

government, and the County Council under the leadership of the Honorable David Scull. All of these persons, acting as individuals and in concert, made this day possible. And on the tomorrow when this complex rises, the spirit shall be sustained through the extraordinary effort and unprecedented generosity of the many Jewish doctors in the community who will donate their services to the medical programs of the Hebrew Home for the Aged.

This willingness to undertake obligations and this acceptance that a burden once assumed cannot be discarded, exemplified by the Greater Washington Jewish Foundation, have been one of Judaism's greatest contributions to civilization. This realization that the ills of society should not be attributed to the law of nature but to the *indifference* of man: this demand that we admit that the evil within society does not arise from human helplessness but from human *unwillingness* to sacrifice, to right wrongs and to share blessings—are Judaism's philosophical gift. It is a prod to individual responsibility, a spur to constructive social action, a discipline to political authority.

At no time like this moment was the free world challenged by this principle—the message illuminated by the confrontation between Israel and her Arab neighbors. Israel's gallantry in the face of insurmountable odds and overwhelming numbers compels us to reaffirm our principles and our commitments.

However it is not enough for American Jewry to speak forthrightly of the issues at hand. The Government of the United States must speak for its citizens of all faiths, and we must hold hope that the words spoken will do honor to our country and promise to our world.

For all Americans can feel a kinship to Israel, where the great pioneer spirit which conquered the American West is abundant today. All Americans can take pride that the once barren holy land has been fertilized and made bountiful by an unprecedented act of human will.

All Americans can rejoice that the spirit of liberty is the essential life force of Israel and gives to its people the dignity that Hitler's most murderous abomination sought to destroy.

As one American citizen, it is my personal conviction that the security of America and the securing of Israel's rights and freedoms are one and inseparable, that in supporting the cause of Israel in its search for freedom and the right to live in peace, Americans are supporting the cause of the United States in its involvement with all the world's nations.