

Infiltration, smuggling and marauding in Israel by Arab refugees congregated in Jordan and by Jordanian villagers whom the armistice line had separated from their lands increased after Israel denounced, in mid-January 1953, a local commanders' agreement which had helped to check illegal border-crossing. Murders and acts of serious sabotage in Israel were followed by retaliatory attacks on Jordanian territory by Israeli armed forces. Diplomatic representations by the United States and United Kingdom helped to reduce the tension slightly. After an outbreak of shooting in Jerusalem on April 22, General Riley resigned as chief of the Security Council's supervision staff in Palestine, but remained until June when his successor, General Vagn Bennike of Denmark, arrived. On June 8 a new local commanders' agreement was concluded. High-level talks on June 29 resulted in an agreement that Israel would give more prompt information about infiltrators, of which Jordan would try to make effective use.

### Efforts to facilitate a peace settlement

Arab states asked the General Assembly to discuss at its seventh session the work of the Palestine Conciliation Commission in the light of United Nations resolutions. They maintained that Israel, which owed its existence to the Assembly's partition resolution of November 29, 1947, had seized considerable territory beyond the partition lines and had disregarded the Assembly's resolutions on repatriation and compensation of refugees. A peace settlement, the Arabs insisted, could be negotiated only if Israel would accept the Assembly's resolutions on partition and refugees.

Israel sponsored an item on the agenda referring to "violation by Arab States of their obligations under the Charter, United Nations resolutions and specific provisions of the General Armistice Agreements," including hostile practices and failure to seek peace with Israel. It ultimately withdrew, however, the agenda item on this subject. The Israeli Representative invited the Arabs to enter into early, direct, and untrammelled negotiations for the security of the area and to develop fruitful co-operation with Israel in every field of modern endeavour. He intimated that although local adjustments of the armistice lines would be acceptable to Israel it would not retreat from its present general position. Arab refugees could be quickly absorbed by the Arab states, he suggested, if the latter treated them as generously as Israel treated Jewish refugees.

In the *Ad Hoc* Political Committee a draft resolution was sponsored jointly by Canada, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, the Netherlands, Norway, Panama and Uruguay, which in its final form recalled existing resolutions of the Assembly and Security Council and reaffirmed that the governments concerned have primary responsibility for reaching a settlement of issues relating to Palestine. It urged them to enter at an early date into direct negotiations, adding as a result of Latin American amendments that the negotiations should be without prejudice to their respective rights and