



בס"ד

יושב-ראש הכנסת
Speaker of the Knesset

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Soviet Jewry Heritage Center

I was delighted to hear of the initiative to establish a Soviet Jewry heritage center, and I would like to congratulate my friend David Schechter on his action as initiator of the project.

The fascinating story of the Jews of the Soviet Union has many implications for our lives in the state of Israel today.

This story allows us to learn the lessons of history, discover the origins and roots of a large part of the Jewish people, and understand the significance of the state of Israel in the struggle to maintain human dignity and freedom, from a historic perspective that directs a discerning look at the future.

This is the duty of every Jew and Israeli, and every man or woman.


As an active participant in the struggle of Russian Jewry to maintain its identity and its right to self-definition, I regret that there is not a single place in the state of Israel today that appropriately tells this part of the history of our people. I consider the establishment of a place that will be a center of attraction for those coming from the Soviet Union and their descendants, and will tell their story to the Jewish people, to be an essential part of the process of shaping our identity as a nation returning to Zion.

The large wave of immigration of the 1990s changed the face of our country, bringing with it not only a historical story, but also considerable activity in the present time, making an enormous contribution to the country and its social fabric. The journey of discovery of the cultural sources of Soviet Jewry is, to a large degree, the journey of discovery of the people of Israel today.

It is my great hope that we will be able to set out on this journey in the near future.

I would like to wish all those involved in the project every success.

Sincerely,


M.K. Yuli Yoel Edelstein
Speaker of the Knesset