



May 14, 2010

A Message from Lt. Governor Brown

Dear Friends,

This has been an extraordinarily interesting and exciting week for me in Israel.

I've spent the last week here with an impressive group of Marylanders, including Health and Mental Hygiene Secretary John Colmers and Delegate Tony O'Donnell – an old friend from my days in the General Assembly. In addition to representatives from our State government, our group represents Maryland's nonprofit and business communities. The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation generously sponsored our educational mission and provided us with the opportunity to engage in a professional exchange with a variety of Israeli colleagues.



We began the mission by meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Israel James B. Cunningham, who provided us with an assessment of U.S. strategic interests in the region and the political and security challenges facing Israel. We also heard from the spokesperson for the U.S. Security Coordinator on our efforts to restructure and train the Palestinian National Security Force so they can enforce the rule of law while making them accountable to the government and the people. Our travels included a visit to the Israeli border with Lebanon and to the Golan Heights where we discussed with Israeli experts the security threats confronting Israel from within and outside its borders. We were introduced to the complexities of Israeli politics by a professor from the Hebrew University and heard first hand the Palestinian perspective from a Palestinian reporter in Jerusalem. No visit to Israel would be complete without a visit to Ashkelon – Baltimore's sister city. In Ashkelon, we observed local efforts to provide educational, employment and other social services to the Ethiopian-Israelis who arrived here nearly two decades ago. And today, we visited the newly renovated Yad Vashem, the Jewish National Memorial to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

This mission also provided me an important opportunity to build on Governor O'Malley's business development mission to Israel in 2008. I met with several Israeli business leaders in order to open Maryland's doors to new opportunities and possibilities. Kinneret Savitsky, CEO of BioLineRX – an early-stage pharmaceutical drug development company that recently opened an office in Rockville – commended our shared efforts to increase Maryland's competitiveness in the global economy. Later, I met with a multi-billion dollar high-tech manufacturing company that is interested in opening an office on the East Coast and is seriously considering headquartering its operation in Maryland.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet with men and women from Israel who share our belief that every individual has the power to change the world just as a drop of water can make an

impression on a hard stone. I'm excited about returning to Maryland to see my children and to spend the next few months talking to as many Marylanders as possible about the progress we've made together and the work yet to be done.

Thank you for reading.

Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

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