

**Address of the Ambassador Gianluigi Benedetti
on the occasion of the delivery of the decoration of “Cavaliere dell’Ordine
della Stella d’Italia” to Ariel David
Residence of the Ambassador – May 29, 2019**

Dear guests and friends,

tonight, on the occasion of the celebrations of the Italian National Day, I also have the pleasure to deliver to Ariel David the decoration of “Cavaliere dell’Ordine della Stella d’Italia” that the President of the Republic, Sergio Mattarella, bestowed upon him.

As all of you well know, Ariel is a highly appreciated Italian journalist, who along his career has worked for leading Italian newspapers, such as La Stampa and Il Foglio, as well as prestigious international publications, namely the New York Times and Haaretz.

Another relevant realm where Ariel has distinguished himself is of course the Dan David Foundation. As a Director, he has been constantly supervising its several philanthropic activities; as a board member of the Dan David Prize, the renowned international award, he has contributed to highlight the remarkable contributions to sciences and human knowledge of many outstanding personalities all over the world. Among them – I am proud to recall – there have also been Italian citizens, among which I must remember the President Emeritus, Giorgio Napolitano, who in 2010 was awarded the Prize for his dedication to the cause of parliamentary democracy.

Thanks to his activities both as a journalist and within the Foundation, Ariel’s ties with the Italian Embassy to Israel and more generally with Italy have become stronger and stronger. From this perspective, he has given a fruitful contribution to build even more bridges between our two Countries; without any doubt, the Foundation and its prestigious Prize have represented invaluable instruments to promote the Italian excellence in Arts and Sciences.

To conclude, let me congratulate you, Ariel, on the decoration you well deserved and wish you all the best!

Thank you.