

CONTEXT



CONTEXTE

THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE AND CANADIAN SUPPORT FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST: A CHRONOLOGY

1947

April

Britain announces its intention to end its Mandate for Palestine (established under the former League of Nations) by August 1948. The United Nations takes up the problem.

Canada's Mr. Justice Ivan Rand participates in the UN Special Committee of Observation on Palestine (UNSCOP), which recommends a plan for a partition of mandatory Palestine into two states, one Arab and one Jewish, with economic union and with Jerusalem as an international zone administered by the UN. The plan is welcomed by Jews of Palestine but opposed by Arabs.

November

Canada votes in favour of UN General Assembly Resolution 181, approving a plan for partition of Palestine.

1948

May

The State of Israel is declared by a provisional government on May 15 amidst what would become the first Arab-Israeli War.

December

Canada grants de facto recognition to Israel.

1949

May

Canada votes in favour of admitting Israel as a member to the UN.

October

Canada's Major-General Howard Kennady is the first Commissioner General of the newly established UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

1954-56

Canada's Major-General E.L.M. Burns heads the UN Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO), which had been established in 1948 "to observe and maintain the cease-fire and to assist in the supervision and observance of the General Armistice Agreement concluded between Israel and Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria." (Canada currently provides 13 observers to UNTSO.)