

Therefore, while agreeing that this matter should go to the special committee, I hope that that committee, when it begins its work, will keep these considerations in mind and relate its consideration of this matter to what is going on in the First Committee and, ultimately, in the Assembly on this question of Palestine.

Text of Mr. Riddell's Speech, December 17, 1948.

Mr. President,

The Canadian delegation realizes that the United Nations has placed certain obligations and responsibilities on the Provisional Government of Israel and it is not unreasonable that this Government should request the privileges and advantages of membership in the United Nations. We should like to give immediate consideration to this request but, in the circumstances surrounding the termination of the session of the General Assembly in Paris, we have found it more difficult than we expected to give this application the careful consideration which we find to be necessary. I shall give one example of the kind of problem that has arisen for us.

In the course of the discussions which have taken place here and in the Committee on Membership concerning the application of Israel for membership in the United Nations, the boundaries of the area under the control of the Israeli authorities have been mentioned on a number of occasions. The Canadian delegation does not think it necessary to delay action on the Israeli application until boundaries have been finally established. The question of boundaries, however, has been raised in a manner which we think requires reflection.

If I understand correctly the remarks which have been made on this aspect of the question by the representatives of the U.S.S.R. and of the Ukraine, these representatives regard the Assembly resolution of November 29th as definitive and binding in every regard, including boundaries. In his statement before the Security Council on Wednesday last, the representative of the U.S.S.R. said:

"In our opinion, the territory of the State of Israel has been determined and delimited by an international instrument, that is, the resolution of the General Assembly of 29th November, 1947, which has not been revoked by anybody, and which remains in force. Not only does that resolution delimit the territory and boundaries of the State of Israel, but the resolution has a map appended to it, which can be consulted at any moment by any member of the Security Council or by anybody else. Thus, this question is undubitable."

I am not sure, however, what the representative of the U.S.S.R. intends in regard to boundaries. In his statement on Wednesday, to which I have already referred, he used the word "enforcement" in relation to these boundaries. He may, therefore, believe that the Security Council should take action to make sure that the Israeli authorities withdraw from all areas which are not assigned to them by the November 29th resolution and that, without reference to the realities of the situation in Palestine, the Security Council should also adopt measures to bring an Arab State into existence, by force if necessary, to take over the territories not assigned to the Jewish State under the November 29th resolution. It would be logical to assume also, that he considers that the Security Council should take the necessary steps to enforce economic union and all the other details of the November 29th resolution.

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