

1948.

Epstein: That's it. They had called for a truce. They set up the Truce Supervision Organization shortly following that. Before May 14, they were debating this thing and the Arabs were making long speeches and the pro-Israelis were making long speeches. There was a fellow by the name of Sayre, an American Ambassador at the time. All of a sudden there was a hush that came over the hall and people were going outside. There was a tremendous hubbub outside. Finally, an Arab spokesman went up (it may have been Fawzi of Egypt) and spoke, "We hear that there has been news that has come out that the United States government at six pm (or whatever time) tonight recognized the provisional government of Israel." The Israelis had created a provisional government on the day before the 14th because the 14th was a Saturday and was a Jewish holiday. So, the day before they declared the establishment of the Jewish state, implementing the Partition Plan, A pressman came to me with a wire service statement, "Tel Aviv, State of Israel: declaration of the establishment of the Jewish State." And a few minutes later everybody went out of the hall. Then Fawzi went to the podium saying, "We want to get government information. We hear from the press that not only has there been the establishment of the Jewish State, but that the American government has officially recognized the provisional