

T. Shulamit Nardi

Jerusalem, 24 November 1982

To the pupils of class 5a and
Teacher Miss M. Silver
Temple Beth El
7400 Telegraph at 14 Mile Road
Birmingham, Michigan 48010

שלום וברכה לכולכם

President Navon would like to thank all of you in class 5a for your letter and its statement of sympathy and support for Israel. The President of course finds special pleasure having the opportunity, through his office, to meet all types of Israelis, newcomers as well as veterans, living in better established communities and also in still struggling development towns. He tries to bring to them all the message of Israel, the necessity for its existence, and the great Jewish ideals it must try to realize. In addition he welcomes and speaks to great numbers of visitors, both Jewish and non-Jewish. He tries to inspire Jewish youth from abroad to share the great adventure of building a Jewish society and a Jewish state, based on our own tradition and on modern science and understanding.

These are the President's aims and activities outside of the constitutional duties. His official role is something like that of the kings of Scandinavian countries and England, not like that of the powerful president in the United States, France and other countries. (It is the Prime Minister who has more political power in Israel and countries like Ireland, Italy, Finland, Germany which have presidents like Israel's.)

According to Israel's Constitution, the President is the Head of the State; appoints the Prime Minister who sets up a government after elections; also appoints judges and ambassadors and the State Comptroller; receives ambassadors from abroad; pardons prisoners.

These are in summary the President's duties.

The President trusts that all of you will some day visit Israel - and, he hopes, even live in it.

With best wishes to all of you and to your teacher,

Sincerely,

Shulamit Nardi
Assistant to the President

SHN/mb