



**ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES
CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF**

May 2007

Mr. Harold Simon
World Machal, Chairman
32 Ben Yehuda Street,
Tel-Aviv 63805
Israel

Dear Mr. Harold Simon,

Allow me to send my sincere gratitude for your warm greetings on the account of my appointment as the Chief of the General Staff of the IDF.

Israel is a strong, independent country with a great variety of population. However, we started as refugees combined together from all around the world, facing endless difficulties ahead. The help given by the Machal volunteers at that time helped the pioneers to strengthen Israel and make it into the beautiful, successful country it is today. Therefore we owe great deal of Israel's success to Machal and its volunteers.

Machal and its volunteers were also among the founders and early trainers of the IDF and as the 19th Chief of the General Staff I never allow myself to forget who were the people who made it all happen.

As for the event celebrating Israel's 60 years of independence, I will appreciate it if you can keep me posted about the details of the event, I truly hope that my schedule will allow my presence. Once again, thank you for your greetings.

Sincerely yours,

Gaby Ashkenazi, Lt. General
Chief of the General Staff