

Supervision Organization to observe the truce during that six week period. He went out there and he was given staff and everything. Bernadotte was the mediator. Saleh Mahmoud and I had been kicked off UNSCOP. But when Bernadotte made his headquarters at Rhodes we all got telegrams, Mahmoud, Epstein, Vigier, "Come to Rhodes to work on the Partition Plan." I remember asking, "How come they want us now when they kicked us off then?" They said very plainly that our job now was to implement the Partition Plan and the mediation effort and the truce. Now they needed our expertise to implement both Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

JK: So, you went to Rhodes during the time that Bernadotte was there?

Epstein: Yes, I was the senior Jewish UN officer. And Mahmoud was stationed in Cairo as a liaison because he was an Egyptian. Vigier was in Israel. He was the senior political officer in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. John Reidman was an economist. He became an important advisor to Ralph Bunche on the mediator staff. I'll never forget the night that Bernadotte was assassinated.

JK: Explain what happened.

Epstein: I was in Rhodes with my wife. We heard the news that Bernadotte was assassinated outside of Tel Aviv. He was in his car. There was General Saroul, a Frenchman, and somebody else in the car. Bunche was supposed to go with him on that