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April 3, 1936.

To His Excellency Franklin Delano Roosevelt,
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

In recognition of the wise and humane manner in which you have presided over the affairs of our country and more especially because of your services in behalf of general education, Yeshiva College wishes to confer on you the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters at its next commencement on June 16th, or at a special convocation on a date suitable to you.

Our commencement this June will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the oldest home of higher Jewish learning in America. Yeshiva College, chartered by the State of New York, had its beginnings in 1886 in the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. This now includes, besides the theological seminary, a normal school, a department of advanced Jewish and Semitic studies leading to the degree of Doctor of Hebrew Literature, and a college of liberal arts and sciences. It is the only institution under Jewish auspices in the United States empowered to grant the baccalaureate degrees.

Yeshiva College is devoted to the age-old faith and idealism of Judaism in harmony with the currents of creative culture of our own age. The ideals of the Bible were deep in the hearts of those that built this land, where the Jews of the modern world have found their chief haven against illiberal prejudice and medieval oppression. It is our reasonable hope that the enlightened study of the ideals of historic Judaism to which Yeshiva and Yeshiva College are devoted, will contribute to the spiritual enrichment of our beloved country.

In our plans for the golden jubilee celebration of Yeshiva College many National Jewish organizations are joining, and congregations throughout the country are setting aside days of devotion to the work and ideals of our historic institution. Your own deep interest in the problems of education and your sensitiveness to spiritual values will make you recognize the significance of this anniversary to the Jewish citizens of the United States. Governor Lehman, Justice Cardozo, and Professor Einstein have recently come to receive at our hands the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

To His Excellency Franklin Delano Roosevelt:

Should you come to accept this honorary degree from us, not only would the millions of Jews throughout our country feel deeply honored and vitally encouraged, but the world at large in its present state would greatly profit by this expression of America's continued devotion to its old ideal of liberal enlightenment and equal opportunity to all.

If our request proves a feasible one for you to grant, a committee will be glad to wait upon you to make such arrangements as will facilitate your coming.

Sincerely and respectfully yours,

Bernard Revel,
President.

BR:LP