

population of Palestine engaged in guerrilla warfare against the Jews, with the aid of irregulars who came to their assistance from neighbouring Arab countries. The Assembly resolution, which called for a phased transfer of authority by the mandatory power through a United Nations Commission to Jewish and Arab Provisional Councils of Government, could not be put into effect in the disturbed conditions then prevailing, but having recommended the principle of partition the majority of members of the United Nations continued to give it the benefit of their moral support. The Security Council intervened, beginning in the first week of March 1948, in an effort to bring hostilities in Palestine to an end. Its continuous intervention and the various truce arrangements made (see 2(a) below) had some effect on the fortunes of the contestants and on the ultimate position of the truce lines. It was also due in large part to the efforts of the Security Council and United Nations personnel that armistice agreements were concluded in 1949 which gave sufficient promise of stability to permit the United Nations to admit Israel to membership on May 11 of that year.

- (v) The Jews of Palestine. Under British protection and with aid sent by Jews and other sympathizers living abroad, the growing community of Jews of Palestine established for themselves the elements of the national home foreshadowed in the Balfour Declaration of November 2, 1917. This involved the rapid absorption of Jewish immigrants simultaneously with the development of agricultural settlements, industrial enterprises, educational and social institutions, health services and all other activities required for the growth of a closely knit, well organized society. As the tide of Jewish immigration swelled and the Arab majority in Palestine began first to be apprehensive of the effects of the continued growth of the Jewish national home and later to resist that growth by demonstrations, strikes, riots and finally by open violence, self-defence took an increasingly important place in the programme of the Jewish community. Trained Jewish para-military formations were available to retaliate against the Arab irregular forces which took up arms in December 1947 to prevent the partition of Palestine. When the mandate ended on May 14, 1948 the army of Israel came into conflict not only with Arab irregulars but also with units of the regular forces of Egypt in the south, of Transjordan and Iraq in the centre, and of Syria and Lebanon in the north which had entered Palestine to fight against the implementation of the United Nations decision on partition and for the establishment of a government responsive to the wishes of the Arab majority. The fighting increased in scope and intensity as the British withdrew and was carried on in areas populated largely by Arabs as well as in areas of Jewish settlement. After the arrival of adequate supplies of arms in June 1948, the Israelis launched drives through which they gained possession of roughly three-quarters of Palestine, the Arabs remaining in control of two distinct areas. The first of these was the small Gaza strip, on which Egyptian forces were based. The second was central Palestine west of the Jordan River, defended by Trans-jordanian and Iraqi forces, which was incorporated in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in April 1950. Israel claimed sovereignty