



**AHARON
YARIV**

1920 - 1994

Maj. Gen Aharon Yariv, founded JCSS in 1977, and served as its first head for more than sixteen years.

Following are excerpts from eulogies delivered at his graveside, and published in the media. (Monday, May 9, 1994)

ITZHAK RABIN - Prime Minister of Israel

Today we say farewell to an officer and a gentleman. Today we part from Aharon Yariv, from Aharele, from a longtime friend. . . . a commander whose thoroughness and professionalism characterized the IDF for a generation, a man bereft of pretentiousness; who always spoke in question marks, never exclamation points, who always researched, asked, inquired, never banged on the table, and never saw himself as the final arbiter. I am parting today, personally, from one of the best people who were at my side on the eve of the Six-Day War: the intelligence that Arale supplied me as Chief of Staff, to IDF commanders and their troops, was perfect, one of the central components of our victory. . . Today, for the last time, we tell him: thanks. Thanks in the name of the soldiers. Thanks in the name of the mothers. Thanks in the name of the citizens of Israel.

(spoken at the graveside)

MEIR AMIT - Former Head of IDF Intelligence & Former Head of the Mosaad

A man like you, for whom modesty was a way of life, would not want to be eulogized with fancy words. So, Arale, we'll speak softly, and with reservation, the way you liked it...Most of the stories of your accomplishments never reached the headlines; only the tip of the iceberg can be seen above the waterline. You were...the right man in the right place. Not only personal integrity and intellectual prowess, endless patience and brilliant oration, but also very human. Warm and friendly to those around you. I always envied your capacity to establish close relationships with those around you quickly, and with a unique friendliness. You became an elder statesman. Everyone came to you for counsel. We promise you to do all in our capacity that here, at this place, your torah will be studied and passed on from generation to generation.

(spoken at funeral service, Intelligence Community Memorial, Ramat HaSharon)

ITAMAR RABINOVICH - Israel's Ambassador to Washington

In our childhood we didn't think of it that way, but...in the early hours after hearing of his death, it emerged that Uncle Arale embodied for us, my sister and me, Israeli-ness. Our father was the older brother, who kept the name Rabinovich, spoke Hebrew with a slight Russian accent, and carried with him the world that was Riga, Berlin and Moscow of the '20s and '30s. Arale was "Young Prince Charming," always alert and energetic, who brought with him the Pardes Hanna Agricultural School, the British Army and the IDF, and the Hebraicized name Yariv... I look back at his long and illustrious career: Outstanding Trainee in the British Army Officers' Course, an officer in the Jewish Brigade, the Hagana and the IDF, establishing the IDF Command College, Chief of IDF Intelligence for nine years, the km. 101 talks with Gamasi, Minister of Information, establishing and leading the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University. The foundation of these achievements was a list of attributes that gave these formal facts their full significance... that mysterious conglomeration that is called in English greatness--and cannot easily be translated into Hebrew.

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FIELDMARSHAL ABD AL GHANI GAMASI - Egyptian Army Chief of Staff in 1973

He was one of the most intelligent IDF generals I have ever met. A man who fought on the battlefield for his people, and fought in negotiations for peace. His departure is a great loss for us all.

(Ma'ariv, May 9, 1994)