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Press Release - Muskie Says Americans Can Learn from Israel's Cause

Edmund S. Muskie

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MUSKIE

Maine

FOR RELEASE

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MUSKIE SAYS AMERICANS CAN LEARN FROM ISRAEL'S CAUSE

Senator Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) said Wednesday that Israel's cause is one of "the love of God, of neighbor, of truth and peace" -- a cause that Americans must support.

"It is a cause from which all us can learn," Senator Muskie said in remarks prepared for delivery to the United Jewish Appeal in Cleveland.

"In the last two years, I have traveled to 45 states and I have listened to Americans of every description," the Senator added. "Beyond all the special grievances and the local problems, I found a deep concern that we seem to have lost a sense of direction, that people have grown suspicious and fearful of each other, that parents and their children have drifted apart.

"We know this need not be. To visit Israel is to know this need not be.

"The people of Israel share a common purpose -- to build a whole society where every person has the opportunity to grow, to become all that he or she is capable of being. They are working to achieve that purpose together. No matter what their origins or their beliefs, they respect each other, they care about each other -- and we should, too."

Senator Muskie said there must be peace in Israel's future. To attain that goal, he added, "Israel's neighbors must recognize that Israel is here to stay. They must recognize -- and so must others -- that the United States is and will remain committed to Israel's security.

"That is what I told the students at Hebrew University I would say when I went to Cairo and that is what I did say, both in Cairo and in Moscow."

Peace in this area "depends on honest negotiations to establish secure and recognized boundaries, to ensure the right of navigation through international waterways in the Middle East; to solve the refugee problem in a fair and equitable manner," Mr. Muskie added.

"It is not clear what the formula for a settlement will be but I am convinced that the only formula which can lay the foundation for peace will be one which is hammered out by the parties immediately concerned. That is why we should do what we can to encourage progress in the Jarring talks."