

Chaim Herzog

A conspicuous net of security descended on York University prior to the arrival of a thirteen-car motorcade belonging to Israeli president, Chaim Herzog. Herzog, in Canada for an official state visit, was conferred with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

York University President Harry Arthurs referred to York's newest graduate as a "distinguished scholar, lawyer, soldier, and statesman..." Herzog was very well received by the audience. This was not surprising however, especially after history professor Irving Abella's introduction.

Abella described some of Herzog's colourful life experiences with humour and respect. Abella said Herzog spoke many languages, including Gaelic. He pointed out that Herzog was born in Belfast, Ireland, and raised in Dublin. According to Abella, "part of his survival kit was (becoming) the Jewish boxing champion of Ireland."

Herzog settled in Palestine in 1935 and joined the British army, said Abella. He added that Herzog was eventually promoted to lieutenant-colonel and made a knight companion by the British army after serving as a tank commander and intelligence officer. One of his memorable achievements was his help in the identification of the notorious SS chief Heinrich Himmler.

Abella said Herzog's academic education was equally remarkable. He went to college in Dublin, studied Bible and Judaism in Hebron, law in Jerusalem, and military strategy in Sandhurst, England. Herzog has since found the time to write seven books on Israel and Jewish history, and serve as Governor of five universities.

Abella concluded by saying Herzog's passion for justice was a beacon of integrity and vision. Abella reflected that Israel is indeed lucky to have a head of state who is both able to signal Israel's determination to overcome difficulties, and provide the sensitivity to lead his people along the difficult road ahead.

Aryeh Snitman, a third year York student, addressed the special convocation as a representative of the Jewish Students' Federation. He said that Israel is going through difficult times, "But in spite of threats and in spite of the challenges, democracy remains as sound as ever." He said democracy does not come easily to a state that is surrounded "in a sea of totalitarian regimes." Snitman said he spoke for thousands of Jewish students in expressing pride and honour towards Israel. In a move that added credence to his claims, Snitman told the audience that he had lived in Israel and served in her defense forces.

When Herzog finally took the podium he delivered a treatise on the evolution of Jewish law and how it manifested itself in other phases throughout the rest of the world. He said, "Many of the principles of human justice which are accepted as a matter of course in civilised countries today — an acceptance which is, historically speaking,

of comparatively recent vintage — are the principles expounded to mankind by our Jewish forebears over 3,000 years ago."

Herzog alleged that those very principles are non-existent today in the overwhelming majority of the nations of the world. He said fewer than one quarter of the members of the UN are democracies. He lamented that the democracy and freedom that exist in Israel and Canada today are unknown by a majority of the human race.

On a brighter note, Herzog reflected on growing cooperation in academic and research fields between Israel and Canada: the leading Weizmann Institute of Science, the twelve-year old Koffler Accelerator and the Canadian Institute for the Energies and Applied Research (Solar Energy).

During the reception, North York mayor Mel Lastman conveyed a special welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Herzog. He said, "This is the first time that an Israeli President has visited Canada, and hopefully it is the first of many such visits." He went on to say that "the city of North York has a vibrant and contributing Jewish community that strongly supports the state of Israel and what that state is doing." After the mayor made his comments, his wife presented Mrs. Herzog with a gift set of North York crystal candlesticks on behalf of the people of North York.

After the ceremony and reception, people reflected on the success of the program. George Cohen, president and CEO of McDonald's Restaurants of Canada said, "It's wonderful that an institution like York acknowledges Israel and the president of Israel... In and of itself for the president of Israel to get an honorary degree at York (was a privilege), but when you have someone like Herzog it adds a special dimension."

Cohen said that this was not the first time he had heard Herzog speak. "I heard him on Monday at Ottawa at a small dinner party. I heard him speak in parliament, I've heard him here; he's just a very intelligent man and I'm proud as a Jew to have someone like that as the President of Israel," said Cohen.

Earlier in the week, President Herzog addressed the House of Commons in Ottawa. Liberal minister Robert Kaplan said that there was some controversy concerning Herzog's address at the House. *Excalibur* asked Kaplan about the controversy. He replied, "There was an anticipation among some members that some counterpart opposing Israel should be invited to speak to the House of Commons as well."

Kaplan said he didn't know how that will be sorted out. He said he was thrilled at the speech Herzog delivered at the House of Commons, and when the president concluded his remarks, the speaker in the House of Commons said, "The reason (Herzog) had been invited was that he was the leader of a democratic country, with a freely elected parliament, and a free press."

"I suppose," Kaplan added, "(if) the person who is invited to speak from the other side can meet all those three tests; he

should be invited to address the House of Commons too."

Towards the end of the afternoon *Excalibur* interviewed ex-member of parliament, Judge Phil Givens. Givens has also served as mayor of Toronto.

When asked about the so-called controversy that surrounded Herzog's parliamentary address, Givens said, "On a graduation scale of greatness, President Herzog ranks with any of the other leaders of the world who have addressed the House of Commons." He said it is up to the Prime Minister to determine whether to extend an invitation or not. Givens said that Mulroney invited Herzog over a year and a half ago, and he thinks that it's not up to us to second guess the motives of the Prime Minister of Canada.

Givens said if the Palestinian-Arabs want to come up with a counterpart, then the Prime Minister would have to make a decision as to whether he would want to invite such a person.

He added that there are a lot of people in this country, and other western countries, who talk about the injustices of the Israelis. Givens said that Israel is faced with a complex problem.

Many people think that if Israel will simply acquiesce to what the PLO wants, then that will buy them peace, said Givens. He added, "Actually, if the Israelis acquiesce to what the PLO wants it may mean their own extinction! Under those circumstances it's a dilemma which is hard to grasp."

Givens concluded by saying that both President Herzog and York University had done a magnificent job.

Excalibur also spoke with professor Lillian Lerman, undergraduate director of social science. She was obviously very touched by the whole event.

"It was a very special privilege, for York University to have the president of Israel visit," Lerman said.

"For me personally," she added, "it was a highly emotional experience. To think that I'd reach the day — arrive at the time — when the president of the state of Israel was honored by my University. I never thought I'd reach this kind of moment." Lerman added that she thinks all Jewish students would be doing themselves a service by being involved with the state of Israel.

The special convocation was attended by members of all levels of government, the offices of York University, and many guests from the community. The many guests, including federal cabinet minister Barbara McDougall and opposition member Robert Kaplan, were treated to a kosher reception in the Fine Arts building following the ceremony.

Security was very tight that day at York. Four separate security forces shared jurisdiction under the command of the Metro Police. There were dozens of security personnel in the motorcade, on various rooftops surrounding the campus, on horseback, and in an especially ominous looking cube-van behind the auditorium.

It did not appear however that the York community was inconvenienced in any way.



President Chaim Herzog



President Harry Arthurs shows off Herzog's degree

Herzog's convocation address to York

The following text of Chaim Herzog's speech was supplied to the press previous to the June 29 convocation ceremony.

Merci pour l'honneur que vous m'accordez.

Chaque fois que je reçois une distinction du genre de celle dont vous voulez bien m'honorer aujourd'hui, je me pose la même question: suis-je digne de posséder une partie, fût-elle infime, de l'arbre de la connaissance du Jardin d'Eden? Et comme je ne suis pas sûr que mes yeux se soient dessillés et que je connaisse le bien et le mal, je crains fort que toute ma science ne se réduise à des diplômes que je ne mérite pas.

I rise to speak on this auspicious occasion conscious of my inadequacy and humble in face of the long line of distinguished predecessors who have been recipients of honours accorded by this renowned centre of learning.

I am deeply moved by your conferment of this honour upon me. It is especially meaningful to me, since it is presented by so distinguished a university.

Many members of my family have achieved prominence and eminence in their own rights in the field of law. Each of them in his life acquired great honours and world-wide reputation in his particular field. My late father the Chief Rabbi of Israel, was one of the great figures of this century in the realm of Jewish Law, and his volumes "The Main Institute of Jewish Law," which address themselves also to comparative law, are by now a classic in their field.

My late brother, when serving as Ambassador of Israel to Canada in the late fifties, achieved a doctorate in law in Ottawa. My wife's late uncle, Sir Hersh Lauterpacht, one of the great figures in international law, sat on the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

While I practiced law at our Bar, I fear that my main claim to fame in the realm of law is in my having been honoured by a number of Honorary Degree in the field of law — including one from this distinguished University. You might say that I have achieved my education by degrees.

I was nurtured on the twin concepts of Judaism and Law and Justice. Perhaps the outstanding aspect of Jewish civilization is its inherent justice and the fact that the concept of justice occupies paramount place in its principles. After all, many of the principles of human justice which are accepted as a matter of course in civilised countries today — an acceptance which is, historically speaking, of comparatively recent vintage — are the principles expounded to mankind by our Jewish forebears over 3,000 years ago. These are principles which are being maintained today in the democracies of the world, the comparatively few that exist — approximately one quarter of the members of the UN. These are principles which are daily trampled underfoot in derision and disdain in the United Nations. These are the principles which will never be known to or experienced by the bulk of the human race living in some three quarters of the countries in the world, in which the value of human freedom as we, you and we, understand it, does not exist.

Our system of Law, based on the Mishna and the Talmud, has developed over the ages and is, therefore, applicable to this day, because the great interpreters of the Talmud through the ages had the sense of reality which encouraged them to adapt the experience of the past, so that it may best serve the needs of the present. Over the centuries a narrow interpretation of the law was displaced by a more liberal doctrine, which brought the law into consonance with the principles of humanity.

As Benjamin Cardozo so aptly emphasized on one

occasion when discussing the relation between justice and law, the legal process must be one of compromise and concordance. In his words "The reconciliation of the irreconcilable, the merger of antitheses, the synthesis of opposites, these are the great problems of the law."

It is, indeed, sobering to reflect on the profundity of these words on the one hand, and to contemplate the process in the world which is so diametrically opposed to them. For precisely the reverse is occurring in the world, and as it occurs, man's mind is becoming accustomed and inured to new standards, based on cynical expediency which negates the principles which inspired Cardozo, which negate the great legacy of Jewish tradition on which Western culture has drawn so much.

For we Jews have given to the world a legal system which recognises the existence of a special reciprocal tie between law and morality, a tie that stems from the common origin of both concepts in Judaic sources. The common origin of the concepts of law and morality remained a guideline for Judaism in all periods and generations. "Thou shall not kill" and "thou shall love thy neighbour as thyself; I am the Lord." Indeed, Jewish law, functioning as a legal system, itself impels recourse to a moral imperative, and in so doing prepares the way to conversion of the moral imperative into a fully sanctioned norm. Thus a legally sanctioned norm is to be found in the direction to act... leniently, beyond the requirements of the law... a direction which became in the post-Talmudic period a fully fledged norm enforced in certain instances by the courts.

It is a basic tenet of the Jewish faith that the source of Jewish law is divine revelation. Law is a manifestation of God, just as nature and man himself are, whether it is a law relating to man's relation with the Almighty or laws pertaining to man's relations with his fellows.

It is not my purpose to discuss the intricacies of Jewish Law on this occasion — indeed I am hardly qualified to do so — but I cannot avoid recalling on this occasion some of our immortal contributions as a people in human values to human society as I contemplate daily the eclipse of these values in so many parts of the world. And it is precisely those who have totally abandoned the principles given by the Jewish people to the world in their national and international practice who now would sit in judgement on Israel... "Damned is the generation that sits in judgement of its judges" said our sages. Damned is that world that must sit in judgement of those who would seek to pass judgement.

It was God's foremost commandment to man that he should do justice and deal justly with his fellow men. Thus it is that according to the Talmud, the conscientious judge who does justice is God's partner in the creation of the world: justice is the foundation and bulwark of the Universe. And doing justice is tantamount to bringing truth, and love and peace into the world.

Indeed, the book of Deuteronomy exhorts the Jewish people... "Justice, only justice shall thee pursue in order that thou mayest live and retain possession of the land thy God giveth thee" (Deuteronomy 16-20).

In other words, the moral code as reflected in the Bible makes the administration of justice a pre-requisite for the Jewish people's right to live in the Promised Land and, indeed, for its very right of existence.

The Jewish moral code maintains unequivocally that there can be no existence for the Jewish people unless their moral base rests on the basic tenets of justice and morality and on the supremacy of the rule of law.

The fundamental principle of procedural justice is

equality. "What is justice in the process of law?" asks Maimonides, the great Jewish philosopher, physician, teacher, writer and legal genius, who flourished some 850 years ago in Egypt. And he replies: "It is the equalisation of both parties for all purposes, not that one should be allowed to speak as he pleases and the other cut short; not that one should stand and the other be seated, or that one should sit above and the other below, but both should stand or sit next to each other... you may not hear one party in the absence of the other: not only may you not make a decision without having heard "the other party" first, but you must hear both parties in the presence and hearing of each other." Incidentally this latter injunction is an innovation peculiar to Jewish law, and these principles were enunciated some 850 years ago on the basis of the principles handed down from a period 1,000 years earlier.

Thus our sages echoing the Bible, the Prophets and the Psalms never tire of accentuating the paramount importance of the right administration of justice which they regard as one of the three pillars supporting the entire edifice of civilized society.

On three things the world exists, on the law, on truth and on peace. How tragic it is, therefore, to contemplate the systematic destruction of the pillar of justice in much of the world society. I speak as one representing a nation which first furnished mankind with the principles of justice and the concept of morality, whose judges were dispensing justice, true justice, in Jerusalem on the basis of one of the most advanced and enlightened codes of law in history when many of the great nations of today were but primitive societies.

It is sad to witness how all the principles which we consider to be self-understood and sacred to our way of life are being betrayed in so many parts of the world. It is even more disturbing to see how those who consider these principles to be sacred in their own societies, allow expediency to subvert morality in their international relations and acquiesce in a process which negates all that they uphold.

I see in it yet another link between Israel and this great country of Canada. Over the years we have forged ever growing links in academic cooperation. In the field of the advancement of science in Israel two very major projects at the Weizmann Institute of Sciences — one of the leading such institutes in the world — the Koffler Accelerator has for the past 12 years been the centre of nuclear physics research in Israel. The Canadian Institute for the Energies and Applied Research, launched in 1988, also known as the Solar Energy Project, has constructed research facilities which are among the finest in the world, which are developing and testing processes and technologies for converting solar energies into energy-rich chemicals.

These are but a small fraction of the growing cooperation in the academic and research fields between Israel and Canada. And today we have added yet another link with its own symbolism. I hope and pray that my State Visit to Canada reflecting as it does the very excellent relations existing between our two countries, and the many fields of mutual interest in which we are involved, will help to deepen and strengthen those relations between our two countries. I know that your graciousness in honouring me, as you have done today, will symbolise yet a further advance in the growing relationship and cooperation between two peoples whose values and civilization are based on the same universal principles which we, the Jewish people, gave to the world in the Book of Books.

Tight web of security surrounded Herzog's visit: York, Metro police and RCMP join forces

When Israeli president Chaim Herzog visited York on June 29 to receive an honorary Doctor of Laws, York security was prepared for anything.

"We were prepared for the worst," explains Eric Pond, assistant director of York's security operations, "but we were very lucky nothing happened and all went well."

Security received word on June 1 from vice-president of external relations Ian Lithgow that Herzog would arrive on June 29.

"We had almost a month to plan for his visit. With Mr. Herzog, who is a very contented leader under a certain amount of safety, sensi-

tivity and security, you obviously have to increase your security measures. This was the first time we had someone that sensitive here."

Once a VIP visit notice was received, Pond contacted the necessary police forces to coordinate a security plan. Pond worked with the RCMP because it has priority for all VIPs and with Metro Police 41 Division because it has the local jurisdiction. Pond provided them both with floor plans of the various buildings Herzog would be in and set up a communication network between all three security forces.

"On the York side of security, Vice-President Lithgow called a

meeting of all the offices that have a prime interest in the visit, like communications, security, the building personnel, catering people from grounds and people from physical plant" says Pond. From that meeting, a schedule was made and evaluated for costs. Two days prior to Herzog's arrival, another meeting was called where plans were presented, final arrangements were gone over, and, as Pond says, "It all fell into place and everyone went and did their thing on the day it happened."

York Security's main role in the Herzog visit was to provide certain services to assist the RCMP in its function. "The RCMP have the

prime task of the protection of the VIP," says Pond. "They are the people carrying the guns and who, in this case, work closely with Herzog's own security and have a big say as to whether the security is adequate or not."

"We did have one demand," says Pond. "Because Herzog was a sensitive VIP, we demanded and instituted access lists. Because he was going to be in Burton Auditorium to receive his degree, the RCMP were going to thoroughly search it with their men as well as a bomb dog. Then, a quarantine was put on that building. But we wanted access lists so that every department that was going to have people going into that building

had to provide us with a list of their people and utilize an identification card system. If people couldn't produce a card or their name wasn't on the list, they were not permitted access to the building. We went so far as to get the names of the florist and caterer and coordinated their arrival times."

The concentration of security was in the immediate area of Burton and about 100 yards out in each direction. The security plan went into effect at 6:30 am with a roadblock in front of the Ross Building. The roadblock was to ensure that there would be no parked vehicles in the parking lots closest to Burton.

"A few days before his visit, we

placed printouts on cars that usually park in those areas telling them that on the 29th parking would not be available," says Pond. "We also sent letters to the TTC because the bus service could not run in that area when Herzog arrived." No roadblocks were set up at the back of Ross but the pathways from the parking lots to Ross were patrolled by uniformed officers on foot and horseback.

Herzog was to be in three areas: Atkinson Theatre for robing, the entry from Fine Arts to Burton and Burton. All three areas were searched and plainclothed RCMP and security officers were placed in these locations and

stayed until Herzog left campus. A police task force gun team was on the top of the Fine Arts Building and uniformed police officers were on the roof of the Ross building.

A 20-person standby force was located near Physical Plant and Metro police also had a mobile station with a radio network and telephone links. York's regular on-duty security squad was not affected in any way. It was business as usual, says Pond.

Because York campus is private property, other security forces would have to ask permission before they could react to a dangerous situation on campus which, says Pond, "is virtually