

25 7 63

Excellencies, distinguished members of the diplomatic corps,
graduates of the Officers' Course, ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all, on behalf of the Government of Israel and myself, on this happy occasion, marking the conclusion of this special course for the training of officers from the countries of East Africa. I am particularly grateful to the Ambassadors from East African countries who have come specially to take part in these ceremonies.

After much effort, devotion and hard work, you have completed six and half months of study and training, and today you have been found worthy of assuming the rank of officers.

Each of you is now returning to his homeland, where the youth of your country will be entrusted to you for training and education. It will be your sacred responsibility, as officers and leaders, to form, with them, the defence forces of your countries.

The struggle for independence of young states and nations striving for liberty has not always been an easy one for their peoples. Sometimes fate has compelled them to shed their blood for the homeland in order to win through into the sunlight of liberty, to undergo grief and suffering, pain and sacrifice, in the fight for freedom.

Other nations, more fortunate, have not been compelled to tread this road of tribulation, but even they must be ever ready to defend their independence if ever it should be endangered.

To the profound regret of us all, wars have not yet ceased from the earth, and we have no alternative but to be prepared to defend freedom and independence - even by force of arms - if the need should arise.

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It is a source of deep pride and satisfaction to the State of Israel and its Defence Forces that they should have been able to share their skill and training with you in order to strengthen the capacity of friendly young states to defend their liberties.

On this festive occasion, when we take leave of you, permit me to observe that, while we proudly bear on high the flag of independence, we must also dedicate ourselves to the spirit and content of independence - social and cultural, economic and spiritual.

In countries like ours, the army must devote itself to these responsibilities with the same enthusiasm with which it is prepared to defend the State. No doubt you have seen during your stay how our Defence Forces have undertaken these crucial tasks with love and devotion.

It is my fervent hope that neither you nor we, your comrades-in-arms in Israel, will be compelled to put our training to the test of battle. I hope that both you and we will be able to devote our skill and experience to the advancement of our peoples and the development of our countries. But at the same time we must be constantly alert and ready, so that if the day of trial should come - and Heaven forbid that it should come - we may be able to crush any onslaught on the peace and security of our peoples.

I should like, on this occasion, to express my profound appreciation of the united effort made by our officers and instructors and you, the officers-in-training, to utilize to the best advantage this period of intensive training. I wish you all success in any task you may be called upon to fulfil.

Finally, young officers and friends, I hope you will convey to your governments and nations the most cordial good wishes of the Government of Israel and myself. I am confident that you will win the esteem and trust of your peoples.

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Officers and Honoured Guests,

It is a great pleasure for me in the name of the Government of Israel and my own name to welcome you our dear guests from Africa who are graduating from Officers Training School.

After great efforts, concentrated study and deep dedication you have completed six and a half months of learning and training ^{today} and have been found worthy of bearing the rank of officer.

You are now returning, each man to his own country. In your hands will be given the youth of your people for training and education. It is your sacred responsibility as Commanders and Leaders to form together with the the Defence Force of your countries.

The struggle of young states and resurgent peoples ~~did~~ not always lead their sons along an easy path. There are some nations whose fate led their sons to march on a road drenched with blood before they merited to see the ~~sun~~ rays of their freedom shining through. These peoples knew pain and suffering, hurt and sacrifice ~~and~~ until they attained their freedom. There were other nations to whom fate was kinder and who were not forced to traverse this road of travail. But even these peoples

must always be prepared to maintain their independence and defend it if it should be endangered. To our great regret war has not yet desisted far from the face of the earth - and there is no choice but to be prepared to defend freedom and independence even with force of arms.

The State of Israel and its army derive satisfaction and pride ~~in their ability~~ to contribute of their ability, experience and talent, to strengthen the defensive forces of friendly young ~~states~~ nations.

Today we take leave of you, and permit me on this important occasion, to observe that together with the dedication to the independence of our various nations we must also concern ourselves with the spirit and content of this independence - refer to the social and cultural content, the economic and spirited content.

An army in states such as ours must undertake these tasks with the same enthusiasm with which it is prepared to defend its state. I hope you have seen here how our defense force has assumed with love and dedication these crucial responsibilities.

It is my hope that you, like your comrades-in-arms in Israel will not need to put your studies here to the test of fire.

I hope that we all will be able to direct our knowledge and experience to the advancement of our peoples and the development of our lands. But together with this we must be constantly alert so that if heaven forbid the day of testing comes we shall be able to repel and smash any attempt on the peace and security of our peoples.

On this occasion I should like to express my esteem for the commanders, instructors and you, the officers in training, for the combined effort made to exploit efficiently this difficult training period. I wish all of you great success in the tasks which you will be called upon to fill in the future.

In conclusion, young officers and friends, may I express the hope and wish that your peoples and armies be blessed with security and peace.

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