

Chaim Weizmann – The First President

Selected Documents (1874-1952)

The first book in the series, published in 1995, presents 148 documents about Israel's first president. Chaim Weizmann began his career as an ambitious young man from a humble Jewish family in Tsarist Russia. He rose



to be a famous scientist and statesman who commanded respect among world leaders by the strength of his belief in the future of the Jewish people in their own land and the force of his personality, even before the establishment of the Jewish State. In recognition of his achievements on behalf of the Zionist movement, in February 1949 he was elected as president of Israel.

In Hebrew only.

Editor: Louise Fischer

David Ben-Gurion – The First Prime Minister

Selected Documents (1947-1963)

This volume covers the period of office of David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister. It deals with the period of the War of Independence and the early years of the state, when political and social institutions were taking shape and hundreds of thousands of newly arrived immigrants had to be absorbed. Overcoming



great difficulties and in the face of fierce opposition, Ben-Gurion made his mark in all these fields and passed on to his successors an impressive political legacy. The reader will discover the multi-faceted personality of a leader who never lost sight of his lofty vision in all his actions, from the establishment of the Israel Defence Force, through the Sinai Campaign of 1956, to his disputes with coalition partners.

In Hebrew only. Includes 168 documents with historical notes

Editor: Eli Shaltiel

Izhak Ben-Zvi – The Second President

Selected Documents (1884-1963)

A selection of 185 documents from diaries, letters and speeches which present a picture of the life of a pioneer leader in the labour movement and the Jewish settlement in Palestine from the Second Aliya before



the First World War, through the British mandate period up to the establishment of the State of Israel. Izhak Ben-Zvi served as president between 1952 and 1963. During his long period of office he shaped and developed the institution of the presidency. Known for his warm heart, he and his wife opened their simple home in Jerusalem to all, especially ordinary people and members of minority groups. He was also an active researcher into the past and present of the land of Israel and of Jewish communities in many corners of the Orient.

In Hebrew only.

Editor: Hagai Tsoref

Levi Eshkol – The Third Prime Minister

Selected Documents (1895-1969)

A selection of 200 documents, focusing on the activity of Levi Eshkol from his arrival in Palestine in 1914 during the Second Aliya until his period of office as prime minister from 1963 until 1969. The documents illustrate his unique contribution to the economic development of the Jewish settlement in Palestine and



the young State of Israel, and his ideas on political and defence issues before, during and after the Six Day War of June 1967. As prime minister, Eshkol developed a more flexible style of leadership which helped to moderate internal conflicts; he also improved the status of the Arab citizens of Israel.

In Hebrew only.

Editors: Arnon Lammfromm and Hagai Tsoref

About the Series

This series is published by the Israel State Archives in accordance with the Law for the Commemoration of the Presidents and Prime Ministers of Israel - 1986. A volume is devoted to each of the presidents and prime ministers of Israel, presenting a selection of their documents and speeches. The documents are chosen from a collection of thousands in order to illustrate the social and political activity of these figures and to show their fields of interest and their views on political, social and cultural subjects. They also give a picture of their private lives. The documents are accompanied by historical and biographical notes and illustrations showing the life and times of the subject of the volume.

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