

specific instances, stories where the Jews and Arabs, in Haifa particularly, had good relations. The Jews went around in trucks with loudspeakers saying, "Don't leave, you'll be safe. We'll work together." But the Arab radio said to get out and flee. So, they fled. There had been a lot of fighting between the two groups. A number of nasty incidents took place. Jews were massacred in one whole village, Kfar Etzion. Arabs were massacred in retaliation by the Jews, and all kinds of things. It wasn't an easy time.

JK: Just to back up a little, the British had referred the matter to the UN, indicating that they wanted to pull out.

Epstein: They didn't want to pull out. They were asking the UN for advice on which was the best way to proceed. They were hoping that they would be asked to stay on.

JK: They did want to stay on? My impression had been that they wanted to get out.

Epstein: That was the impression they gave. After the report of UNSCOP was submitted calling for the separate states, the British said, "We will have nothing to do with it. We will leave on May 14th and let them take over. They left under such circumstances that they gave the military advantage to the Arabs. They pulled out of the Jewish areas first and the Arab areas last. That gave the Arabs the advantage in the fighting. The Jordanians and the Arab legion were organized and operating under the British in the West Bank and were, in