

government of Israel.

JK: How did the establishment of the Jewish State and the US recognition of that status effect things at the United Nations?

Epstein: I have to go back to another point. There were legal questions involved. How can the General Assembly recommend that there should be a Jewish state and an Arab state? By what authority? You have to have some authority to do that. The legal experts said the Assembly can't do that. I remember the Israelis asking about that and I told them to read Article 14 of the Charter which said that they could recommend anything on any questions of peace and security. They can make recommendations, not decisions like the Security Council. The Russians said when that question was put to them, "This has nothing to do with the Charter. This is a continuation and disposal of the League of Nations mandate. The United Nations is the successor to the League of Nations and, therefore, we have the same jurisdiction to deal with their mandate as the League of Nations had." So, that legal argument was dropped. Also, under international law there was a recommendation made that there be a Jewish state and that the Jews of Palestine said, "We accept that recommendation and we are going to implement it." That made it strictly legal. It was immediately recognized within minutes by the United States and the following day by the