

Epstein: They accepted it completely, no question about that.

They took an active role in adjusting the boundaries that had been recommended by UNSCOP. That was one of jobs that had to be done, that of adjusting and finalizing the boundaries. That was the main problem to be dealt with and you had to create a statute for Jerusalem as an international city. And you had to create the provisions for the economic union. The Arabs refused to cooperate. Herbert Evans of Australia who was President of the General Assembly tried to carry on discussions with the Arabs and got nowhere. The work was done in a subcommittee on how to solve these difficult problems, for example, where would the airport be. Under the plan put forward by UNSCOP the airport had been just inside the Arab state. But it was used mainly by the Jews and by the British. I remember at one meeting Tsarapkin of the Soviet Union insisted that it was used by the Jews and the British and other outsiders and not by the Arabs, so it should go in the Jewish state and the boundary should be moved over just a little bit.

Then there was the whole question of Jaffa. That was an Arab city in the Jewish state. That was settled automatically later on because most of the Arabs fled from Palestine. Their own leaders told them to flee. They said, "We'll come back and you'll take over the whole country." The Arabs charge that they were driven out by the Jews, but I know