

THE PRIME MINISTER

Jerusalem
Erev Rosh Hashana, 5724

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE

As the New Year approaches, it is my great privilege to send, in the name of the people of Israel and its Government, heartfelt greetings to our fellow Jews throughout the world.

Let me first send our joint greetings to David Ben-Gurion, on his leaving the helm of Government. In leading the struggle for the renewal of Israel's independence and its consolidation, David Ben-Gurion has written a glorious chapter in the history of Israel and has won the gratitude and admiration of the entire Jewish People.

I am very pleased to state that during the past year we continued to welcome masses of immigrant brothers. We have carried on in our effort to absorb the new immigrants, and integrate them in the life of the country, and to develop the land while preserving the stability of its economy. We have fostered institutions of education, science and culture. We have persevered in our attempt to close the gap which still exists between the veteran sections of the population and our new citizens. We continued to fashion our lives with the aim of maintaining a democratic society of justice, of which every citizen may be proud, with which every Jew will identify and every man respect.

We have done all this in close cooperation with overseas Jewry and with its dedicated help, both spiritual and material. To maintain this partnership, to deepen it and broaden it, we shall do all in our power.

The immigration which continues to flow from lands of distress and difficulty needs and awaits - as do we as well - fellow immigrants from the lands of freedom and affluence. Israel awaits their coming, equipped with knowledge and dedication, to play their part in the building of our State and the pioneering realization of the dream of generations.

The people of Israel hopes that every Jew wherever he may be will strive to strengthen his ties with the State, develop his knowledge of the reborn Hebrew language and deepen his roots in the heritage of our forefathers.

I am pleased to note that in the year gone-by we have made continued progress in strengthening our friendly relations with the peoples of the world and in gaining their support for our policy of peace. We greatly esteem the aid we have received from friendly nations and from people of goodwill throughout the world.

The past year has witnessed an improvement in the relations between the great powers. This is a first step. Let us hope that it will be followed by additional steps which will result in a further lessening of tension throughout the world and in our troubled region.

In closing, let me recall the blessed memory of the Second President of re nascent Israel, our people's beloved Itzhak Ben-Zvi. His death was a heavy loss to Israel and the entire Jewish people.

I wish you all a year of peace and happiness, a year of increased Jewish unity and fruitful work for our joint endeavour.

LeShana Tova Tikatevu.

Levi Eshkol