

establishment of direct international control over the Jerusalem area, responsibility for which the General Assembly transferred from the Conciliation Commission to the Trusteeship Council after the Conciliation Commission had expressed its own preference for a different administrative arrangement.

Ordinarily complaints of violations of armistice agreements are taken up by the Mixed Armistice Commissions, on each of which a member of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization serves as chairman. In September 1950, however, Egypt asked the Security Council to consider the recent expulsion by Israel of over 6,000 Arabs into Egyptian territory. Jordan subsequently referred to the Security Council the question of the occupation by Israel of an area east of the former Palestine boundary. Israel maintained that these complaints should have been addressed to the Mixed Armistice Commissions and itself protested Egyptian and Jordanian threats of aggressive action, Egypt's interference with shipping in the Suez Canal and Jordan's failure to work out certain detailed arrangements as agreed on April 3, 1949.

On November 17 the Security Council decided by 9 votes to 0, with 2 abstentions, to ask the parties to deal with their difficulties according to procedures established in the armistice agreements. It also urged them to get on with the settlement of issues still outstanding between them. It asked, however, for urgent consideration of the expulsions of Arabs from Israel, made certain other requests concerning future movements across boundaries or armistice demarcation lines and instructed the Chief of Staff of the Truce Supervision Organization to keep the Security Council informed of developments.

The Security Council's discussions and continuing incidents on Israel's borders lent force to the opinion expressed by the Conciliation Commission in its report of October 23, 1950, that conditions of security based on a protracted armistice were deteriorating. The Commission maintained that to achieve a positive peace Israel should do its best to counteract the dislocations caused by its own establishment and the Arabs should try to adapt their policy to the changed conditions. Since neither party had yet shown a sincere spirit of conciliation, however, United Nations bodies should be kept in the area as the best guarantee of the restoration of stability. The parties should be urged to engage in direct discussions, with United Nations assistance, to arrive at a peaceful settlement, the refugee question being given priority. Hitherto the Arabs had consented to serve with representatives of Israel on joint committees under the Conciliation Commission's chairmanship only if the principles which the joint committees were to apply in working out the details of a settlement had first been agreed through processes of conciliation or mediation. Israel, on the contrary, had opposed mediation by the Conciliation Commission. It wished to negotiate directly with representatives of separate Arab states, with or without the aid of the Conciliation Commission, whose role would be merely to extend its good offices with the parties' consent. Moreover, while the Arabs demanded that the refugee question should be settled first, Israel maintained that it could not be discussed apart from a general peace settlement.