

Rodino Assures Israel

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) -- "So long as there are Americans who are committed to freedom, Israel will never be isolated; so long as there are men and women in this or any country willing to sacrifice and struggle to overcome oppression, bigotry and tyranny, Israel will never stand alone in a hostile world."

With this definitive statement the Hon. Peter W. Rodino, Jr. -- renowned for his outstanding role as chairman of the House Judiciary Committee during the Watergate impeachment hearings -- served warning to the anti-Israel 'tyranny of the majority' dominating this world organization that in any of its future actions versus the Jewish State it will have to contend with the political and moral might of the United States.

The distinguished Representative of New Jersey's 10th Congressional District voiced the view of the majority of his colleagues in Congress at B'nai Zion's 60th Annual Award Dinner at the New York Hilton last week on which occasion the Hon. Justice Abraham J. Multer was the recipient of the 1976 "America-Israel Friendship Medal."

Noting that Israel, although strong and viable as a democratic State from within, is threatened by enemies from without and therefore, he said, we here in America, having "made our own democratic experiment a success, must stand firmly with Israel as it bravely faces a difficult future. Israel," he declared, "has been created from the desert by men and women who thirsted and hungered for a land of their own where they could be free. They have, as the prophets foretold, made the desert bloom. But more than that, they have made hope and equality and human dignity bloom as well."

Rodino was emphatic in stating that Israel's "commitment is an ageless one spanning generations and civilizations and which," he said,

"goes back to the man who first said to the oppressor: 'Let My people go!' That simple demand comes down to us through the centuries, clear and unshakable in its conviction that all mankind should be free."

At the present time, he declared, "this nation of Israel is being challenged by those who would destroy it. Arrayed against it are not only military forces, but also the political ones of those who voted in the UN for the resolution that called Zionism a form of racism."

"That vote, more than any other action in recent years," he charged, "served to undermine the integrity of the institution that was to serve the interests of peace and justice for all people. In this our Bicentennial year," he added, "we must never forget our solemn duty to those who, in the very presence of their enemies, as the Bible says, kept alive the flame of liberty and democracy... And as we rededicate ourselves to these principles in America, we must rededicate ourselves to these same principles in Israel as well..."

Hailing America as a nation which had overcome the crisis of the Watergate scandals, the dynamic New Jersey Congressman told the B'nai Zion dinner guests numbering some 1,700 members that in the face of "all the failings of character of our leaders, there is even greater, more eloquent evidence that the character of our people remains strong and resilient enough to triumph over these terrible events."

"Let us remember," Rodino said, "that in the darkest days of Watergate, when it seemed that our people could withstand no more 'bombshells', they rallied with relentless courage and determination to see that the truth came out and that justice was done. And when it seemed that the Constitution itself was in mortal peril, a free press, the people and the Congress together bore the painful burden of impeachment to preserve our system of democratic government."

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