

United States completely dominated the thing. There was a difference between them and the British over the Palestine issue but in general the Western powers all went along. The Cold War got colder and the Russians took over Czechoslovakia in 1948. This all happened in '48. I think Nazarik committed suicide. He was a strong supporter of the Jewish State as were the Russians at that time. So, Dean Rusk said, "No, we're not going to agree to that. This would go on forever. We would be buying into something that will go on forever." Bunche said, "No, this will just be a temporary thing to tide the people over for a year or so until the whole problem is solved."

JK You are referring to the refugee problem.

Epstein: Yes. Dean Rusk said, "I'm not sure this is going to be a temporary thing. I think we would be buying a pig in a poke that is going to last for years." Finally Bunche persuaded him, saying that the US was the one that pushed through the Partition Resolution and supported the mediation effort that resulted in this terrible problem of the refugees. They had a moral responsibility and it was a politically wise thing to do to help these refugees. Otherwise, it could be a big problem. Finally, he persuaded Dean Rusk and the Americans to go along and support a resolution to establish this works agency. And it is still going on to this day.