

Dr. David Kimche, 1928–2010

Moshe Yegar

Moshe Yegar is a forty-year veteran of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Among his postings, he served as ambassador to Sweden (1988–90). Dr. Yegar is the author of Neutral Policy—Theory versus Practice: Swedish–Israeli Relations (1995). Following his retirement in 1995, he has served as a lecturer on Islam in Southeast Asia at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

On March 8, 2010, Dr. David (Dave) Kimche, president of the Israel Council on Foreign Relations and publisher of the *Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs*, passed away.

David Kimche was born to a Zionist family in London in 1928, the youngest son of nine children. During his high school studies, he was a member of the Habonim Zionist youth movement.

In 1946, Dave settled in the Land of Israel and began studying agriculture at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In 1947, he joined the Hagana. During the War of Independence, he fought in the battle for Jerusalem and the Judean Hills and was wounded. Shortly after the establishment of the State of Israel, Dave was demobilized from the fledgling army and resumed his studies at the Hebrew University. However, this time, he decided to study contemporary Middle Eastern affairs, sociology, and political science. He received his MA in 1955, and completed his doctorate in 1969. Dave was considered an outstanding student and could have easily pursued an academic career at the Institute for Oriental Studies.

In the 1950s, Dave joined the Mossad and served in various high-ranking positions, eventually becoming the deputy head of the organization. In 1979, after thirty years of devoted service, he retired from the Mossad. Shortly thereafter, then-Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir asked him to serve as the director-general of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Dave held that position from mid-1980 until 1987 and was considered one of the finest directors in the history of the ministry. During those years, one of Dave's main concerns was the issue of morality in foreign affairs, and he wrote an important paper on the subject. Upon retiring from this position, Dave was appointed a roving ambassador and often assisted the Foreign Ministry in its work.

In 1989, Dave founded the Israel Council on Foreign Relations and served as its president until his death. He was a member of the board of governors and a trustee of the Hebrew University, as well as a trustee of that university's Truman Institute and Davis Institute for International Relations. He also took part in founding the International Alliance for Israeli–Arab Peace (The Copenhagen Group), where he served as the head of the Israeli delegation and was involved in peace talks with the Palestinians.

Dave remained engaged in academic research and was the author of several books, some of which were translated into other languages. These included *The Secret Roads* (1954), written with his late brother Jon Kimche; *Both Sides of the Hill* (1960), also written with Jon Kimche; *Sandstorm* (1968), written with Dan Bavli; *The Afro-Asian Movement: Ideology and Foreign Policy in the Third World* (1973); and *The Last Option* (1991).

The Israel Council of Foreign Relations has lost an inspiring leader, and many of us in Israel and abroad have lost a true and loyal friend. His family has lost a much beloved and devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Translated from the Hebrew by Ayal Levin