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Statement by Senator Edmund S. Muskie on Israel's 24th Birthday

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MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF ISRAEL'S 24th BIRTHDAY

The birth of Israel 24 years ago was an event of enormous joy and hope for the Jewish people.

Joy -- because the founding of Israel fulfilled an ancient dream.
We celebrate that joy today.

Hope -- because Israel held forth the promise of freedom and security for those who had survived the unspeakable horrors of Hitler's madness. That hope lives today for millions more who suffer religious and cultural persecution in their native lands.

Israel has given her people the freedom they did not have elsewhere. Yet, cruelly, Israel herself is still endangered from without, and the Jewish people of Israel have yet to enjoy the true security of a lasting peace.

That is why we must continue to commit ourselves to the security of Israel. We must never undermine the strength of Israel upon which that security is based. And we must never give unwitting encouragement to Israel's enemies by failing to convey the true depth of our national commitment to Israel's safety and prosperity.

The 24th anniversary of Israel's birth is a time for reaffirming that national commitment.

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