



República de Cabo Verde

PRIMEIRO MINISTRO

Praia, October 31, 2007

Dear Ms. Castiel,

The Government of Cape Verde endorses the objectives and goals of the Cape Verde Jewish Heritage Project, Inc. to preserve, document, and honor the memory of the numerous Sephardic Jewish settlers who immigrated to our country primarily from Morocco and Gibraltar in the late 19th century. We believe that it is vitally important for this little-known but significant chapter in our history to be told. At the same time, we feel that the work of the Project can have a significant cultural and economic impact for the Republic of Cape Verde, particularly by encouraging religious tourism.

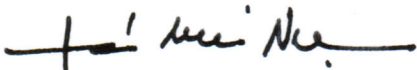
We fully support your efforts to restore, beautify and maintain the many small Jewish cemeteries that dot the archipelago. We also back your ongoing work of documenting the Jewish presence in Cape Verde through archival research and interviews with descendants and friends, which will culminate in a book and a pamphlet, both of which will be helpful in preserving this chapter in history and in educating visitors to the islands.

We appreciate the fact that you are working in partnership with AMICAEL, "The Friends of Cape Verde and Israel Association" based in the capital Praia. We acknowledge and appreciate your close collaboration with the descendants of the Jewish families, whether in Cape Verde, Portugal or the United States, many of whom have willingly shared their memories and have pledged financial and technical assistance toward the restoration and preservation of the cemeteries.

Carol Castiel, President
Cape Verde Jewish Heritage Project, Inc.
400 Massachusetts Ave, NW Suite 812
Washington, DC 20001

We look forward to working with you and your local Cape Verdean counterparts in the months ahead to ensure the success of the Cape Verde Jewish Heritage Project, Inc. We welcome you in Cape Verde and will be glad to facilitate your in-country work regarding all aspects of the Project from cemetery restoration to Jewish Heritage tourism.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "José Maria Neves". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

José Maria Neves
Prime Minister
Head of Government