

Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

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Israel No Client State

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) -- "Israel will never become a client state, relinquishing responsibility for its own security even to its great friend the United States."

Thus declared Senator Jacob K. Javits in a brilliant address delivered at a UJA - Federation dinner before some three hundred leading members of the Jewish community who had assembled at the Hilton Hotel to wish a hearty farewell to Ambassador Yosef Tekoah and his wife Ruth.

Senator Javits made the above statement after having noted that the "so-called 'reassessment' of U. S. Mideast policy is taking place against the backdrop of severe reversals for Administration policy of the past decade in Indochina" in regards to which, he emphasized, "some have sought to draw a lesson for Israel from U.S. experiences in Indochina."

"I must state, respectfully and unequivocally," the noted New York Senior Senator continued, "that in this respect those who made this invidious comparison are wrong. In my judgment, precisely the opposite conclusions should be drawn from the failure of U.S. policy in Indochina, as it may bear on U.S. Mideast policy. Indeed, what is really instructive about the Indochina situation," he added, "is the distinction which should be drawn."

Mr. Javits then went on to point out the difference. "The regimes in Saigon and Phnom Penh collapsed precisely because they lacked those qualities which make Israel, Israel. Israel is a tough, independent and highly resourceful ally -- with so much heart and fighting spirit that it can bring tears to your eyes. Israel wants and needs assistance from the United States -- assistance that is earned every inch of the way through performance.

"Israel insists upon keeping unto itself the responsibility for the security of Israel," declared Senator Javits amid thunderous applause. "How such an admirable principle could be the source of disagreement or irritation astonishes me," he added as a sort of reproach to those few malcontents in Washington who have been trying to equate Indochina with the Jewish State.

"The United States," he said "must take a global approach to diplomacy as the world's most powerful industrial nuclear superpower. Israel, on the other hand," he stated, "must take an approach to diplomacy which fits its situation -- and the reality of Israel's situation is that every inch of its territory must be weighed and measured in the scales of its life and blood as a nation."

Hailing the valor of the Israelis, Senator Javits reminded his spellbound listeners of the phenomenal outcomes of the four onslaughts the Arabs had launched against the beleaguered state since 1948. "For me," he said, "the most stirring spectacle in the war occurs when a bottled-up armored unit breaks out of its surrounded position and outflanks its adversaries, transforming the whole battlefield equation. We have seen Israel's magnificent citizen armies perform just such prodigies of valor in each of the Arab-Israel wars. I am sure that everyone here recalls vividly the surge of pride and elation when news of such breakthroughs had come during the dark moment of war.

"The times now call for such genius on the diplomatic chessboard as well as on the battlefield," Mr. Javits added. "Israel's U.S. friends have, in my judgment, an unavoidable responsibility for helping to create circumstances and attitudes conducive to creative diplomacy respecting the Mideast."

Emphasizing the importance of the Congress in its new role on foreign policy, Javits expressed the belief "that the days of the imperial Presidency has ended. No longer can there be the pursuits of individual visions of glory," he declared. "We must have national policies which are the results of a partnership between the Congress and the Executive. This will restore the faith of our citizens in the purposes and integrity of their government. In

my judgment, support for Israel among the American people and within the U.S. Congress remains what it always has been -- high. And, concern for Israel's security as a reality, continues to be among the very highest foreign policy priorities of the U.S. and of the President."

In this connection, Mr. Javits made it plain that "the moral commitment of the U.S. to the security and integrity of the State of Israel is linked inextricably with the fundamental beliefs and moral values of the United States itself."

Now it is true that Israel has many good friends in the Senate, indeed longtime and faithful friends. There were 76 who signed that historic letter to President Ford before he set out for his meeting with Anwar Sadat. But there can be no doubt that Jacob K. Javits was the moving spirit behind that strongly pro-Israel communication meant as a reminder to the President -- and Kissinger -- that the United States Congress will not allow Israel's security and sovereign rights to be jeopardized. "The visit of Prime Minister Kabin... will take place in a good atmosphere -- relieved of some of the apparent mutual misunderstandings which caused some strain in the special relationship between the United States and Israel following the suspension of Secretary Kissinger's step-by-step diplomacy," Senator Javits told the UJA-Federation dinner guests, alluding clearly to the fact that the letter of the 76 had created that atmosphere.

Said he: "I believe that the letter to President Ford prior to his European trip, where he met with President Sadat, has helped to place U.S. policy in a better perspective. I believe also that the letter of the Senators has helped to reassure Israel at a time when it felt most acutely the loneliness of a small nation under pressure from all sides. With the atmosphere of immediate crisis alleviated, Israel is in a better position to engage in a considered way in the very complex and many-sided diplomatic maneuvering respecting the Mideast, which engages the attention not only of the immediate parties but also of virtually every foreign office in the world... The stakes are very high for all concerned," Javits noted, "but, for Israel the stakes are literally life or death."

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