

roads and railways and constructing new ports; it means, too, building schools, hospitals and housing developments. It means a raising of the entire level of life of the whole country.

The problem for Israel is to rediscover and resurrect the natural wealth of an ancient land. By using the new techniques that have been discovered to overcome the obstacles of nature, the people of Israel are attempting to show the world how a determined people can return home and, like the Nabataeans of an earlier period, turn a desolate wilderness into a prosperous and productive land.

During this difficult period of resettlement, a magnificent job has been done by the Jewish Agency in helping the Government with the orientation and rehabilitation of the new citizens of Israel. My good friend, Joseph Bradette, M.P., who has recently returned from Israel, tells me that Canadians have contributed most generously to the support of this splendid work.

The people of Canada, through their government, made an important contribution to the negotiations leading to the establishment of the State of Israel. In 1947, our delegation took a leading part in the deliberations of the United Nations when the question of the partition of Palestine was under consideration. When, as a consequence of United Nations action, Israel declared its independence and set up a provisional government, Canada was among those nations which later recognized its full sovereignty and supported its admission to membership in the United Nations.

When the question of Palestine was first submitted to the United Nations six years ago, most mandated territories throughout the world had been or were being transformed into independent nations or trust territories under United Nations auspices. About Palestine, however, there were very serious differences in viewpoint as to what its destiny should be. For this reason, the United Kingdom, as the mandatory power, placed the whole question of Palestine's future in the hands of the United Nations for decision.

This was such a complex problem that the General Assembly of the UN held a special session in April 1947, to prepare the way for a fuller consideration of the subject during the regular session of the Assembly that Fall. Our distinguished Secretary-of-State for External Affairs, the Honourable Lester B. Pearson, who was then Under-Secretary and Canada's delegate to the UN, was elected Chairman of the Political Committee to which this question was referred. The success of the Committee in reaching an early agreement on this highly controversial problem reflects the ability and impartiality of Mr. Pearson's work as chairman.

The United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP), which was established the following month, included in its membership Mr. Justice Ivan C. Rand of the Supreme Court of Canada. Everyone who is familiar with the work of UNSCOP agrees that Mr. Justice Rand's influence was largely instrumental in enabling the Committee to submit to the General Assembly that Fall a comprehensive report on this question. Mr. Justice Rand was also a co-author and a strong supporter of the proposal for partition of Palestine within a framework of economic union which was finally adopted by the General Assembly in November 1947, and paved the way for the establishment of Israel.