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Dear Mama,

You must forgive me if I was slightly incoherent when you called this morning - we were up half the night listening to radio & TV reports on the war and studying the maps to understand what was going on.

The United Nations commanded almost as much newspaper space and broadcast time as the reports of the fighting. There was a large outcry from many groups here after the State Department announced American neutrality. And I was wrong in my estimate of money raised. I heard on the radio this morning that the United Jewish Appeal Emergency Fund has raised $150,000,000 in just two days, and that there will be a big fund raising rally in Madison Square Garden which hopes to raise that total to at least $200 million. This is really a major contribution...(I'd like to know how much the rich stingy French will come up with). DeGaulle is in bad repute here - his announcement that he will cut off arms shipments to Israel is particularly grave since the Israeli air force is equipped almost exclusively with French aircraft, and they are bound to need replacement parts and new planes soon.

My personal feeling is that the Israelis should not accept any cease-fire until they have achieved every objective necessary to their own security, including control of the Suez canal, the Gulf of Aqaba, the Gaza strip, and all the Jordanian territory up to and including the west bank of the Jordan river, top to bottom. It looks as though it's only a matter of hours until they have done all these things. The only possible solution is either Israeli or supervised international control of the Suez Canal with absolute guarantees of passage for every flag. If this doesn't happen, then the Israelis should take and hold the canal permanently (and operate it at a profit to themselves)!

Although Goldberg strongly stood up for Israel in the UN discussions, I agree that the US Government's position is weak and vacillating. I think that they should have had the guts to take a public stand in favor of Israel from the outset. Unfortunately, public opinion is divided...and there is one quandary here among the Jewish liberals which in my opinion, is richly deserved. The very same people who have been ranting and raving against our involvement in Viet Nam find themselves in the position of being on Israel's side, but being reluctant to advocate American military involvement there when they have been preaching against American military involvement in a somewhat similar situation all these years. Therefore, these people are much less vocal than they would like to be.

It was just announced that the Russians have requested an emergency meeting of the Security Council this morning - God only knows what they're going to try to pull off next!

I think the most dangerous element in this situation (and the future) is this unbelievable world tolerance for the endless talk and inaction of the United Nations. Our government grants the UN far too much credence and importance. The terrible danger, as was proved in this war, is reliance on the effectiveness of a paper organization and a lot of empty talk. Fortunately, last night, Eban declared that Israel would not make the same mistake again. He said "what good is the UN 'umbrella' if it is removed the moment it starts to rain?" I'm in favor of completely discrediting the UN, except for it's world health and food programs which operate perfectly well, and continuing with a foreign policy of enlightened self interest, instead of trying to be all things to all people and always wanting to look clean.

The most frustrating part of it is that our public spokesmen will not stand up and speak out the truth, in full, without tempering everything in fear of so called "world opinion", which really means the Russians. Also, the over-emphasis on the oil business is ridiculous. People in the petroleum industry will tell you in a minute that the US has enough oil in the Western Hemisphere to do beautifully without one stinking drop of Arab oil. It is the financial interests that care. In the case of England and France it is much more serious because those two countries depend on Arab oil for a very large percentage of their needs, and they can't easily afford to turn up their noses at the Arabs completely. This applies most particularly to the French, because the British have cut their middle-east oil input to about 25% in the last ten years. On the other hand, the threats about cutting off the oil in themselves do not stand up for one simple reason. The Arab oil producing countries do not have the storage capacity to hold up oil production very long. The whole system is built on pipelines and tankers to keep the oil moving. Also, they desperately need the hard currencies from the West in return for their oil. They can't threaten to sell it to the Russians instead of the West because the Russians can only pay with those silly rubles which are worth nothing on the world market. I'm sure that business will continue as usual regardless of political problems very soon after the shooting stops.

So the only real change that will come out of all this is safer and more easily defensible borders for Israel, possible defeat of Nasser's regime in Egypt, and hopefully the internationalization of the Suez canal. I hope the Israelis maintain their new gains regardless of what any country says, because that's the only kind of real assurance of safety they can possibly have. Also, I don't think the Russians will be quite so ready to rearm the Arabs for another try. After all, the 400 jet planes, and 1000 tanks that the Arabs lost in two days cost the Russians a fortune to make and deliver, and they got absolutely nothing out of the investment.

After hanging up the phone, I realized that you said you might go to Israel...the American Government banned all travel by American citizens to the mideast countries, including Israel, so you better check with the embassy before going to avoid passport trouble.

Must stop - there's work to do in the office

Love Reuben