

effect, permitted to take over the West Bank. It was like leaving the keys in the door. But that comes a little bit later.

JK: The commission favored partition. Was that unanimous?

Epstein: There were eleven members in UNSCOP. Eight favored partition and there was a minority report. That is all in the documents. I have all the documents at home, actually. I would have to refer to them. The majority plan was eight out of eleven. The minority plan was India, Yugoslavia, and Iran. The majority plan was Sweden Canada, Uruguay, Guatemala, and some other countries. I'll never forget two conversations that I heard. When it came to vote on the partition plan of the economic union, the French Ambassador, Parodi, wasn't 100% sure what was the best thing to do. Parodi asked Henri Vigier who said, "Obviously we should support the partition plan or it will continue in chaos." Then I'll never forget Herschel Johnson, American Ambassador, saying to Mike Pearson at one of our meetings, "Hell, we should tell the British they better damn well stay there until the whole matter is settled. They've got the mandate."

But they were giving up the mandate which they decided to do when the UNSCOP report came out. They were giving up the mandate and they were pulling out of Palestine. Herschel Johnson said, "How can they do that? That is abandonment of their responsibilities." I'll never forget Mike Pearson