who serve in government.

Third, we have got short memories on the matter of honesty. We have had government after government involved in the foreign affairs of other nations in an apparently unwelcome fashion and we are reaping the harvest of that role. We voted a President into office on honesty and it is this President's honesty which is being attacked tonight. Is more honest a President, I ask you, who would try to cover up this mistake? (and clearly in the view of this Cabinet Officer it will rate as the biggest mistake in this administration).

And finally, a piece of advice that may be without a listener. It is this:

There are too few Jews to divide ourselves up in energy, in passion or in our work. As we meet here tonight, you might almost have the sense that we are a destiny sure to be fulfilled -- that somehow God has magically interceded on behalf of Israel, on behalf of us and others who share our views. But that is not the sense when I travel around the land talking to your fellow citizens, about 18% inflation, or to your fellow citizens who are out of work in the automobile industry, or to people who are trying to live on retirement incomes.

The focus on this discussion tonight is not the principal business of every American. We make it their business by continually reminding them of the juncture of self-interest that Israel and the United States represent in a hope for the free world.

And if our unified work is the preservation of faith, the preservation of Israel, and, yes, of an undivided Jerusalem, I would argue that the need is to go forth from this place searching for other Jews to share the work, yes, but finding others who are not Jewish who ought to understand as we do that history has taught a lesson -- and that lesson means that Israel is a most important thing to everybody in this land.

Thank you very much.

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