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Hanukkah Ceremony, 12/12/90

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Dr. Henderson graduated from Oberlin College (A.B., 1950), University of Rochester School of Medicine (M.D., 1954), and Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health (M.P.H., 1960). He was born September 7, 1928, in Cleveland, OH. Dr. Henderson served as a commissioned officer for the U.S. Public Health Service, 1955-1977. Dr. Henderson is married, has three children, and resides in Baltimore, MD.

Remarks on the Observance of Hanukkah

December 12, 1990

Thank you, rabbis, for those lovely words and for the gift of this lovely menorah. It's wonderful to see the students—the Geshar Jewish Day School. I'm so glad you could join us all here today to sing. You haven't sung yet, have you? [Laughter] Oh, good, because I didn't want to miss that.

Let me say that Barbara and I and Marilyn and Dan Quayle want to just welcome everybody here to the White House, for the second year of these Hanukkah celebrations. It's a holiday of hope, for it shows us the glory of God in our own lives and the power of miracles in the world. Last year at this ceremony, we spoke of our efforts to help Vladimir Raiz and other brave refuseniks—help them leave the Soviet Union. By Passover, Vladimir was a free man. But the story really doesn't stop there. In addition to Zev Raiz, more than 150,000 Soviet Jews emigrated this year to new homes, new lives of liberty and dignity.

In fact, I am told that one kid, one child with us today from the Geshar Jewish Day School, Lidia Shestopalova—where's Lidia? Here she is, right there. Now, Lidia, if that's—oh, I'm so glad you're here. But she recently arrived from the Soviet Union. And so, we welcome you to this country, and we continue to pray for all those who are seeking freedom. Thank you Lidia. Now, sit down and be relaxed here. We're so glad you're here. And you're so beautiful.

The ancient story of the first Hanukkah is one of victory over persecution, aggression, and intolerance. But the struggle has con-

tinued for your people through the centuries. In fact, the first wave of Jewish immigrants came to this country as early as 1654 to live a life free from intolerance and persecution.

Two hundred years ago, George Washington wrote a letter to a Jewish congregation in Newport, Rhode Island, in which he said, the United States Government would give "to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance." In this new country, Washington said, "Everyone shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none to make him afraid." These words embody the American ideal of freedom of worship, an ideal that we reaffirm here today and that we pass on to the generations that follow us.

I understand that these kids—I guess you're next—are going to sing for us. I'm looking forward to it. I know Barbara is, and I know Marilyn and I know Dan are as well. I was pretty good last year at this game, reidel. Some said it was beginner's luck, but I'm ready for that. Also, I'm relying heavily on my partner here to prevail. [Laughter] He's a pro in this. So, why don't we just have a few songs, and then we'll have a little match here.

But the main thing is, thank you for coming. Thank you for coming here to the White House at this very special time of year. And thank you, rabbis, for your inspirational words, your prayers, and being with us here today, too. And Happy Hanukkah to everyone. Now, let the show begin.

Note: The President spoke at 11:45 a.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Executive Order 12736—Adjustments of Certain Rates of Pay and Allowances December 12, 1990

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the

HANUKKAH CEREMONY \ ROOM 450  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1990 \ 11:30 A.M.

THANK YOU, RABBIS, FOR THE GIFT OF THIS LOVELY MENORAH. AND IT'S WONDERFUL TO SEE THAT THE STUDENTS OF GESHER JEWISH DAY SCHOOL COULD JOIN US TODAY TO SING FOR US. BARBARA AND I -- AS WELL AS THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. QUAYLE -- WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME EVERYONE TO THE WHITE HOUSE FOR THE SECOND YEAR OF OUR WHITE HOUSE HANUKKAH CELEBRATIONS.

- 2 -

HANUKKAH IS A HOLIDAY OF HOPE, FOR IT SHOWS US THE GLORY OF GOD IN OUR OWN LIVES AND THE POWER OF MIRACLES IN THE WORLD. LAST YEAR AT THIS CEREMONY, WE SPOKE OF OUR EFFORTS TO HELP VLADIMIR RAIZ [RY-EEZ] AND OTHER BRAVE REFUSENIKS LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION. BY PASSOVER, HE WAS A FREE MAN.

BUT THE STORY DOESN'T STOP THERE -- IN ADDITION TO ZEV RAIZ, MORE THAN 150,000 SOVIET JEWS EMIGRATED THIS YEAR, TO NEW HOMES AND NEW LIVES OF LIBERTY AND DIGNITY.

- 3 -

IN FACT, I UNDERSTAND TWO CHILDREN WITH US TODAY FROM THE GESHER JEWISH DAY SCHOOL, LIDIA [LID-JA] SHESTOPALOVA [SHESS-TOE-PA-LOW-VA] AND ALEX VEYTSMAN [VITES-MAN] HAVE RECENTLY ARRIVED FROM THE SOVIET UNION. AS WE WELCOME YOU TO THIS COUNTRY, WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR ALL THOSE STILL SEEKING FREEDOM.

- 4 -

THE ANCIENT STORY OF THE FIRST HANUKKAH IS ONE OF VICTORY OVER PERSECUTION, AGGRESSION, AND INTOLERANCE -- BUT THE STRUGGLE HAS CONTINUED FOR YOUR PEOPLE THROUGH THE CENTURIES. IN FACT, THE FIRST WAVE OF JEWISH IMMIGRANTS CAME TO THIS COUNTRY -- AS EARLY AS 1654 -- TO LIVE A LIFE FREE FROM INTOLERANCE AND PERSECUTION.

TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, GEORGE WASHINGTON WROTE A LETTER TO A JEWISH CONGREGATION IN NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, IN WHICH HE SAID THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD GIVE "TO BIGOTRY NO SANCTION, TO PERSECUTION NO ASSISTANCE." IN THIS NEW COUNTRY, WASHINGTON SAID, "EVERY ONE SHALL SIT IN SAFETY UNDER HIS OWN VINE AND FIG TREE, AND THERE SHALL BE NONE TO MAKE HIM AFRAID."

THESE WORDS EMBODY THE AMERICAN IDEAL OF FREEDOM OF WORSHIP, AN IDEAL THAT WE REAFFIRM HERE TODAY AND THAT WE PASS ON TO THE GENERATIONS TO FOLLOW US.

I UNDERSTAND THESE CHILDREN ARE READY TO SING FOR US, AND I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT. ONE WORD OF WARNING: I WAS PRETTY GOOD LAST YEAR WITH THE DREYDEL -- PURELY BEGINNER'S LUCK. THIS YEAR, HOWEVER, I'VE BEEN PRACTICING.

SO LET'S HEAR A FEW SONGS AND THEN, I'LL TAKE ON ALL COMERS. // AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR COMING TO THE WHITE HOUSE, AND THANKS TO THE GESHER JEWISH DAY SCHOOL FOR ENTERTAINING US. HAPPY HANUKKAH TO EVERYONE.

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Grant/Grossman  
December 7, 1990  
9 a.m.  
A: HANUKKAH

**BRIEF REMARKS: HANUKKAH CEREMONY**  
**ROOM 450**  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1990**  
**11:30 A.M.**

((Acknowledgements))

Thank you, Rabbi [name] for the gift of this lovely Menorah. Barbara and I would like to welcome everyone to the White House, [especially the Synagogue Council of America], again this year for our Hanukkah celebration. Tradition is very important to our family, and this ceremony is one tradition we've started that I hope to see continued for many years at the White House.

Hanukkah is a holiday of hope, for it shows us the glory of God in our own lives and the power of miracles in the world. Last year at this ceremony, we spoke of our efforts to help Vladimir Raiz and other brave refuseniks leave the Soviet Union. **By Passover, he was a free man.**

But the story doesn't stop there -- in addition to Zev Raiz, more than 150,000 Soviet Jews emigrated this year, to new homes and new lives of liberty and dignity. In fact, I understand two children with us today from the [school] have recently arrived from the Soviet Union. As we welcome you to this country, we also thank God for delivering thousands of Jews from repression this year -- and we continue to pray for all those **still** seeking freedom.

Throughout the world, freedom has been on the march, most especially in Eastern Europe. And while lately the peace and

stability of all nations have been threatened by a lone aggressor, we are thankful nonetheless for the great strides toward democracy and liberty taken by people around the world, over the course of this year. The candles of the Menorah attest to the wonder of faith and the triumph of freedom, and its flame should inspire people everywhere.

The ancient story of the first Hanukkah is one of victory over persecution, aggression, and intolerance -- but the struggle has continued for your people through the centuries. In fact, the first wave of Jewish immigrants came to this country -- as early as 1654 -- to live a life free from intolerance and persecution.

Two hundred years ago, George Washington wrote a letter to a Jewish congregation in Newport, Rhode Island in which he gave **"to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance."** In this new country, he said, "Every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none to make him afraid." Washington's words embody the American ideal of freedom of worship, an ideal that we reaffirm here today and that we pass on to the generations to follow us.

I understand these children are ready to sing for us, so I don't want to hold up the show. But let me add this final thought -- there's an old Jewish saying: "The pleasures we get from children are far more precious than gold." Seeing so many young, happy faces proves those words true. One word of warning: I was pretty good last year with the draedel -- purely beginner's luck. This year, however, **I've been practicing.**

Happy Hanukkah to everyone. Again, thank you for coming to the White House, and thanks to the [name of school] for entertaining us. Let's hear a few songs and then, **let the games begin.**

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