

The suggestion has been made that the delegates of the United States, the U.S.S.R. and Guatemala should form a working party to discuss in detail their various plans. The Canadian delegation supports this proposal, and hopes that the subject may be referred to this working party as soon as possible, in the hope that an agreed proposal may be reported back to the sub-committee.

K. Canadian Statement, November 22, 1947

PARTITION PLAN FOR PALESTINE

I think, Mr. Chairman, that it might be of some use to the Committee if I gave my view, as a member of the Sub-committee, on some of the changes that were made yesterday in our Report, and which have been referred to by previous speakers. These changes, as you mentioned this morning, Mr. Chairman, appear in a supplementary document, and they do, it is true, introduce three or four new ideas which, in the opinion of our delegation, make this Report of ours, in Sub-committee I, more workable in character. They also, we think, improve the chances of effective co-operation between the United Nations Commission and the mandatory power, without which any scheme of the United Nations General Assembly would be very difficult to operate successfully.

It is clear that one important change has been made to our Report, in that, to all appearances at least, though it is not down in black and white, the date of the termination of the mandate—and that is a very important factor in these discussions and in the decision we are going to take—can hardly be the same as the date of withdrawal of the mandatory's armed forces. That date of termination is now to be determined by the Mandatory alone.

In the amended Report of Sub-committee I the responsibility for administration in areas still occupied by the mandatory now rests solely on the mandatory. Nevertheless, I think that our revised Report does emphasize, more than the original Report did, the importance of co-operation, planning and preparation for the new states, between the mandatory and the United Nations Commission.

The fact, of course, that we do not know, and the General Assembly probably will not know, when it has to decide finally on this matter, what the date of the termination of the mandate is going to be, provides a very real difficulty. We have acted, however, in the Sub-committee, on the assumption—and I think it was a reasonable assumption—that the Mandate, in the words of the United Kingdom representative "will be terminated at a very early date." That seems to me to imply that the mandate will be terminated before the mandatory power withdraws its forces completely from any area of Palestine.

If that is the case, then some of the inconsistencies and possible contradictions which have been mentioned by the representative of Pakistan and others, do not exist in our Report. The inconsistency which he mentioned in Section A, paragraph 3, does not, it seems to me, become important, if the mandate terminates before the evacuation of any area is completed. A possible inconsistency in Section B, paragraph 12, was also mentioned.