



ראש הממשלה
Prime Minister

**Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's Message to Diaspora Children
State of Israel's 60th Yom Ha'atzmaut**

May 2008

Dear Children,

I am happy to send you my warm greetings from Jerusalem – the eternal and undivided capital of the State of Israel and the Jewish people – on the occasion of the State of Israel's 60th birthday.

Sixty years ago, brave Jews from all over the world fought for the independence and freedom of the State of Israel – and won. Since then, the State of Israel has become a modern and vibrant democracy.

Some of you may wonder why the State of Israel should be an important part of your lives. There are many reasons. The modern State of Israel ties us to our proud history in our Land – from the glorious days of the Kings of Israel, through the ancient height of our civilization and to the heroic stand of the Maccabees. The modern State of Israel serves as a safe haven for Jews across the world and embraces and absorbs their cultures – beginning with the Holocaust survivors of Europe, the Moroccans, Yemenites, Russians, Ethiopians, and Jews of every color and speaking 110 different languages. The Jewish people, wherever they may be, belong to each other – we are truly brothers and sisters – and we must ensure that we always have somewhere to come home to, even if we live in different places.

I invite you to become a part of Israel – learn our shared history and language and come visit us. We need each other to ensure our future as a people and as a country, and I call on you to play a role in this important mission.

Chag Sameach.

Sincerely,

Ehud Olmert

Jerusalem, Israel