

Minister Fawzi of Egypt.

Epstein: And Abba Eban. I'll never forget those conversations.

Gideon Rafael was along with Eban as his senior advisor. Eban was Israel's Ambassador to Washington and to the United Nations. Rafael was along during one of the discussions between Eban and Dag Hammarskjöld. He told me afterwards, "You know, Bill, it was a terrible meeting. Neither one could get a word in edgewise because the other was talking all the time." They were both eloquent speakers. They both had a great capability with the use of the English language.

JK: You are talking about the conversation between Eban and Hammarskjöld?

Epstein: Yes, and actually I was told by some people at the time. Eban was a scholar and his Hebrew was better than that of the Israelis and his Arabic was better than that of the Arabs. His Arabic was classical and so was his Hebrew. His English was better than that of the British. Alexander Cadogan always said that he was the best brain and speaker of English around. When Eban came up to speak all of the delegations came in from the lobbies and the halls to hear him.

But I don't know too much about what went on because I was no longer in the Middle East section. All I know is from my contacts with the Israelis. I had a lot of friends amongst them. And I had a few friends amongst the Arabs. Fawzi sat