

**WASHINGTON DATELINE**

by Trude B. Feldman  
ISRAELITE'S WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

**Candidates Talk Up**

Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey declared that he would not change the present administration's policy in the Middle East if he is elected President, because it has generally been approved by the American people and by leaders in this country at both governmental and private levels.

In an exclusive interview with your correspondent at the Executive House, Mr. Humphrey said that President Johnson's five-point program -- outlined on June 19, 1967 -- constitutes the framework for what he (Humphrey) believes can be a peaceful settlement in the Mideast.

"The President seeks to prevent hostilities, he seeks to maintain conditions of peace, to assure the integrity of boundaries, and to provide access to routes of communication, particularly sea routes, and to try to reduce the flow of arms to the Middle East," Mr. Humphrey related. "I think all this is desirable and I believe that most of Israel's leaders feel that Mr. Johnson's efforts have been helpful and constructive."

Mr. Humphrey went on to say that the Arabs ought to be told that the condition of belligerency which they have maintained over the years is no longer a tenable position, because it violates the conditions of peace. He added that we also ought to explain to the Israelis that a settlement of some permanent frontiers is essential if the country wants political stability.

"I think the Israelis are ready for that and I hope we can convince the Arabs that it is in their long-term interests to get stability in that region," Mr. Humphrey declared.

Asked whether he thinks Israel should pull out of some of its occupied territory, Humphrey answered that this

would depend upon the kind of peace settlement that can be obtained.

Mr. Humphrey described the Middle East as a powder keg because the area is "filled with tension, with passion and with emotions which sometimes override reason and responsibility."

He added that the Mideast represents the crossroads of the world in commerce, in political interests and in spheres of influence.

"We are well aware of the fact that the Soviet Union is much more active in the waters of the Mediterranean and areas in the Mideast."

As to his view on whether there is any connection between the situations in the Middle East and in Vietnam, Humphrey replied: "No, but I would say the Mideast is possibly even more potentially dangerous than is Vietnam."

He gave for his reason the fact that the United States and the Soviet Union "find themselves in closer confrontation in the Mideast than they do in Southeast Asia. Also, because the Mideast borders upon Europe, Asia and Africa -- and there are three continents involved, there are so many pressing interests in that part of the world that it can become very dangerous unless reason and good judgment prevail."

The Presidential hopeful observed that the relationship between the U. S. and Israel is based upon more than a treaty. "It's based upon sentiment, culture, deep religious conviction, and friendly relationships that are far more significant than even the written paper."

He noted that Israel is a democracy and that it represents the efforts of people to build a free and modern society -- and they have done that.

"What Israel has done in the Mideast is what we hoped many other countries would be able to do," he concluded, "and that is to build a modern, free state."

GEORGE WALLACE

Q: If you are elected President, how would you go about bringing a lasting peace in the Mideast?

A: The Mideast is very explosive. I would hope the U. S.



WALLACE WITH TRUDE (Chamowitz Photo)

with its power and prestige, which sometimes gets at a low ebb because of our not being firm and determined -- on the surface -- that is, those in the Government... that we could use our good graces to see if we could stop the arms race and get both sides to give and take and have a stability in the Mideast so we wouldn't have a war there every 5 years. It's not good for Israel or the Arabs or anyone, because if any trouble starts anywhere, it could enlarge. But we must keep a military balance there and we should continue to, along with other nations, see that neither side gets superiority, or parity and keep a sort of balance -- which is necessary. But all the time this country must also try to gain the respect of both sides, where they might have more influence -- with common sense and with a reasonable settlement that might not satisfy either side completely, but it would make it possible for both sides to live in peace, for a long time to come.

Q: What's wrong with the Administration's policy in the Mideast? Any concrete proposals?

A: The President and the administration have a very frustrating matter cast before them both in the matter of Vietnam and the Mideast. It's always easy to give  
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