

YUN INTERVIEW

WILLIAM EPSTEIN
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INTERVIEWER, JEAN KRASNO

JK: For the record, Mr. Epstein, could you explain the role that you played at the time of the establishment of the State of Israel? During the years 1947 through 1949, where were you and what was your role?

Epstein: I was the acting chief of the Middle East section of the political division of the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs. The Palestine issue became a part of the purview of the Middle East section. We had in that section an Arab by the name of Saleh Mahmoud. He stayed a few years until about 1950 and then he went back to government and became Ambassador. He is dead now. Another man who got involved in the Palestine question was a fellow by the name of Brigadier Williams. He was an Englishman. I am a Canadian. He had been Field Marshall Montgomery's intelligence officer in the Middle East. He was in a different section in the same department. When the British referred the whole question to the United Nations in 1947, Ambassador Arkady Sobolev, who was the head of the Political and Security Council Department, asked each of us to do a paper on what the Palestine question was all about. He wanted the Arab point of view, the Jewish point of view, and