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Telegram of condolences for the death of former Israeli president Shimon Peres

The Holy Father has sent a telegram of condolences to President Reuven Rivlin of the State of Israel for the death of former president Shimon Peres, who died today at the age of 93.

The Pope expresses his deep sorrow at learning of the death of Mr. Peres, and conveys his heartfelt condolences to President Rivlin and all the people of Israel, fondly recalling time spent with the late president in the Vatican and praising his tireless efforts in favour of peace. "As the State of Israel mourns Mr. Peres, I hope that his memory and many years of service will inspire us all to work with ever greater urgency for peace and reconciliation between peoples. In this way, his legacy will truly be honoured and the common good for which he so diligently laboured will find new expressions, as humanity strives to advance on the path towards enduring peace".

He concludes by assuring his prayers for all who grieve, especially for the Peres family, and invokes the divine blessings of consolation and strength upon the nation.