GLOSSARY

Aliyah: Term translated literally as ‘ascent’ and used to describe any Jewish migration to Israel. The first aliya of Jewish immigration to Palestine began in 1882 and continued till 1903, the second from 1904-1914, the third from 1919-1923, and the fourth from 1924-1931.

Eretz Israel: ‘The land of Israel.’ A term originally of spiritual significance, it has increasingly been used to describe Jewish sovereignty over the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Hagannah: The main military arm of the pre-state yishuv.

Irgun: A pre-state guerilla organization and the military wing of the Revisionist Zionist Movement. Led by Menachem Begin, it employed terrorist methods to drive the British out of Palestine. It was forced to amalgamate with the Hagannah in 1948 to form the Israel Defence Forces.

Kibbutz: (pl. kibbutzim) Collective Jewish agricultural settlements where, traditionally, no private wealth existed.

Moshav: (pl. moshavim) Collective Jewish farm settlement, but one which combines both co-operative and private farming.

Palmach: Permanently mobilized Jewish strike forces established by the Hagannah in 1941.

Yishuv: Used as a generic term to describe the Jewish community in Palestine between 1917 and 1948.

Sabra: Term used to refer to Israelis born in, and thus native to, Israel.
Ashkakenazi: Term used to refer to Jews whose ethnic origins are to be found in the states of Europe.

Sephardim: Term used to describe those Jews who came to Israel from North Africa, and in particular Morocco. It is also used to describe Jews whose ethnic origins are to be found in the states of the Middle East and North Africa.