

kept out of it and almost dozed off during this long battle all evening. It was a very interesting thing because Stavropoulos used to say, "I am an anti-Semite. I don't like the Jews or the State of Israel, but I am a practical man." It was quite funny because Bunche was quite sympathetic toward the State of Israel and to the Jewish problem in the world. They still had their problems in Europe, getting the refugees settled in Palestine and now Israel, the exodus. Bunche was arguing against the exchange of populations and Stavropoulos, who was an avowed anti-Semite, arguing for the exchange of populations. Bunche obviously won out. His solution was this United Nations Relief and Works Agency. Stavropoulos was not very friendly to the State of Israel. Greece was one of the latest countries to establish relations with them. They didn't have diplomatic relations with them for many, many years. Stavropoulos said the exchange of the Greeks and the Turks worked successfully after WWI and I always thought that was an interesting idea. In fact, I remember someone saying later that Bunche was responsible for keeping all these refugees in these camps, you know unwittingly. Bunche got the Nobel Peace Prize later for his truce settlements.

JK: How did he operate as a mediator? Was he able to bring the Arabs and the Israelis together?

Epstein: Not together, I'll tell you shortly what did happen.