

THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE (U.N.S.C.O.P.)


A special session of the U.N. General Assembly convened in the spring of 1947 at Britain's request to discuss the "Palestine problem," appointed an investigative committee of 11 members who represented Sweden, Holland, Poland, Yugoslavia, Canada, Australia, India, Iran, Uruguay, Guatemala and Peru. The committee arrived in Palestine in June 1947 and spent several weeks in meetings, including in Lebanon and Transjordan. The members also visited the Jewish D.P. camps in central Europe.

The committee, whose findings were published at the end of August 1947, unanimously recommended that the British Mandate be ended immediately. A majority of seven members recommended partitioning the country into two states, Jewish and Arab. The Jews would be given the Eastern Galilee, the northern valleys, most of the coastal region and nearly all the Negev. The Arabs would receive the Western Galilee, the mountain regions, the Gaza Strip and part of the Negev. According to the recommendation, the two newly established states were to implement "economic unity." Jerusalem would be a separate entity under international supervision.

Three of the committee members (the representatives of India, Iran, and Yugoslavia) submitted a separate report recommending the establishment in Palestine of a binational federal state. The Australian delegate abstained.

The U.N. General Assembly adopted the partition plan submitted by the committee majority – with adjustments that included reducing the area of the Jewish state somewhat – on November 29, 1947.

◁ The U.N.S.C.O.P. partition plan map.



CARL MARX
Lighting, Heating, Cooking, Refrigeration

THE PALESTINE POST

JERUSALEM
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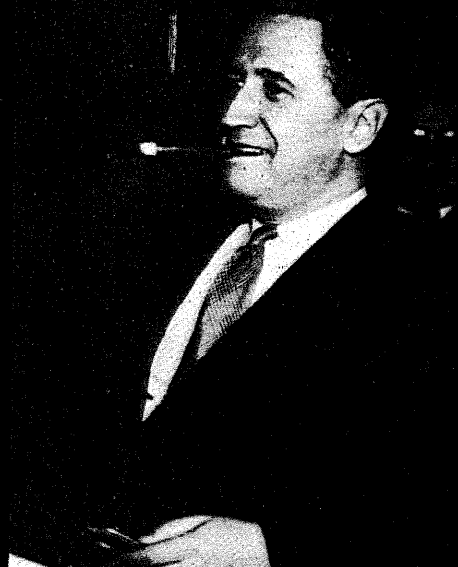
PARTITION APPROVED BY MORE THAN 2/3; 33 TO 13

△ Oversized headlines in all the Yishuv newspapers on the morning of November

30, 1947, announce the historic U.N. decision.

▷ The young conductor Leonard Bernstein visits Palestine.





NAHUM GOLDMANN

"Aranha had a wonderful tactic, it really saved us..."

Thus came November 26, 1947 — the day the UN was to vote upon the question of whether the Jews would have their own state. From the very beginning of the debate, the Jewish Agency representatives felt uncomfortable. As they listened to the final speeches before the vote, they realized just how serious the situation was.

DAVID HOROWITZ

(Jewish Agency Delegation to the UN):

"There was a clear and determined majority of speakers who opposed partition and the establishment of a Jewish State. One by one, they rose, including representatives of countries whom we were sure would support us, who had promised to support us...and to my surprise one after another, the speakers stressed all the negative aspects of this solution. And we sat there, bowed down..."

It was a black Wednesday. The Jewish representatives understood that their only hope was to postpone the vote for a day or two. Acting on advice from Assembly President Oswaldo Aranha of Brazil, Nahum Goldmann hurried to see two other Latin American friends, Fabregat and Granados, asking for their urgent assistance.

NAHUM GOLDMANN

(Jewish Agency Delegation to the UN):

"I said: 'You have to request the floor again.' Then Fabregat said: 'Listen, I've already spoken three times.' I said to him: 'Read from the Bible, like in a Senate filibuster. Read the Psalms, the promises of the prophet Isaiah. So they asked to speak again. The time was about 6:00-6:15 p.m. and the Arabs were beginning to sense something happening, so they shouted: 'To vote! To vote!' Then Aranha said: 'I have another list of speakers.' He had a wonderful tactic; it really saved us. At exactly 7:00 p.m. he rose and said: 'Gentlemen, we have had a long and dramatic debate whose historical importance demands consideration of all which we have proposed. I adjourn the meeting...and meet Friday morning...'"

ABBA EBAN (Jewish Agency Delegation to the UN):

"We took the list of undecided countries and began to seek ways of influencing them. How shall we influence Liberia? They say that the American Firestone Rubber Company carries weight there. How do we reach Firestone? How shall we approach the President of the Philippines? Is there any Jew who knows him? How can we influence Haiti, which was still straddling the fence?"

When the General Assembly reconvened two days later, its President still thought the partition plan would fail. Political maneuvers continued throughout that day. The Arabs and Jews fought to the very last minute.

OSWALDO ARANHA

(President, UN General Assembly):

"We will proceed with the roll call... you all know how to vote. Those who are in favor will say 'yes,' those who are against will say 'no' and the abstainees, always they know what to say. We will start now: 'Afghanistan?' — 'No.' 'Argentina?'..."

Ellington *Henry H. ...*

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
November 29, 1947.

| VOTING SHEET | | November 29, 1947. | |
|----------------------------------|----|--------------------|--------|
| Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
| AFGHANISTAN | | | X |
| ALGERIA | | | |
| ARGENTINA | | | |
| AUSTRALIA | | | |
| BELGIUM | | | |
| BOLIVIA | | | |
| BRAZIL | | | |
| BYELORUSSIA, S.S.R. | | | |
| CANADA | | | |
| CHINA | | | |
| COLOMBIA | | | |
| COSTA RICA | | | |
| CUBA | | | |
| CZECHOSLOVAKIA | | | |
| DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO | | | |
| DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | | | |
| ECUADOR | | | |
| EGYPT | | | |
| EL SALVADOR | | | |
| ETHIOPIA | | | |
| FRANCE | | | |
| GUATEMALA | | | |
| HAI TI | | | |
| HONDURAS | | | |
| IRELAND | | | |
| INDIA | | | |
| IRAN | | | |
| ISRAEL | | | |
| ITALY | | | |
| JAPAN | | | |
| JERUSALEM | | | |
| KOREA | | | |
| LIBERIA | | | |
| LUXEMBOURG | | | |
| MEXICO | | | |
| NETHERLANDS | | | |
| NEW ZEALAND | | | |
| NICARAGUA | | | |
| NOBILITY | | | |
| PANAMA | | | |
| PARAGUAY | | | |
| PERU | | | |
| PHILIPPINES | | | |
| POLAND | | | |
| SAUDI ARABIA | | | |
| SIAM | | | |
| SRI LANKA | | | |
| SYRIA | | | |
| TURKEY | | | |
| UKRAINE, S.S.R. | | | |
| UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA | | | |
| UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | | | |
| UNITED KINGDOM | | | |
| UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | | | |
| URUGUAY | | | |
| VENEZUELA | | | |
| YEMEN | | | |
| YUGOSLAVIA | | | |

Yes 33 No 13 Abstain 10 Absent 1

PALESTINE PARTITION PLAN

Ben-Haim Herzog *Abba Hillel Silver* *Golda Meir* *E. Kaplan* *David Ben-Gurion* *Harry H. ...* *Ellington* *Henry H. ...*

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTING SHEET: NOVEMBER 29, 1947

"Yes: 33, no: 13, abstain: 10, absent: one."

The holder of this sheet obtained the autographs of personalities who worked for the resolution. At the top are the signatures of Truman and Weizmann. At the bottom, among others, are those of Ben-Gurion, Abba Hillel Silver, and Golda Meyerson (Meir).

Pillar of Fire

Yigal Lossin



CELEBRATING CROWDS CLIMB ABOARD A BRITISH ARMORED VEHICLE
AND WAVE THE BLUE AND WHITE FLAG

NOVEMBER 29, 1947

THE JEWS OF PALESTINE BECAME ECSTATIC





THE FEELING WAS THAT ALL JEWISH HISTORY WAS DIRECTED TOWARDS THIS MOMENT

JEWES OFFER PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AT THE ARCH OF TITUS IN ROME
The state which had fallen two thousand years ago has now been reborn.



On November 29, 1947, Jewish history hung in the balance. All over the world — in New York and Moscow, Buenos Aires and Teheran, Rome and Jerusalem — Jews sat transfixed by the voices coming from their radios in that unforgettable broadcast from Flushing Meadows. The vote — as long as the Exile, lasted only three minutes.

UN Assistant Secretary-General:

"... 'Costa Rica?' — 'Yes.' 'El Salvador?' — 'Abstains.' 'Ethiopia?' — 'Abstains.' 'France?' — 'Yes.'"
(Applause).

President, UN General Assembly:

"I call the public and I hope that you will not have any interference of the voting in this debate. I am confident of the way you will behave in association with the decision taken by this Assembly, because I am decided not to allow anybody to interfere in our decision."

UN Assistant Secretary-General:

"... 'United Kingdom?' — 'Abstains.' 'United States?' — 'Yes.' 'Soviet Union?' — 'Yes.' 'Venezuela?' — 'Yes.' 'Yemen?' — 'No.' 'Yugoslavia?' — 'Abstains.'"

DAVID HOROWITZ

(Jewish Agency Delegation to the UN):

"I had hopes, but I did not know. I sat near Ralph Bunche. He had a list of the countries in front of him. He recorded the vote alongside each country's name. I couldn't concentrate and count the votes. Up until the last minute, when he told me the total, I had no idea what it was."

President, UN General Assembly:

"The resolution of the Ad Hoc Committee for Palestine was adopted by 33 votes, 13 against, 10 abstentions."

As the results were made public, the Jews of Palestine became ecstatic. They felt the privilege of experiencing what generations of Jews before them could only imagine in their dreams; that all Jewish history was directed towards this moment.

The same day, Jews gathered beneath the Arch of Titus, in Rome. This triumphal arch which had been built to honor the Caesar who had destroyed Jerusalem in 70 C.E., symbolized the beginnings of the Jewish question. They came to offer prayers of thanksgiving, and to say that the state which had fallen two thousand years ago has now been reborn. No longer are the Jews without a home. The wheel had come full circle.

VOTING SHEET

| Country | Yes | No | Abstain | Country | Yes | No | Abstain |
|---------------------|-----|----|---------|-------------------------------------|-----|----|---------|
| AFGHANISTAN | : | : | X | GERMANY | : | : | : |
| ALGERIA | : | : | : | LITHUANIA | : | : | / |
| AUSTRALIA | : | ✓ | : | LUKSEMBURG | : | : | / |
| BELGIUM | : | ✓ | : | MEXICO | : | : | : |
| BOLIVIA | : | ✓ | : | NETHERLANDS | : | : | / |
| BRAZIL | : | ✓ | : | NEW ZEALAND | : | : | / |
| BYELORUSSIAN S.S.R. | : | ✓ | : | NICARAGUA | : | : | / |
| CANADA | : | ✓ | : | NORWAY | : | : | ✓ |
| CHINA | : | : | : | PAKISTAN | : | : | : |
| CHINA | : | : | : | PANAMA | : | : | / |
| COLOMBIA | : | : | : | PARAGUAY | : | : | / |
| COSTA RICA | : | ✓ | : | PERU | : | : | / |
| CUBA | : | : | X | PHILIPPINES | : | : | ✓ |
| CZECHOSLOVAKIA | : | ✓ | : | POLAND | : | : | ✓ |
| DENMARK | : | ✓ | : | SAUDI ARABIA | : | : | : |
| DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | : | ✓ | : | SIAM | : | : | : |
| ECUADOR | : | ✓ | : | SWEDEN | : | : | ✓ |
| EGYPT | : | : | X | SYRIA | : | : | : |
| EL SALVADOR | : | : | : | TURKEY | : | : | : |
| ETHIOPIA | : | : | : | UKRAINIAN S.S.R. | : | : | / |
| FRANCE | : | ✓ | : | UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA | : | : | / |
| GREECE | : | : | X | UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS | : | : | ✓ |
| GUATEMALA | : | ✓ | : | UNITED KINGDOM | : | : | : |
| HAITI | : | ✓ | : | UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | : | : | ✓ |
| HONDURAS | : | : | : | UNGARY | : | : | ✓ |
| ICELAND | : | ✓ | : | VENEZUELA | : | : | / |
| INDIA | : | : | X | YEMEN | : | : | : |
| IRAN | : | : | X | YUGOSLAVIA | : | : | : |
| IRAQ | : | : | X | | | | |

Yes 33 No 13 Abstain 10 Absent 1
- PALESTINE PARTITION PLAN -

Handwritten signatures and notes:
 E. Kaplan
 Ben-Gurion
 Abba Hillel Silver
 Golda Meyer
 Truman
 Weizmann
 12/1/47

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTING SHEET: NOVEMBER 29, 1947
 "Yes: 33, no: 13, abstain: 10, absent: one."
 The holder of this sheet obtained the autographs of those who worked for the resolution. At the top are the signatures of Truman and Weizmann. At the bottom, among others, are the signatures of Ben-Gurion, Abba Hillel Silver, and Golda Meyer.