

**His Excellency Yitzhak Rabin
Prime Minister and Minister of Defence
of the State of Israel**

Yitzhak Rabin was born in Jerusalem in 1922. He studied at the Kadoorie Agricultural College, where he graduated with distinction.

His military career began in 1940 when he joined the "Palmach," the elite unit of the Haganah. During the War of Independence (1948-49), he commanded the Harel Brigade, deployed on the Jerusalem front. For the next 20 years, he served with the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) as Officer in Command at the Northern Command (1956-59), as Chief of Operations and Deputy Chief of Staff (1959-64); and as Chief of Staff (1964-68), commanding the IDF during the Six-Day War in 1967.

On January 1, 1968, Mr. Rabin retired from military service and shortly afterwards, was appointed Ambassador to the United States. During his years in Washington, he promoted and consolidated the ties between the two countries.

In the spring of 1973, Mr. Rabin returned to Israel and became active in the Labour Party. He was elected Member of the Knesset in December 1973, and when Mrs. Golda Meir formed her government in April 1974, was appointed Minister of Labour.

On June 2, 1974, he became Prime Minister when the Knesset expressed confidence in a new government that he had been asked to form.

During Mr. Rabin's premiership, the Government placed special emphasis on strengthening the economy, solving social problems and reinforcing the IDF.

With U.S. mediation, disengagement agreements were signed with Egypt and Syria in 1974, followed by an interim agreement with Egypt in 1975. Later that year, the first Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the governments of Israel and the United States.

In June 1976, Mr. Rabin's government issued the order for "Operation Entebbe," liberating the passengers of a hijacked Air France flight.