

# PRES. SHAZAR'S STATEMENT OBSERVING ISRAEL'S 19th BIRTHDAY

ISRAEL'S BIRTHDAY  
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and to communicate, even in the slightest, with them, have not yet borne fruit, and if hatred against us no longer assures them of unity among themselves, it is still far from weakening. The tension along our borders has been acute this year; infiltrators continue to operate; frontier settlements are still exposed to bullets and shells from the ridges above and their fields and pathways mined.

All honour and all blessings go to the Defense Army of Israel for the heroism with which it frustrates evil designs and preserves our land from damage and destruction. May the Rock of Israel watch over our armed forces and keep all evil from them and us.

In the inner life of our State this last year we have been sorely tried by the stringent efforts made to heal our economy, which have brought suffering and unemployment to many. The Government and communal institutions have done and are doing much to relieve distress through planned public works and encouragement of industry, but there has not yet been parallel development of large-scale volunteer help of the sort that was so true a source of pride to use in earlier periods of trial. Let us together share the burden and effort accompanying the economic transition through which the country is now passing. The most earnest and eager attention through which the country is now passing. The most earnest and eager attention must be given to every proposal for sharing the burden with all who are employed and self-supporting.

Let us not forget this year, too, that ours is a land of immigration, and that, even though the stream is now weaker, newcomers continue to come; even from affluent countries and from those whose Jewish communities are torn by alienation and longing, some reach us - first swells heralding a change, and not to be deterred, we hope, by the temporary difficulties of recession.

May Israel find the defenders of its economy and its continued aliya no less stalwart and no less dependable than the defenders of its national security. This is the hour for its faithful friends in the Diaspora to summon up initiative, knowledge and vigour for the reinforcement of

our own endeavour here.

Even in these days of trial there are promising signs of growing economic health. Our balance of payments has improved with the narrowing of the gap between imports and exports. Our foreign markets have expanded; our agriculture has become increasingly advanced; our mechanization intensified. Our labour productivity has increased and tourism expands. Our non-Jewish citizens are becoming more closely knit into the national fabric; military government has been abolished and the development of the minority villages proceeds swiftly. All honour to every creative and helpful hand everywhere in the land!

We must devote ever greater attention to the advancement of education and culture, of traditional learning and knowledge among all sectors of the nation: systematic, deep-rooted training of youth, wide-spread, authentic, folk culture for the masses of adults. Let us not become reconciled to spiritual relapse and the dangers of moral decline. In the realm of the spirit let us not be easily contented. For if the roots grow weak, our plants may not be strong enough to withstand the storms that assail them and the seasons of temporary distress. Nor is there any more effective shield against the growing enticements of wealthier lands than profound attachment to the legacy of Israel, to our living culture, to the landscape of our country. Let us open our hearts to the treasures left by those who preceded us, and strengthen all the creative spirits of every sort who live among us today.

Our relations with the world outside us and with far-flung communities of Jewry have expanded and deepened and demand even further intensification and expansion. Cordial visits by and to us - visits both official and individual, diplomatic and economic, literary and scientific - have aroused the lethargic and even evoked striking manifestations of ardent mass response. Although in most Diaspora centres assimilation and indifference still have the upper hand, they concentrate around the State of Israel and its values. There is a growing movement towards Hebrew, religious and national education, and a growing number of universities, yeshivot, Israeli experts working in scores of developing countries, have won respect and affection; Israeli scientists have earned distinction

for and by participation in international conferences, a number of which during this last year were held in Israel itself.

And Israel's Hebrew literature is increasingly making its way beyond the borders of the country, becoming known in translation to Jewish and non-Jewish readers over the seas, and this year for the first time winning, through its great representative, the glory of a Nobel Prize.

Let our hearts turn to our brothers in the Diaspora, and theirs - aided by us - to that process of renaissance and redemption, the centre of which is in our land.

May the entire year before us reflect the radiance of those historic anniversaries it includes; the seventieth since the first Zionist Congress was convened by Theodor Herzl, moulder in our generation of the idea of the Jewish State; the fiftieth since the Balfour Declaration which served as the foundation for the mass immigration and settlement of the future; the twentieth since our first eleven villages were set up in the desolate Negev, waiting to this day for its full fructification. And tomorrow will mark the beginning of the twentieth year since the rise of the revived State of Israel.

The achievements of our pioneer predecessors will, we trust, shed their light upon us to infuse greater strength into the doing of our deeds and the elevation of our spirit. May we learn to open our hearts to unity and mutual respect among our people, subduing the passion for fragmentation and disintegration that has taken hold of our community on every side, and supporting all who make for closeness and unification. And despite the pangs of defense and in the very midst of defense, let our hand be extended - continue to be extended - in blessing and peace to all our neighbours roundabout.

We pray that it will be given to us to see with our own eyes what the wisest of men declared in his Proverb: "When a man's ways please the Lord, He maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him."

May the peace we so hope and long for, draw nearer and come to us in this next year - the twentieth year of the independence of the State of Israel.

## CATHOLIC COLLEGES HONOR RABBI TANENBAUM

NEW YORK-Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, Director of Interreligious Affairs of the AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE, will receive two honorary doctorates and a medal of honor from Catholic colleges during the forthcoming college commencement season, in recognition of his "outstanding contributions" to interreligious and intergroup understanding.

Rabbi Tanenbaum will receive the Medal of Honor from Avila College, Kansas City Missouri, on May 27. On the next day, Saint Ambrose College, in Davenport, Iowa, will confer an honorary Doctorate of Law Degree on Rabbi Tanenbaum, and Saint Joseph's College in Philadelphia, a Jesuit institution, will do likewise on June 4.

Rabbi Tanenbaum will deliver the commencement address at each of these three Catholic institutions at the time of receiving their awards.

Father William F. Maloney, president of Saint Joseph's College remembers with pride the long list of outstanding leaders in A-

merican life who have been honored in this way since its founding. Your name would truly add lustre to this distinguished group and would be a source of inspiration to our young graduates because of your outstanding success in the field of religious education... I know of no one more worthy of this honor than your own good self."

Sister Olive Louise, president of Avila College, said that "our college truly honors itself by honoring you."

Msgr. Sebastian G. Menke, president of St. Ambrose College, announced that Rabbi Tanenbaum "will address joint baccalaureate ceremonies of Marycrest and St. Ambrose Colleges, which are being held on their individual campuses for the first time."

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