



The Honourable Irwin Cotler, P.C., O.C., M.P., Mount Royal
L'honorable Irwin Cotler, C.P., O.C., député, Mont-Royal

Montréal, March 9, 2011

The Holocaust Memorial Centre of Macedonia



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to extend my best wishes to the Holocaust Memorial Centre of Macedonia on the occasion of your Opening Ceremony.

I extend greetings to the Patron of the opening ceremony, H.å. Nikola Gruevski, and to the government of the Republic of Macedonia, who passed the Law on Denationalization, which was the basis for the establishment of the Holocaust Fund of the Jews from Macedonia.

The Memorial Centre is important, indeed essential, to promote understanding and tolerance, in preserving the memories of the Macedonian victims of the Nazis, in bearing witness to the long Jewish history in the region, and in helping future generations to build a world where respect, justice, and peace will be shared values; such centers are important, indeed essential, because they allow every person visiting them to transform their visit into a pilgrimage, an act of Remembrance, and a reminder of the lessons we have – or should have – learned:

- Remembrance of a Nazi genocidal war against the Jews, in which not all victims were Jewish, but all Jews were intended victims.
- Remembrance of the fact that every victim had a name;
- Remembrance of the danger posed by hate mongering, antisemitism and genocide carried out or encouraged by state authorities;
- Remembrance of the dangers of indifference and inaction, which led us down the road to the unspeakable, the preventable genocide in Rwanda and the genocide by attrition in Darfur.
- Remembrance, with the promise that “never again” will we remain indifferent to racism and hate, never again will we remain silent in the face of evil, and wherever we are, we are responsible for the lives of all those around us.

May I conclude by expressing the hope that the most important and enduring lesson of the Holocaust “Never again” be the universal testament and legacy to all peoples everywhere.

Sincerely,

Irwin Cotler, P.C., O.C., M.P. - Mount Royal

