

Their military arm was the Irgun. The Stern gang did not have any solid political group. They were just a gang. That was why they called them the Stern "gang." They attributed the assassination to them. They carried on many investigations, but they never really found out who did it. The Swedes were quite testy for a long time until they carried out a deep and thorough investigation, not just a superficial one.

JK: What effect did the assassination have on the negotiations?

Epstein: I don't think it had much effect at all. Bunche was immediately appointed acting mediator. Bernadotte had approved the report before he had left on his last trip to Israel. In the report they were going to reduce the amount of territory the Israelis had in the Negev. Bernadotte was assassinated in late September. Bunche had taken over as acting mediator. I got along very well with both Bunche and Bernadotte. Bernadotte wanted an extension of the six weeks truce and he was going to the Security Council to ask for it.

I was along with him when he went to the Israelis and they said yes that they agreed to the extension. They would abide by the truce. I remember urging Bernadotte to get that down in writing before going to the Security Council. After I came, the first job I had to do was to write a report on the incidents in which the Truce Supervision Organization and Bernadotte had had to intervene and investigate. I wrote a