

only time Ben Gurion showed up here. I think it was the only time that Weizmann showed up. Weizmann talked about that they had to have their Jewish state. It was 2000 years of history. They always carry a knapsack on their back and there always seems to be anti-Semitism in the knapsack as they go from one place to another, the wandering Jews. It was time to end that and give them their place. Ben Gurion came out with a very short but a very powerful speech. He said, "The only way we can have peace in that area of the world is to have an Arab state and a Jewish state and an Arab/Jewish alliance." He pounded the table when he said that. I was so impressed by that and he was right. That is what led to the idea of the Arab state, the Jewish state, and the economic union.

The vote in the General Assembly was something like 33 to 13 with 10 abstentions. It was an overwhelming majority. The Arabs all stood up and said that they would oppose it and they would not cooperate. It was an historic vote. The best place I've seen it written up with emotion was in Leon Uris's Exodus. He gave the reaction from people listening in to the voting over the radio. They danced in the streets in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Then the Palestine Commission had to go to work.

JK: The fighting intensified after that.

Epstein: The fighting got much worse than it had been before.