

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONING

OF CULTURAL CENTRES

The Government of the State of Israel and the Government of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties");

Guided by the desire to develop comprehensive relations between the two States;

Striving to contribute to more intensive cooperation in the fields of culture, science and education;

Conscious of the need for continuous efforts to promote peace and friendship among nations;

Considering the mutual interest of the Russian and Israeli peoples to become acquainted with each other's human and cultural values;

Basing themselves on the Agreement on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture and Education signed between the Government of the State of Israel and the Government of the Russian Federation on 25 April 1994, and the Program of Cooperation on Culture and Education for the Years 1995-1997, signed on 10 November 1994;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

The Parties agree to establish and operate on a mutual basis a Russian Cultural Centre in Tel-Aviv and an Israeli Cultural Centre in Moscow.

By consent, the Parties may establish branches of the Centres in other cities in the Russian Federation and in the State of Israel.

Such consent will be expressed by exchange of notes between the Parties, which constitute an integral part of this Agreement.

For the purpose of the present Agreement, the definition of "Centre" means the Russian Centre and the Israel Centre and their branches.

ARTICLE 2

The Parties shall mutually assist and cooperate with each other in locating and making available suitable premises for the Centres.

ARTICLE 3

The work of the Centres shall be directed towards the implementation of the Agreement on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture and Education signed between the Government of the State of Israel and the Government of the Russian Federation, of 25 April 1994, as well as programs and protocols on cooperation concluded in the framework of the said Agreement. In addition, the Centres may contribute to the implementation of arrangements concluded between public institutions, local organizations or concluded between societies, associations and private persons of the two States.

ARTICLE 4

The main tasks of the Centres shall be as follows:

- to participate in the elaboration and realization of programs of cooperation and to develop cultural, scientific, technological, educational and informational contacts in those fields, including contacts between youths, as well as youth and sports organizations of the two states;
- to familiarize the population of each State with the history and culture of the other State, as well as with its domestic and foreign policy, its cultural, scientific, technological and economic potential, while utilizing modern means of information and advertising transmission;
- to contribute to the establishment and development of contacts and cooperation between institutions of the two States in the fields of art, culture and education, as well as in the study of languages;

- to contribute to the development of contacts between governmental and non-governmental institutions of the two States; and to use the information facilities of the Centres for the creation of beneficial conditions for broadening the cooperation between the two States in the fields of culture, science, technology, sports and youth contacts;
- to support the development of international contacts between cities and regions of both States in the cultural, humanitarian, scientific, technical and professional fields;
- to organize the distribution of information and advertising material in the fields of culture, science and technology, youth activities and sports.

ARTICLE 5

Being national institutions of the sending States, the Centres shall enjoy the status of legal entities, in accordance with the legislation of the receiving State and in accordance with this Agreement.

ARTICLE 6

The Russian Centre shall be under the auspices and under the general authority of the Ambassador of the Russian Federation in the State of Israel. The Israeli Centre shall be under the auspices and under the authority of the Embassy of the State of Israel in the Russian Federation.

The Parties undertake to assist the Centres in guaranteeing them normal working conditions, and in the case of necessity and upon request by the Embassy of the sending State, the domestic authorities of the receiving State shall take all the measures stipulated by its legislation for the protection of the Centres and their branches, as well as their personnel.

ARTICLE 7

The Centres, within the framework of their activities in the receiving State, may establish direct contacts with ministries, other institutions, local and regional authorities, State institutions, societies and associations, as well as with private individuals of the receiving State.

ARTICLE 8

In accordance with the aims of their establishment, the activities of the Centres shall include:

- providing information, reference and other data bases in the fields of cultural, scientific, technological and economic development of the two States, while utilizing various modern information means and while making use of telecommunication access to data bases;
- holding conferences, symposiums, seminars and consulting sessions in the fields of international, scientific, humanitarian, cultural and business cooperation;
- providing information and consulting services to interested organizations and individuals of the receiving State on questions regarding the establishment of contacts with organizations of the sending State in the fields of culture, education, science and technology;
- conducting cultural and educational activities and providing information to compatriots of one State residing permanently in the other State, as well as maintaining contacts with compatriots' associations in the receiving State;
- organizing concerts and performances by artistic ensembles, as well as by individual performers;
- organizing the screening of films and other audio-visual material;
- organizing exhibitions of works of art, artistic photography, folklore material and other subjects;

- organizing the participation of local public groups and clubs in the various activities of the Centers, as well as attempting to interest prominent members of the public, business circles, prominent artists and scientists, members of the mass media and other representatives of the receiving State in the activities of the sending State;
- organizing language study courses in the receiving State and training courses for foreign students as well as providing professional assistance to researchers and teachers of language and literature from the sending State who are temporarily working in scientific and educational institutions of the receiving State;
- assisting in implementing programs of studies for students and schoolchildren;
- assisting in the choice of candidates for training courses and in directing them towards the appropriate educational institutions, assisting university graduate clubs and societies in maintaining contacts with these institutions, as well as organizing in the receiving State advanced training seminars for graduates;
- providing library and other information services for interested organizations and private individuals of the receiving State and supplying them with books, newspapers, magazines, films, records, slides and other written, audio-visual or electronically transmitted material, including on a lending basis;
- publishing and distributing news programs, catalogues, bulletins and other documents of educational and scientific nature;
- cooperating with friendship societies and associations, with scientific, cultural and educational institutions in the receiving State, as well as with cultural and information centres of third States, for the purpose of organizing joint events and projects;
- organizing performances and projects for children and youth.

The Centres may engage in additional activities for the fulfilment of the purposes of the present Agreement.

ARTICLE 9

The activities of the Centres shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the present Agreement, in compliance with the domestic law of the receiving State and with due respect for international law.

ARTICLE 10

The activities of the Centres may be organized and carried out within their premises. The Centres may also carry out their activities elsewhere, in accordance with the domestic law, and upon prior notification to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the receiving State.

ARTICLE 11

The Parties shall guarantee the public's unhindered participation in the Centres' activities.

The Parties shall inform each other in the course of their regular contacts about the Centres' programs and activities and shall provide the necessary means to distribute information about the Centres' programs and events.

ARTICLE 12

The activities of the Centres shall not be conducted for the purpose of financial profit. The Centres shall be considered non-profit organizations in accordance with the domestic laws and regulations of the receiving State.

At the same time, while observing Articles 13 and 14 of the present Agreement and in order to obtain partial compensation for their expenses, the Centres may:

- impose a fee for attending events organized by them, receive payment for participation in language courses and the use of services connected with these courses;

- sell catalogues, posters, programs, books, records, audio-visual and other educational material in any form, as well as to sell any other items directly connected with the events and projects organized by the Centres, on condition that the said events are conducted in compliance with the domestic law of the receiving State;
- to offer for sale items presented at exhibitions organized by the Centres, on condition that the sale of those items will not be exempt from tax payments or customs fees in accordance with the laws and regulations of the receiving State;
- to operate a cafeteria for the Centres' visitors.

ARTICLE 13

The taxation procedure for the Centres and their personnel shall be determined by the legislation of the receiving State, while taking into account any Agreements in force between the Parties on the avoidance of double income tax and of double property tax.

ARTICLE 14

In accordance with the law of the receiving State, the Centres shall be exempt, on a reciprocal basis from paying all import taxes consisting of customs duties, value added tax, purchase tax and any other tax or charge levied on imported goods (hereinafter "import taxes"), required for guaranteeing the normal functioning of the Centres. The latter is with the exception of customs registration fees, storage services and similar such services.

Such privileges regarding import taxes shall apply, inter alia, to:

- films, catalogues, posters, books, records, audio-visual and educational materials, as well as other items necessary for the Centres' activity and services;
- furniture and other items (including means of transportation) necessary for the Centres' functioning.

Goods imported pursuant to the present Agreement may be either on a temporary or a permanent basis.

Goods which permanently leave the Centres' possession shall be dealt with according to the domestic law of the receiving State and the provisions of this Agreement .

ARTICLE 15

Each Party shall hire the personnel of its Centre. This personnel shall consist of citizens of the sending State, of the receiving State or of a third State. In case of the latter, the appointment is to be coordinated with the receiving State.

The Directors and Deputy Directors of the Centres shall be members of the diplomatic staff of the sending State.

The number of personnel of the Centres shall be determined by mutual consent of the Parties.

The Parties shall inform each other concerning the hiring of the personnel of the Centres, as well as the beginning and termination of their activities.

ARTICLE 16

The current labour law and system of social security of the sending State shall apply to the Centres' personnel who are citizens of the sending State and are residing temporarily in the receiving State, as well as to their family members residing with them.

ARTICLE 17

Each Party shall allow the personnel of the Centre of the other Party who are citizens of the sending state and members of their families residing with them, to bring in, within one year from commencing their duties, and to take out, upon termination of their work at the Centres, their personal belongings and movable property, including automobiles.

These items shall be exempt from all import taxes in the receiving State, but shall be liable for fees payable for customs registration, storage services and similar services.

The above-mentioned items may be transferred from the possession of their owners only upon payment of taxes, import taxes and fulfillment of any other demands specified by the legislation of the receiving State.

The privileges stipulated in the present Article do not apply to personnel of the Centres who are citizens of the receiving State or persons residing permanently in that State.

ARTICLE 18

Aspects dealing with the laws of social insurance within the responsibility of the Israeli National Insurance Institute and the relevant competent authority in the Russian Federation shall be regulated by a separate Agreement between them.

ARTICLE 19

Each Party shall grant, in accordance with its laws and regulations and on a mutual basis, visas, work and residence permits to personnel of the sending State and family members residing with them, during the period of their assignment. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the receiving State shall issue or facilitate the issue of visas and assist in obtaining permits in the implementation of this Article.

ARTICLE 20

Questions concerning the interpretation and application of the present Agreement shall be settled, when necessary, through diplomatic channels.

ARTICLE 21

The provisions of this Agreement may be altered or added to by mutual consent of the Parties.


ARTICLE 22

This Agreement shall enter into force with the exchange of notifications as regards the completion by the Parties of their internal procedures necessary for its entry into force on the date of the latter of the diplomatic Notes informing of the completion of the said procedures.

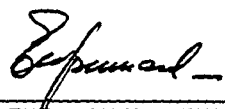
The Agreement shall remain in force for a period of five years. Thereafter it shall be extended automatically for additional periods of five years each, until one of the Parties declares to the other in writing, through the diplomatic channels, at any given time, of its intention to terminate the Agreement, but no less than six months prior to the expiry date of the relevant period.

In case of the termination of this Agreement, its provisions regarding ongoing programs, agreements, projects or other activities, that have been adopted in accordance with it but not yet realized at the time of its termination, shall continue to be in force until the above-mentioned activities have been completed or realized.

Done at Jerusalem on the 31st day of October, 1996, which corresponds to the 18 day of Heshvan 5757 in two original copies in the Hebrew, Russian and English languages, each text having equal authenticity. In case of divergence in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.



FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE STATE OF ISRAEL



FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister of Foreign Affairs

סגן ראש הממשלה
ושר החוץ

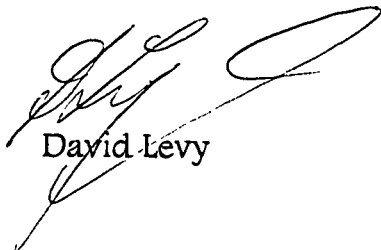
Jerusalem, 6 January 1997

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the Agreement between the Government of the State of Israel and the Government of the Russian Federation on the Establishment and Functioning of Cultural Centers, signed in Jerusalem on 31 October, 1996.

In accordance with the said Agreement and Article 1 therein, the Israeli Cultural Center in Moscow operates one branch in Novosibirsk.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



David Levy

His Excellency
Mr. Y. Primakov
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation
Moscow