



## THE PRESIDENT

Jerusalem July 22, 2010

**Greetings from the President of the State of Israel, H.E. Shimon Peres,  
to the Live Zionism Event of the Lapid Organization and  
the Israeli Experience, marking the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Theodore Herzl**

Dear Lapid youths.

Dear guests.

This event, held in the city that bears the name of the man who envisioned the state, Theodore Herzl, is a festive occasion to express appreciation to the Lapid coalition and all the organizations of which it is composed for their important undertakings in bringing the wonderful Jewish youth on visits to Israel, for reinforcing collective Jewish identity starting in high school, and for increasing unity among the different factions of the Jewish nation.

When they return to their countries, these youths will now be the best ambassadors of the State of Israel, and will proudly carry with them everywhere, the beauty and moral spirit of our country: a country that was not blessed with wide spaces, natural resources or a vast population: a country that is small yet endowed with unprecedented human wealth and stature: a country that is attractive, illuminating, contributing: whose fields are filled with crops and whose homes are full of talents: a country that despite its small size will never forget that it should be the focus of making the world a better place.

Binyamin Zeev Theodore Herzl was the man history entrusted with the mission of changing the course of the Jewish nation from exile to redemption, and with writing the Genesis chapter of the new Israel. The revolutionary movement he started brought the Jewish nation back into history, this time as an independent people in its ancient land. "If you will," he said, "it is no legend." We willed, and the resultant reality surpassed the legend.

The future of the Jewish nation, which is as ancient as the Ten Commandments and as innovative as the study of the human brain, depends on you – the future generation. As a nation with almost half its sons and daughters living outside Israel, you are the most important strategic asset we have.

Solidarity and partnership between Israel and the Diaspora is now more essential than ever. It is an opportunity calling for reinforcing the lines: inviting the younger generation to return to its Judaism in communities, colleges, campuses, and to take extensive, vibrant action that is filled with a sense of mission: summoning them to support the just cause of the Jewish country.

God bless you and may you keep up the good work!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shimon Peres". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shimon" and the last name "Peres" clearly distinguishable.

Shimon Peres