

But the work went on and the Assembly went on. At the same time the Security Council was meeting.

JK: So, the General Assembly and the Security Council were meeting in Paris at that time.

Epstein: Yes, in the fall of 1948 the Assembly session was there and the Security Council met there, too.

There were some beleaguered, cut off Jewish settlements south of Faluja. The Egyptians had established control of the Gaza Strip up to Faluja and there were a few isolated settlements south of that. Paul Moan, a Swede, had been left behind by Bunche as the senior officer there. The Israelis had come to him and said, "Look, we are not going to let these settlements starve. We need permission from the Egyptians to get through and bring them food and water. It was understood that we would be able to do this during the period of the truce. If we don't get the permission, we're going in ourselves anyway." Paul wrote a letter to the Egyptians at that time saying that they should allow them to go through and if they didn't he would authorize them to go ahead anyway. And he did. There was a hell of a row about that. Since Paul Moan was the representative on the spot. He authorized them to go but, nothing came of it.

JK: So, the Egyptians did not let the Israelis through?

Epstein: Right and Paul authorized them to go ahead so, they broke their way through. The Egyptians complained that this