

## Arms Package

Senator Muriel Humphrey today said that she believes her decision to support the Administration's Middle East arms package "is the right one for the United States, for Israel and for all those whose first priority is to create the conditions for peace in the Middle East."

In remarks during the debate on the issue in the U. S. Senate, Humphrey maintained, "It is in our interest, in Israel's interest and in the interest of long-term peace that we be perceived as trustworthy and even-handed by both sides."

"Only a settlement arrived at by such a process will prevent future hostilities and wars of retaliation."

"Rejecting the proposed arms sales would, in my view, undermine confidence in our relationship with the nations of the Middle East. It would reinforce the voices of belligerency who every day question our objectivity in this vital area of the world."

A complete text of Humphrey's statement follows:

"Today we have before us a resolution to disapprove the President's proposal to sell arms to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. As a lifelong friend and supporter of Israel, my decision to support the Administration's proposal has been the most difficult one that I have had to make as a Senator."

"The factors relating to this decision are complex; the implications of deciding either way are profound. However, I firmly believe that my decision is the right one for the United States, for Israel and for all those whose first priority is to create the conditions for peace in the Middle East."

"My love for Israel and her people cannot be questioned. Hubert and I have established our unequivocal position as friends of Israel by our unflinching support of that country for over 30 years. We have had the pleasure of visiting Israel many times and learning of its problems and determination to solve them. Our affection for the Jewish community in this country is unsurpassed."

"We have consistently and successfully worked to ensure that a major portion of our military aid be allocated to guarantee her security. My support for Israel is absolute. And I believe that my vote on the President's arms sale proposal is completely consistent with that unshakeable commitment."

"As a Senator, I am in a unique position. I am completing Hubert's tenure in the Senate and I will not again be a candidate for public office. Thus, there can be no question that my decision has been made solely on the basis of the merits of this proposal and as objectively as is humanly possible."

"It is my responsibility, as a Senator, to vote according to my conscience and after a thorough analysis of all the facts bearing on my decision. This was Hubert's way and it is mine."

"During the past few weeks I have sat through hours of invaluable meetings and hearings on this proposal. I have engaged in long discussions of the complexities of this proposal with friends, with experts, with concerned citizens, and with my own staff. I have read classified and unclassified documents and reports."

"Throughout, I have attempted to hear and evaluate the views on all sides. I have weighed the competing arguments conscientiously, carefully and critically. In the course of this review, I have consistently asked, 'What is in the best interest of the United States, the best interest of Israel and the best interest of peace in the Middle East?'"

"At this point, the question is not whether we support Israel. We do -- and that commitment is unshakable. The real question is what must we do to maintain the security of Israel and, at the same time, enhance the prospects for successful Middle East peace talks?"

"To answer this question, the following points were, in my mind, the most persuasive. And, given that we have no option

other than voting for or against the resolution, they are to me, the most compelling arguments in favor of the sale.

"Israel's security is directly linked with the success of future peace talks. Under what circumstances will these talks lead to long-term peace and a comprehensive settlement for the entire area?"

"We must retain the confidence of the Arab nations and of Israel if we are to be successful in our role as a mediator in the conflict. To do so, we must consistently manifest our concern for the legitimate needs, aspirations and interests of both Israel and the Arab nations."

"If history teaches us anything, it is that a mediator who abandons the interests of one side in any dispute only generates suspicion, disisiveness and hostility. The mediator becomes a partisan and unable to serve his intended role."

"It is in our interest, in Israel's interest and in the interest of long-term peace that we be perceived as trustworthy and even-handed by both sides. Only a settlement arrived at by such a process will prevent future hostilities and wars of retaliation."

"Rejecting the proposed arms sales would, in my view, undermine confidence in our relationship with the nations of the Middle East. It would indicate a lack of sincerity in finding a just and equitable peace for all the people whose security is threatened. It would reinforce the voices of belligerency who every day question our objectivity in this vital area of the world."

"In conclusion, I do not know how Hubert would have voted on the proposal that is before the Senate. No one does. And no one wishes he were here to make this decision more than I do. But I knew Hubert and his thinking better than anyone, I believe that he would have gathered the facts, as I have, analyzed them, as I have sought out the counsel and advice of those most intimately involved with the issues, as I have, and ultimately decided that the President's arms sale proposal is in the best interest of the United States, Israel and all those who seek a just and lasting peace in the Middle East."



Left to Right: Lubertha Johnson, Debbie Wells, Sarann Knight; and standing Virgie Fitzgerald.

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Foster families are needed to provide daily loving care to these children who for various reasons cannot receive this care from their natural families. Your help with the lives of these children now, can make a big difference to the children and their families.

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For information about what is required to become a foster parent call Iris Meinhover, Supervisor Foster Home Licensing Unit, Nevada State Welfare 648-8550.