

More on the Prime Ministers by Yehuda Avner

I received a request for greater specificity as to the scope of my presentation of the Prime Ministers, and consequently, what portions of the book should receive closer attention. I have therefore listed some topics that I intend to discuss, with page references to them. However, I should emphasize that how closely you read the text, including portions that I have not specified, must depend on your prior knowledge of the history and your personal interest in the particular subject. Don't worry. There will *not* be a quiz.

The author's note, p. xi gives an advance peek at how he wants to tell his story and is recommended. Likewise, his list of principal characters not only identifies the individuals, but gives a thumbnail description and the author's general view of that person.

Pages 5 through 108 cover Avner's formative years, his sojourn in Israel, from his arrival on the eve of independence, his participation in the struggle to secure it, his membership in the garin that founded Kibbutz Lavi, his recall to the U. K. by B'nai Akiva in the summer of 1949, his return to Israel with his bride in 1953 and his joining the Israel Foreign Ministry, which led to his being "lent" to the Prime Minister's Office. I found it valuable as giving insights about the author and the events of those times; some of which I thought quite moving.

With regard to the four prime ministers whom Avner served, I intend to focus as follows:

Levi Eshkol, the Six Day War and its aftermath (135, et seq.); Golda Meir, the Yom Kippur War (225-56); Yitzhak Rabin, international diplomacy (259, et seq.) and Entebbe (303-19). The section on Menachem Begin begins at 341. I will discuss his relationship with Anwar Sadat and the Egyptian peace treaty; the destruction of the Iraqi nuclear reactor and the war in Lebanon and its aftermath.

Robert