

WASHINGTON LETTER

by Trude B. Feldman
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The Mizrahi Women's Organization of America gathered at Grossinger's Country Club, in Grossinger, New York, for their 42nd annual National Convention.

Seven hundred delegates from 37 states, who represent 50,000 members, heard addresses from American and Israel governmental figures as well as a broad range of authorities on child care, education and social services.

Senator Eugene J. McCarthy (D. Minn), who was the keynote speaker of the 3-day meeting, which gathered under the theme of "Towards An Enduring Peace," was the recipient of Mizrahi Women's 1967 America - Israel Friendship Award. The citation, given each year to "that person not of the Jewish faith, who has contributed most deeply to understanding between the peoples of the United States and Israel," was presented to the 52-year-old Senator by Mizrahi Women's national president, Mrs. Aaron Leifer, of Brooklyn, New York.

In Accepting the plaque,

Senator McCarthy, who has recently announced his candidacy in the Democratic presidential primaries, told an audience in the Playhouse Auditorium at Grossinger's that the United States "must be willing to assume its responsibilities in the Middle East...."

"American approach to the problems of the area is difficult today," Senator McCarthy warned, "because we simply do not have the means; not the physical means, with most of our military might tied up in Southeast Asia; not the diplomatic means, with much of our government committed to devising plans for remarking an Asian society in an American image. Nor do we have the moral energy; we are dissipating it in Southeast Asia."

The Senator added that the United States must have a policy for the Middle East based on American interests. These interests, he said, are in peace and tranquility in the region, and, to a lesser extent, our interest in the natural resources of the area.

Sen. McCarthy presented a five-point program for a

positive American policy in the Middle East. First, he said, we must again work to assure that the right to life and existence of Israel is recognized by all nations.

His second suggestion is that we should affirm -- without question -- the international character of the waters of the Gulf of Aqaba and the Strait of Tiran; and we should assert, support, and assure the right of all nations to the use of the Suez Canal. We should also reaffirm the proposal of President Truman for the internationalization of the Panama Canal and other international waterways at the Potsdam Conference in 1945. "In this, he was supported by Prime Minister Atlee of Great Britain," the Senator added, "But the Russians vetoed the idea. President Truman's plan was not designed to avoid problems in Panama.

McCarthy's third point: We must use our influence to bring about a moratorium or limitation on the influx of arms into the Mideast. (4) We must work with new vigor for a solution to the Arab refugee problem. (5) We must support the border adjustments necessary to assure Israel the security to which that nation has the right, and also to give assurance and stability to those Arab nations that have shown an interest in peace and order in the Mideast. We must be prepared to guarantee these borders, he said, preferably by treaty with other powers and with the support of the United Nations.

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