

agreed to and their governments are supporting it and that's the way it's going to have to be." I told him that it was contrary to what we had agreed before and I doubted that it would ever be accepted by the United Nations because it was completely contrary to the division of the country under the Partition Plan. There was nobody there we could mention it to because all the press people had left. Nobody knew about this thing.

JK: Had Bunche purposely wanted to get rid of the press at that time?

Epstein: Unquestionably, he didn't want them around because that would have blown the whole story. The press would have been asking why are these men here. They were there to tell Bunche what they would agree upon. It would be to bring the British into the agreement, in effect. He didn't say that he had any instructions or had cleared it with the Secretary-General, so I assumed that he was doing this all on his own.

As mediator, I suppose he had the authority to do all that. When we got to Paris I remember telling this to Sobolev, the head of our department, and to Abe Feller the legal advisor at the time to the Secretary-General. They raised it with Trygve Lie. At one of the meetings I remember Bunche coming up to me furious saying that he wasn't going to take this sort of treatment from them. They were raising hell with him for not adhering more closely to the Assembly Resolution.