

It was almost perpetual guerrilla warfare. The Palestine Commission said that there was no way that they could go and implement this plan. Their task was to implement the plan of partition and economic union. The British wouldn't guarantee their safety. I remember Golda Meir asked me, "What about setting up a United Nations force to police the area?" I told her the difficulties in setting up such a force were such that she had better forget it. "There was no point in relying on a United Nations force to implement your plan. If the plan is to be implemented at all, you will have to implement it on your own. You cannot expect the UN to do it." They came before the Palestine Commission. I was a senior officer there. Bunche was the principal secretary. We met day after day after day and finally we submitted a report saying that there was no way they could implement this thing because there was a virtual war going on in Palestine.

JK: The British were not interested at all in implementing it?

Epstein: On the contrary, they said they would not do anything to implement the plan. "All we will do is withdraw our forces and our government on May 14th, which was the day selected in the implementation Resolution. All we will do is leave the key in the lock. We are not going to transfer anything to either Arabs or Jews. We will just leave everything and let them do it." I remember saying to Golda Meir, "Look, if you're going to do anything here, you've got