



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
DEPUTY MINISTER

**Message of Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Theodoros Kassimis
to the Greek Jewish Community
on the occasion of the Holocaust Memorial Day (January 27th)**

Athens, January 2007

Dear Compatriots,

On the occasion of the Holocaust Memorial Day, I convey to you all and especially to those who live abroad my thoughts of honor and respect to the revered memory of the innocent victims of the most heinous crime committed against humanity during the 20th century.

A special position in our hearts is reserved for those who survived the Nazi concentration camps as well as to the Greek Jews who were saved due to the self-sacrificing spirit of their Christian compatriots.

The history of Nazi occupation of our country is full of human tragedies but also of acts of heroism, testifying the age-long harmonious co-habitation of Jews and Christians in Greece.

Fulfilling its duty towards the Greek-Jews, the Greek Parliament established the 27th January as a Memorial Day for Greek-Jewish Martyrs and Heroes of the Holocaust; a Jewish Holocaust Monument was erected in Thessaloniki, unveiled in presence of President Katsav; the Ministry of Education has introduced the teaching of the Holocaust in the public schools; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs publish a special edition "The Greek Jews", pertaining the history of the Greek-Jewish Community. Last year, a commemorative exhibition "The Hidden Children of Occupied Greece" was inaugurated in New York, which will be presented in many US States.

It is our duty to maintain the memory of the Holocaust and fight against the evil of anti-Semitism, which offends the meaning of Humanity, as it was conceived and served by the Greek spirit.

As it is written in the inscription of the Greek Memorial in Mounthausen "Forgetting the Evil constitutes Permission for its Repetition".

Theodoros P. Kassimis