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Address of Welcome, Jerusalem Congress

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Mr Teddy Kollek, Mayor of Jerusalem; professor Serge Lebovici, President of the International Psycho-Analytical Association; Honoured Guests, our Colleagues and our dear Friends.

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to open this Congress and to welcome you all to Jerusalem, to Israel and to the first International Psycho-Analytical Congress to be held outside Europe.

Jerusalem has been viewed as the navel of the world, the birthplace of ideas and of religions. Holy for Christians, Moslems and Jews, it belongs not only to the people who live here but to everybody. Jerusalem has a long history—to which we shall perhaps be able to add a brief paragraph with this Congress. Many of you know it intimately, before setting foot here, from the Bible. I shall never forget the sobering experience I had when showing *my* town to a psychoanalyst friend on his first visit, only to find that *he* knew, better than I did, every step we were about to take and every historical site we were about to visit. We are proud that the first of our Congresses to be held outside Europe takes place in Jerusalem. Yet it was not entirely fortuitous. Freud had an emotional relationship to Jerusalem. You may know that he was a member of the first Board of Governors of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in the twenties. Freud spoke with a feeling of identification about what happened to Jerusalem when, in 1917, he was 'at daggers drawn with writing and with many other things'. 'The only thing that gives me any pleasure', he wrote to Abraham in a letter full of malaise, 'is the capture of Jerusalem [from the Turks] and the British experiment with the chosen people'. Throughout his life, Freud identified himself unequivocally with the Jewish people and their fate. In 1932 Freud proposed to Judah Magnes, Rector of the Hebrew university, that the first Chair of Psychoanalysis in the world be established at 'our university'. When this suggestion was not accepted and an academic psychologist was appointed instead, the Hebrew University became, for Freud, 'your university'. What was omitted then is being rectified now, 45 years later. The Hebrew University is now establishing the first regular academic Chair in Psychoanalysis, with tenure, to be set up anywhere. Many of you here have helped to make this dream come true. The breach between Freud and the Hebrew University has been healed. On Wednesday [24 August] you will hear the Inaugural Lecture for the Sigmund Freud Chair of Psychoanalysis, written by, to use Jones's famous characterization, 'the true daughter of an immortal sire', Anna Freud, read for her at the amphitheatre on Mt Scopus, the site of the old Hebrew University.

We psychoanalysts in Israel have been organized in a Society with an Institute since 1933, when Max Eitington, Director of the first Psychoanalytic Institute in Berlin, founded both. You will hear about our history from Erich Gumbel. We are a group of 40 analysts—though we are a small group, the ratio of psychoanalysts is high for a population of three million and is growing rapidly, since we have 40 candidates in training. Besides the difficulties in training inherent in our numbers, there are specific functions and problems relating to the smallness, the social and the political conditions of Israel. Isolated in some ways, since our nearest colleagues are geographically far away,

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we feel increasingly a part of the international group. We share many of the problems and difficulties, as well as the achievements of other psychoanalytic groups elsewhere.

For us, in the Israel Psychoanalytic Society, this Congress is a particularly exciting occasion. The holding of the Congress here, meeting you personally and informally, gives us a sense of belonging and will stimulate our thinking and work in the times which lie ahead. Old friendships will be renewed, new ones will be made and long-lasting relationships established. We also trust that the setting up of the Sigmund Freud Chair will give an impetus to the development of psychoanalytic study and practice in Israel by granting psychoanalysis a formal status in the academic society. I am convinced that the incumbent to the Chair, whoever he or she will be, will, as an outstanding member of the international psychoanalytic community, work together with our Society to advance psychoanalytic thinking in Israel and, hopefully, beyond its borders.

In welcoming you, I would like to acknowledge those who could not make their way to this Congress for various reasons. I am thinking particularly of those who did not come because of their expectation that the climate would be too hot—'weatherwise' or politically. Nevertheless, I can tell you that there are about 1500 of us attending this Congress today, about as many as at the last Congress in London.

The theme of our Congress is 'Affects and the psychoanalytic situation'. It is a topic with which all of us are concerned every working day of the week. It is a topic especially appropriate to be discussed in Jerusalem, a city which arouses strong affects, as some of you will already have found out, and others will find out during their stay in the city and in this country. This brings me to a wish with which I should like to end my welcome. All of us have formed affect-laden inner images of Jerusalem, derived either from history or religion, originating in early childhood and maintained within us. Inevitably, we are also exposed to present-day external images of Jerusalem, presented daily by the news media: conflicting images of a Jerusalem which produce conflicting affects in us; a Jerusalem of war, a Jerusalem of peace; a city sheltering survivors, a city occupied by conquerors. I trust that the direct personal experience of being in Jerusalem, and of our personal exchanges, filtered through psychoanalytic insight and awareness, enhanced by a deeper understanding of affects, will help us all to achieve a more harmonious integration of the old and the new, the inner and the outer images we all hold of Jerusalem. And Jerusalem is of course a symbol for each of us.

I wish you all a good Congress.

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