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H.E. President of Latvia's address in unveiling the rebuilt synagogue in Daugavpils on 11.04.2006.

Dear representatives of Jewish community in Latvia,

Rubby,

Dear Mayor of the city of Daugavpils,

Dear Ambassador of the United States,

Guests,

Dear family of Mark Rothko,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are participating in a significant historical occasion that will go down in the history books of this city and of our country - for the first time since World War II a synagogue has been rebuilt here in Latvia and we see how the people, the community that originally built it, what a good job they have done giving the beautiful proportions and making it a centre of worship and the cultural life.

We are most grateful to the family of Mark Rothko for their help in bringing this beautiful building back to life again and it is fitting that it should happen on the Eve of Passover, the time when the ice has broken up on the Daugava River and it is floating down to the sea.

Spring is a time for renewal both physically in nature but it is also a time for spiritual renewal, a symbol of rebirth. It is my wish that this synagogue becomes a centre for the rebirth of the Jewish community here in Daugavpils, that it serves not only as a place of worship but also for social and cultural activities, for extending peoples' knowledge about their heritage and of the country in which they live.

I wish blessings to all who come here to pray in this synagogue, for their families and their descendents, I wish that they find an inspiration here in these walls for devoting their lives to what all of us deeply deserve in our own hearts – to worship the God in way our traditions require and which our conscience has chosen to do it, to live lives as free citizens in freedom and liberty in a civilised democratic society and to use all our talents to the best of our abilities, some unique talents that will conquer the world and whose names will remain as part of the world heritage and history and others who within their own domain in their own lives have significant contributions to make.

May all who worship here achieve their potential and may they and their descendents contribute to continuing making life happy and prosperous for themselves, for the city of Daugavpils, for the country of Latvia and for the whole world.