

things lasted for a long, long time. The Truce Supervision took care of the military and the border questions and the Palestine Conciliation Commission was somehow supposed to work out a conciliation between the Jews and the Arab states.

The Arab states always refused to recognize Israel. They always wanted to go through a mediator or the Secretary-General's representative or something like that, thereafter.

The refugee side was taken care of by UNRWA. The situation was more-or-less stabilized. Bunche got the Nobel Peace Prize and in 1949 Israel was admitted into the United Nations. The situation was stabilized.

In 1949, after reaching the Truce Supervision Agreements and the agreements between Israel and its four neighbors, there was really hope that this thing was on track for some kind of a solution.

JK: On a permanent basis.

Epstein: Israel was now a member of the UN. The military situation was taken care of by the four Truce Supervision Organizations. You had the refugee problem taken care of by the UNRWA and you had the Conciliation Commission set up which was supposed to set up negotiations with the Arabs and the Israelis to set up some kind of a peace settlement. But the Arabs just plain refused to recognize the existence of Israel. They wouldn't budge on that. For a year or two things were fairly quiet but, then they started up again and