



Ankara , February 19, 2013

Dear Mr. Ponce de Leon

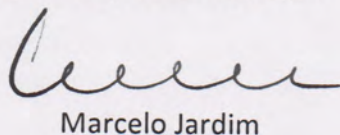
I read with great interest your letter of February 5, 2013 through which you presented the basic lines for the project of a Television Documentary production on the role played by the Sephardic Jewish communities in some countries .

I found the initiative highly relevant , once it is well known how those communities have so positively contributed to the progress and for the wealth – both intellectual and material - of the nations who received them as early as the late 15<sup>th</sup> and throughout the 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

Brazil is a clear example of that pattern as still as colony she received a large number of Sephardic Jews who emigrated from Portugal , Spain and already on the 16 Century , from The Netherlands . The Sephardic presence large in numbers especially in the North-Eastern parts of Brazil founded settlements , incentivated the agriculture , established schools and in a few years transformed the region in one of the most affluent colonies in the Western Hemisphere making Pernanbuco the largest producer and exporter of sugar as a result of the advanced techniques brought from Europe and adapted to the soil and climate conditions of the land .

It is also important to remark that the first Synagogue in the Americas was built by the prosperous and hard-working Sephardic community of Recife . As it is relevant to stress the vital role played by the Sephardic Jews in fostering the progress and the cultural and economical level of life the early stages of Brazil .

That is why I welcome your timely initiative of producing a first class TV documentary that will enable such a vital period of the History of Brazil to be better known by thousands and hopefully millions of viewers who will have the opportunity to see the documentary in my country and also in many other nations .

  
Marcelo Jardim

Ambassador of Brazil to the Republic of Turkey

