Arad slams former security chiefs for appearing in ‘The Gatekeepers’

‘In no other democracy would six heads of the security services lend themselves to be quoted and blame their government,’ says former national security adviser during Herzliya Conference interview yesterday

*BY HERB KEINON

Uri Arad, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu’s former national security adviser and a 25-year veteran of the Mossad, is among those Israeli officials obviously pleased that The Gatekeepers did not win an Academy Award last month.

“arad said he could not imagine six former heads of the PNI or MI5 linking up to bash their countries’ policies. “This is heredity (anarchy),” he said, “a lack of respect. It shows a lack of professionalism. The head of the secret service has to know to keep his mouth shut, both during and after his service. If he cannot, he is no professional and has betrayed his profession.”

Arad added that the “prevailing feeling” the documentary left within the ranks of Israel’s intelligence community was “one of betrayal and contempt.”

The willingness of the six – Ami Ayalon, Avi Dichter, Yuval Diskin, Carmi Gillon, Yaakov Peri and Avraham Shalom – to take part in the documentary “shows a very low sensitivity to democratic norms.” Arad said, rejecting the idea that the men felt it was imperative for them to go public with their criticism.

He asked how they would have reacted had their deputies gone on film with a litany of complaints against them.

“Of course they would have objected,” he said. “In fact, they would have taken disciplinary action. So why did they take the liberty?”

arad – placing the documentary in the same category with the Harpaz Affair, which has entangled Defense Minister Ehud Barak and former chief of general staff Gabi Ashkenazi – said this type of behavior happens when “society loses its restraint and its norms, when it loses adherence to principles and to what the British call ‘things that are just not done.’”

The full interview with Arad will appear in Friday’s Post.