

the British point of view. The British had the mandate over Palestine at that time continuing from the League of Nations.

They had referred the question to the UN and we had a special session on this, the First Special Session.

JK: That was about in April of 1947.

Epstein: Right, early in '47.

JK: Would those papers be in the Archives?

Epstein: They should be. I did a paper that concluded that there was a terrible gap in the conflicting positions. The British had promised everything to everybody. They had promised a Jewish national home for the Jews in the Balfour Declaration. Then they had promised the Arabs something, also. Weizmann in 1917 or so had signed a document with Feisal, who later became king of Iraq that stated that Palestine should be both a Jewish national home or state and an Arab state. He signed that as long as there is this Arab state we will support the idea of the Jewish state. When the mandate started under the League of Nations it covered both banks of the Jordan River. The West Bank, as they call it now, and the East Bank which was Jordan. Then in 1922 when Churchill was Colonial Minister, they cut off Jordan which was then called Transjordan. The Emir Abdullah who was the grandfather or great grandfather of King Hussein was there and Palestine was put under a new League mandate which had the purpose of establishing a Jewish national home while