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Message for Australian Jewish News

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GOODWILL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DON DUNSTAN

May I extend to you my best wishes on the occasion of the Jewish New Year.

For thousands of years the Jews have spread their faith, culture and traditions throughout the world, and have added immeasurably to our civilisation, in the broadest sense of that word.

Their lot has not always been a happy one. Even today, when the concepts of liberty and freedom are receiving close examination for the first time for many years, Jews are being persecuted in Russia and, in a somewhat different sense, in Israel. I think it is here that the Jews of Australia are revealing one of their strongest characteristics - their sense of unity, of community.

The Executive Council of Australian Jewry is in close and constant contact with Israel and is actively endeavouring to secure the rights of the Russian Jews. Recently, it played the leading role in the formation of the Federation of Jewish Communities of South-East Asia and the Far East. While the Jewish communities there are not as systematically oppressed as elsewhere, they have been isolated and therefore in a weak position. I am sure that the work of the new Federation, in which Australian Jews played such a large part, will help them to attain the liberty deserved by every man.

At the State level, the Boards of Deputies play a significant role in education, welfare, youth activities and public relations.

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Australia would not have reached the heights she has today without the work of such great men as Sir John Monash, Sir Isaac Isaacs, and Professor Zelman Cowan. All of these men have not only excelled in their chosen professions but their intellects have ranged over many fields. Not only they, but the Jewish community as a whole, have made great contributions to our lives.

As professional men, business men, as intellectuals - in all sections of society - Australian Jews have helped to place Australia in the wider world.

The Jewish New Year is a fitting occasion for all Australians to remember these things.

DON DUNSTAN.