## Text of the British Statement on Palestine, Chronicling History and Policy of...

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# Text of the British Statement on Palestine, Chronicling History and Policy of the Mandate

LONDON, May 13 (AP)-Following is the text of a statement by the Foreign Office and the Colonial Office on the termination of the British mandate in Palestine:

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland will cease to be responsible for the administration of Palestine from midnight on the 14th May, 1948.

The ending of thirty years of British rule in Palestine, begun when General Allenby's troops occupied that country towards the close of the first World War, provides a fitting occasion for a brief review of its history and of the policy pursued by His Majesty's Government.

L The Origin and Nature of the British Mandate for Palestine

The mandate for Palestine was assigned to His Majesty by the Supreme Council of the Allied Powers in 1920, was approved by the League of Nations in 1922 and took effect in 1923, when the Treaty of Lausanne formally ended the war between the Allied Powers and the Ottomar Empire, in which Palestine had previously been included.

To implement this mandate, H. M. G. set up in Palestine an H. M. G. set up in Palestine an administration comprising a Brit-ish High Commission, appointed by and responsible to the Colonial Office, assisted by an Advisory Council nominated by him from his officials. These, together with the police and judiciary, were initially mainly British, but, in the Civil Service British cub in the Civil Service, British sub-jects were gradually replaced by Arabs and Jews in all but the most senior appointments. The administration was supported by a British garrison.

With this mandate His Majesty's Government accepted certain obligations, which are set out in two documents, the Covenant of the League of Nations and the Mandate for Palestine. Article 22 of the Covenant contains the general rules applying to all man-dated territories, while the Man-date for Palestine itself defines the particular rules to be ob-served by the mandatory for that country. country.

Article 22 begins:

"To those colonies and terri-tories which, as a consequence of the late war, have ceased to be under the sovereignty of the states which formerly governed them and which are inhabited by peoples not yet able to stand by themselves under the strenuou conditions of the modern world there should be applied the prin-ciple that the well-being and development of such peoples form a sacred trust of civilization, and that securities for the perform-ance of this trust should be em-

bodied in this Covenant." Article 22 then goes on to ex-plain that the nature of these mandates should be adapted to the differing needs of the various territories to which they are to be applied, and its fourth para-

graph reads: "Certain communities formerly belonging to the Turkish Empire have reached a state of development where their existence as independent nations can be provisionally recognized, subject to

Major Successes Discussed It is, however, in their efforts to improve public health and the standard of living that the Government, of Palestine have achieved their most striking success. The elimination of malaria, the creation of medical services the improvement of water supplies and the provision of infant welfare centers reinforced the effects of a higher standard of living due to economic develop-

adequate. Its population of some 750,000 were disease-ridden and

poor. Lawlessness was rife in-side Palestine and made worse by raiding nomads from the des-

ert. The Government of Pales-tine had to cope with all these problems in their task of promot-

ing the well-being and develop-

In their efforts to improve

agricultural efficiency the Gov-

ernment of Palestine introduced

new types of livestock and seeds better methods of farming and

special measures directed against

the pests and diseases affecting crops and cattle. Substantial loans were granted to farmers

and considerable progress was made toward the restoration of

The effect of these steps was reinforced by the achievements

of Jewish capital and enterprise

and by the steadily rising stand-

ards of health and education

among the Arabs. A measure of the success achieved is provided

by the increase in the export of citrus fruit (Palestine's most im-portant export) from 2,600,000 cases in 1929-30 to 15,300,000 in

The development of industry

has, in the main, been achieved by Jewish capital and initiative,

but the expansion and moderni-

zation by the Government of Palestine of the country's roads

and railways and the construc-

Haifa have also made an impor-tant contribution, while their

active encouragement fostered the remarkable industrial expansion

which took place during the war An efficient and impartial judi

of the deep-water port of

Palestine's forests.

1938-39

ment of the inhabitants.

tion, is crowned by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The achievement of so much in so short a space of time is pri-marily due to the efforts, intelli-gence and devotion of the Jews themselves, and to the protection and assistance afforded them by the Government of Palestine. To quote once more the report of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine: "The present difficult circumstances should not distort the perspective of solid achievement

arising from the joint efforts of the Jewish community and the Administration in laying the foundations of the national home." IV. The Obstacles Which Frus-trated the Efforts of His Maj-

esty's Government to Establish Self-Governing Institutions in Palestine The Government of Palestine were unable to make comparable

progress towards the accomplish-ment of their third task, the preparation of the people for self-government, owing to the mutual hostility of Arabs and that the British administration of Palestine must be judged. Jews. The existence of Arab op-position to the creation of a Jew-I. The Development of Palestine ish national home was apparent even before the mandate began. The American King-Crane Com-mission sent out to the Middle East by President Wilson in 1919 had reported that: When British rule began, Pal-estine was a primitive and undeveloped country. Agriculture was inefficient, industry almost non-existent and communications in-

"The Peace Conference should not shut its eyes to the fact that the anti-Zionist feeling in Palestine and Syria is intense and not lightly to be flouted. No British officer consulted by the commissioners believed that the Zionist program could be carried out The first outbreaks of anti-Jewish violence took place in 1920 and 1921. These were followed by more serious disturbances in 1929. These disturbances did not prevent the Government of Palestine from attempting to set up self-governing institutions. In 1920, the High Commissioner had formed a nominated Advisory Council consisting of ten British officials, four Moslem Arabs, three Christian Arabs and three Jews. Two years later an order-in-council was issued providing for the creation of a Legislative Council, to consist of the High Commissioner, ten official mem-bers and twelve elected members, of whom eight were to be Mos-lems, two Christians and two Jews

The Arabs refused to take part in any form of government in-volving acceptance of the Jewish national home and boycotted the elections held in 1923, thus mak-ing it impossible to set up the Legislative Council. The High Commissioner then attempted to on the lines of the abortive Leg-islative Council, but, of the ten Arabs nominated by him, seven withdrew their acceptance under political pressure, thus prevent-ing the transformation of the nominated Advisory Council into a representative body.

#### Offer Rejected by Arabs

cial system was set up and, al-though the Government's achievement in establishing law and order was later to be largely un-The High Commissioner then attempted to create an Arab agency analogous to the Jewish done by political violence, it had made such progress by the end of 1926 that the British garrison could be reduced to a single Agency, to which Article 4 of the Mandate had assigned the duty of "advising and cooperating with the Administration of Palessquadron of the RAF and two companies of armored cars. tine in such economic, social and other matters as may affect the establishment of the Jewish national home and the interests of the Jewish population in Palesbut the Arab leaders retine. fused this offer on the ground that it would not satisfy the aspirations of the Arab people, adding that they had never recognized the status of the Jewish Agency and had no desire for the establishment of an Arab agency on the same basis. The Government of Palestine has ever since been carried on by the High Commissioner with the aid of a nominated Advisory Council of officials. The next seven years saw a sharp increase in the number o Jews entering Palestine. In 1928 there had been a net Jewish immigration of only ten persons, but between 1930 and 1936, over 182. 000 entered the country. Although the impetus given to the economic development of Palestine by these immigrants, and the capital they brought, conferred certain benefits on the Arab community also, the growth in the Jewish popu-lation was bitterly resented by the Arabs In 1933 this resentment found expression in riots directed not against the Jews but against the Government of Palestine, who were accused of tilting the bal-ance against the Arabs in their administration of the Mandate. By far the most serious outbreak of Arab violence, however, was the rebellion of 1936-39. This took various forms, rioting, sabotage, destruction of property, terrorism and guerrilla warfare, and was directed both against the Jews and against the Government of Palestine. In all some 4,000 people were killed and two divisions of British troops, together with several squadrons of the RAF, had to be employed to suppress the rising, a task not completed until the end of 1939. The violence and extent of the rebellion were such that H. M. G. appointed a Royal Commission, headed by Lord Peel, to enquire into the underlying causes of the disturbances and into the operation of the Mandate, and to make recommendations for the removal of any legitimate grievances felt by Jews or Arabs The Commission reported in 1937 that the underlying causes were the same as those which had brought about the earlier disturb ances of 1920, 1921, 1929 and 1933. namely, the desire of the Arabs for national independence and their hatred and fear of the establishment of the Jewish na-tional home. They pointed out that, although both Arabs and Jews were fit to govern themselves, yet, associated as they were under the Mandate, selfgovernment was impracticable for both, since neither would accept a government in which the other

immigration, previously limited only by the economic absorptive capacity of the country, should for the next five years, be restricted to a maximum of 12,000

a year. Neither the scheme suggested by the Peel Commission, nor the more detailed proposals for par-tition of the Woodhead Commission which followed them, proved acceptable to either Arabs or Jews. H. M. G., who had origin-ally accepted the principle of partition and had been author-ized by the League of Nations to investigate its practicability, could therefore only conclude that: therefore only conclude that: "The political, administrative

and financial difficulties involved in the proposal to create inde-pendent Arab and Jewish states inside Palestine are so great that

H. M. G. accordingly decided to resume their efforts to reconcile Jews and Arabs within the terms of the Mandate. In 1939 they issued a White Paper defining their policy and explaining that it was not their intention to convert Palestine into a Jewish state or into an Arab state, but that their purpose was:

"The establishment within ten years of an independent Pales-tine state . . . in which Arabs and Jews share in government in such a way as to ensure that the essential interests of each com-munity are safeguarded."

control over land transfers and immigration. This plan was supported by both the British and the American officials and was approved, in prin-ciple and as a basis for negotia-tion with Arabs and Jews, by His Majesty's Government. The Unit-ed States Government, however, declined to associate themselves with these negotiations. Both the Jews and the Arabs of Palestine refused to discuss it and, after negotiations with representatives of Arab states and informal con-versations with the Jewish Agency, His Majesty's Govern-ment produced, in February, 1947, a modified plan for a five-year trusteeship of Palestine on a captional basis as a proliminery a cantonal basis as a preliminary to independence. This too was rejected by both Arabs and Jews, who had each put forward proposals of their own: the Arabs, for an independent Palestine with a permanent

Arab majority; the Jews, for a Jewish Palestine or, if Palestine could not yet be granted inde-pendence, for unrestricted Jew-ish immigration and settlement throughout Palestine, or, as a last resort, for a viable Jewish state in an adequate area of Palestine. Neither Arabs nor Jews would consider the other's pro-

V. The Problem Referred to the United Nations

After the failure of these dis-cussions His Majesty's Govern-ment decided that the only course now open to them was to submit the problem to the judgment of the United Nations, asking that body to recommend a solution. The reasons for this decision were explained by His Majesty's Prin-cipal Secretary of State for For-eign Affairs in a speech to the House of Commons on the 18th February, 1947, in which he said: "His Majesty's Government have been faced with an irrecon-cilable conflict of principles. There are in Palestine about 1,200,000 Arabs and 600,000 Jews. For the Jews the essential point of prin-ciple is the creation of a sovereign Jewish state. For the Arabs, the essential point of principle is to resist to the last the establishment of Jewish sovereignty in

any part of Palestine. "The discussions of the last month have quite clearly shown that there is no prospect of re-solving this conflict by any set-tlement negotiated between the parties. But if the conflict has to be resolved by an arbitrary de-cision, that is not a decision which His Majesty's Government are empowered, as mandatory, to take. His Majesty's Government have of themselves no power, under the terms of the Mandate, to award the country either to the Arabs or to the Jews, or even to partition it between them." them.

The question was accordingly placed on the agenda of the Gen-eral Assembly of the United Nations who, after a special session, appointed on the 15th May, 1947, Special Committee to investigate the problem and recommend a solution. In the course of this session the United Kingdom session the United Kingdom delegate had explained that His Majesty's Government could not commit themselves to enforcing alone any settlement not acceptable to both Arabs and Jews.

## Reaction to U. N. Report

VI. The Last Months of the Mandate

United Nations.

### and in New York. The arrival of a commission in Palestine to im-plement the partition plan would have inflamed Arab violence and made the problem of internal order more difficult than ever in the final period of evacuation. His Majesty's Government could not, therefore, agree to the pro-posed entry, in February, of the whole commission, but suggested the dispatch of a small advance party. When this advance party had visited Palestine and seen for the mealures the conditions provide themselves the conditions prevail-ing there, the commission reported to the Security Council that they would be unable to carry out their task without assistance of armed forces, which the Security Council declined to provide.

#### Local Controls Shifted

It then became obvious that the commission would not themselves be able to arrange for the trans-fer of functions exercised by the central Government and steps were accordingly taken to devolve upon local authorities those func-tions which could appropriately

The municipalities were given increased powers of taxation and hospitals, schools and other serv-ices were handed over to them. Municipal police forces were or-ganized for the maintenance of law and order within their own communities and licenses were issued to importers to enable them to continue the purchase of es-sential commodities hitherto im-ported in bulk by the Government

Certain services such as posts and telegraphs could not by their very nature be transferred to local authority, but with these excep-tions everything possible was done to insure that disappearance of the central Government would not lead to a complete breakdown of those services on which the ordinary life of a country depends

At the same time, the inter-ception of ships carrying Jewish illegal immigrants and of armed Arab bands from neighboring states added to the difficulties already overburdening British forces who had to defend both the Arabs and Jews against major attacks by their opponents. Not only did they receive no cooperation from either side but they themselves constantly were attacked and in the last month of the Mandate reinforcements had to be sent to Palestine in order to cover the withdrawal of troops

tition Palestine and the declared intentions of Jewish extremists showed that the loss of further British lives was inevitable. It was equally clear that, in view of His Majesty's Government's de-cision pot to enforce the partition The mounting tide of violence and their almost insuperable ad-ministrative problems did not prevent the Government of Pal-estine from continuing their atcision not to enforce the partition of Palestine against the declared wishes of the majority of its in-habitants, the continued presence there of British troops and offi-cials could no longer be justified. tempts at mediation or from sup-porting efforts made by the United Nations to arrange a truce, particularly in Jerusalem In these circumstances His Majesty's Government decided to where the holy places of three bring to an end their mandate great religions were threatened with desceration and destruction. In this at least they have achieved some measure of sucand to prepare for the earliest possible withdrawal from Pales-tine of all British forces. They accordingly announced on the 20th December, 1947, that the Mandate would end on the 15th May, 1948, from which date the sole\_task of the British forces in Palestine would be to com-plete their withdrawal by the 1st

Although British responsibility for Palestine has ceased, it is the earnest hope of His Majesty's Government that as both sides come to realize the tragic conse-quences of attempting to conquer Palestine by force, some compromise may yet be possible which will prevent the destruction of all that has been achieved during the last thirty years and which will enable the people of Palestine to live at peace and to govern them-

this solution of the problem is impracticable."

have employed this means of entering Palestine, then a vital strategic area. Entry After 1945 In 1945 these Jews were brought back from Mauritius and allowed

to enter Palestine, an equivalent number being deducted from the legal quota, which, on the expiry of the five-year period laid down in the White Paper of 1939, had been fixed at 1,500 a month, as war conditions had prevented the Jews from bringing in all the 75,000 immigrants permitted by the White Paper. Although this limit was reached at the end of 1945, H. M. G. decided to con-tinue the quota of 1,500 a month pending the report of the Anglo-American Commission of Inquiry, which was then starting its work. Jewish immigration has, in fact, continued at this rate ever since. In the summer of 1946 the influx of Jewish illegal immithe influx of yewish inegat immi-grants exceeded the capacity of the camps in Palestine where, since the war, they had been de-tained pending their release under the legal quota, and the majority of those reaching Pal-estine waters subsequently have

been sent to Cyprus for the same purpose. The control of illegal immigration not only burdened still fur-ther the British forces in Palestine and the Royal Navy, but was also the principal cause of the

The Special Committee present-ed their report on the 31st Aug-

the rendering of administrative advice and assistance by a mandatory until such time as they are able to stand alone. The wishes of these communities must be a principal consideration in the selection of the mandatory."

#### **Key Obligations Cited**

The most important of the additional obligations imposed on His Majesty's Government by the Mandate for Palestine itself are those contained in the Preamble and in Articles 2 and 6. The following are the relevant extracts.

"Preamble "The Council of the League of Nations:

"\*\*\* Whereas the principal Allied Powers have also agreed that the mandatory should be responsible for putting into effect the declaration originally made or Nov. 2, 1917, by the Government of His Britannic Majesty, and adopted by the said Powers, in favor of the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, it being clearly understood that nothing should be done which might prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country; \* \* \* confirming the said Mandate, defines its terms as follows:

"Article 2

"The mandatory shall be responsible for placing the country under such political, administrative and economic conditions as will secure the establishment of the Jewish national home, as laid down in the Preamble, and the development of self-governing in stitutions, and also for safeguarding the civil and religious rights of all the inhabitants of Palestine, irrespective of race and religion

"Article 6

"The administration of Pales-tine, while ensuring that the rights and position of wather sec-tions of the population are not prejudiced, shall facilitate Jewish immigration under suitable conditions and shall encourage, in cooperation with the Jewish agency referred to in Article close settlement by Jews on the land, including state lands and waste lands not required for pub lic purposes." On the 16th September, 1922,

the Council of the League of Nations agreed that those provisions of the Mandate relating to the establishment of a Jewish na-tional home should not apply to Trans-Jordan, which was there after separately administered un til it became an independent state.

Three Tasks Assumed

In accepting these obligations His Majesty's Government undertook three major tasks. The first of these was to promote the well being and development of the people of Palestine. The second was to facilitate the establish-ment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people and Jewish immigration into that country, while ensuring that the rights and position of other sections of the population were not prejudiced. The third was to prepare the people of Palestine for self-government. It is by their efforts to carry out the tasks set them by the

League of Nations, and not in the light of the conflicting aspira-tions of either Arabs or Jews,

ment. The total Arab population was almost doubled between 1922 and 1945, mainly owing to the sharp fall in infant mortality (which decreased by 39 per cent between 1927 and 1945) and to their growing rate of natural increase, now among the highest in the world. The establishment and expansion by the Government of Arab education (Jewish education being provided entirely by the Jews themselves) was considerably hampered by the recurring politi-cal disturbances in Palestine and the high proportion of Govern-ment expenditure consequently devoted to the maintenance of law and order, but in 1945-46, 57 cent of Arab boys between 5 and 14 and 23 per cent of the girls were attending school. In the words of the report submitted in 1947 to the General Assembly by the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine: "One may find in the record of the Palestine Administration evidence of persistent effort to ef-fect gradual improvements in the economic and social condition of the Arab population." **III.** The Jewish National Home The progress made towards the establishment in Palestine of a

national home for the Jewish people has been remarkable. Four hundred thousand Jewish immigrants have entered Palestine since 1920 and the total Jewish population has risen from 84,000 in 1922 to 640,000 today. Large areas of land, once neglected, have been brought into fruitful bearing and the area owned by Jews has increased from 650,000 dunums (one dunum equals .247 acres or 1,000 square meters) to over 1,600,000. New standards of agriculture have been introduced and 300 agricultural settlements and small towns with an aggregate popula tion of 140,000 created. Tel Aviv, which is wholly Jewish, has grown from a village to a modern city of 150,000 inhabitants, the largest in Palestine. Hydroelectric energy has been developed by the Jordan and Yarmuk concessionaries who have also set up fuel power plants, while the re-sources of the Dead Sea are being exploited by a concession-ary company founded on Jewish initiative. Industries have been established, notwithstanding the paucity of raw. materials, covering a wide range of manufactures and having a gross output valued in 1947 at some £40,000,000. This eco-nomic development has been supplemented by successful efforts in the field of social services. The medical services, first established by voluntary bodies, are extensive, providing a wide range of facilities and commanding a high degree of skill in their staff. The communal education system, which provides primary schooling for almost all Jewish children of

school age, as well as secondary,

technical and agricultural educa-

#### had a majority. Partition Recommended

They concluded that the obligations imposed upon H. M. G. by the terms of the Mandate were mutually irreconcilable, and that it was impossible both to concede the Arab claim to self-government and to secure the establishment of the Jewish national home. They accordingly recom-mended that the Mandate should be terminated, and Palestine divided between the Jews and Arabs. Failing this, they recom-mended that, if the Mandate was to continue, the rate of Jewish The White Paper went on to ex-

plain that H. M. G. had always hoped that: "In time the Arab population, recognizing the advantages to be derived from Jewish settlement

and development in Palestine would become reconciled to the further growth of the Jewish ra-tional home. This hope has not been fulfilled. The alternatives before H. M. G. are either

"(I) To seek to expand the Jewish national home indefinitely, by immigration, against the strongly expressed will of the Arab people of the country; or "(II) To permit further expan sion of the Jewish national home by immigration only if the Arabs are prepared to acquiesce in it."

#### The Immigration Policy

H. M. G. pointed out that adop tion of the first policy would mean rule by force, contravene the obligations imposed on them by the League of Nations and make impossible the creation of that mutual tolerance and goodwill between Arabs and Jews essential to the security and progress of the Jewish national home itself.

They accordingly decided that after the admission of not more than 75,000 additional immigrants during the five years beginning in April, 1939, no further Jewish immigration would be permitted, unless the Arabs of Palestine were prepared to acquiesce in it. H. M. G. also decided that, in accordance with the stipulation in Article 6 of the Mandate that the encouragement of close settle ment by Jews on the land should not prejudice the rights and po-sition of other sections of the population, certain restrictions should be placed on the sale of Arab lands to Jews. The amount of land already transferred had now made such measures essential, in order to leave sufficient land for the increased Arab popu-

lation. This new statement of policy was examined by the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations in June, 1939. Four of the Commission's mem-bers considered that this policy was not in conformity with th Mandate, while the remaining three thought it justified by ex isting conditions, provided that it was not opposed by the Council of the League. It was accordingly the intention of H. M. G. to seek the approval of the Council for their new policy, but this was prevented by the outbreak of war in September, 1939. The Arabs were critical of many of the provisions in the White Paper but it seemed probable that they would eventually acquiesce in their application. The Jews, on the other hand, were bitterly opposed to it and its publication was immediately followed by an outburst of Jew-ish violence, which continued until the beginning of the war. 1939 also saw the beginning of organized attempts by large numbers of Jews to enter Palestine in excess of the permitted quota These attempts have continued ever since and, by exacerbating Arab resentment, have greatly in-creased the difficulty of main-taining law and order in Palestine. During the war the major-ity of these illegal immigrants were deported to Mauritius, as enemy agents might otherwise

steady increase in Jewish terror ist activities. These had ceased at the beginning of the war, in whose prosecution both Jews and Arabs had loyally cooperated, but broke out again in 1942. From that year until the end of

the war Jewish extremists carried out a number of political murders, robberies and acts of sabotage, while Haganah (an il-legal military force controlled by the Jewish Agency) organized the theft of arms and ammunition from the British forces in the Middle East.

Once Germany had been defeat-ed, these activities, previously sporadic and supported by only a minority of the Jewish community, increased in scale and in-tensity as the efforts of terrorist gangs were supplemented by those of Haganah and assisted by members of the Jewish Agency. Communications were attacked throughout the country; Govern-ment buildings, military trains and places of entertainment fre-quented by Britons were blown up; and numbers of Britons, Arabs and moderate Jews were kidnapped or murdered. This wholesale terrorism has continued ever since.

#### Partition Rejected in '46

When the second World War ended in 1945, the League of Nations, to whom the policy set out in the White Paper of 1939 was to have been submitted, no longer existed. The violent and lasting hostility towards its proposals shown by the Jews and the presence in Europe of several hun-dred thousand would-be immigrants, the homeless survivors of German persecution, had also to be considered.

When, therefore, in August, 1945, President Truman suggested the immediate admission to Palestine of 100,000 Jewish immigrants, His Majesty's Govern-ment enlisted the cooperation of the United States Government in the appointment of an Anglo-American Committee of Enquiry to investigate the problem of Palestine and of Jewish refugees in Europe, and to make recommenations accordingly. This committee, in a report presented in April, 1946, explic-itly rejected partition as a solu-tion and proposed instead that the Mandate should be continued pending the execution of a trusteeship agreement. They also made a number of suggestions for economic and social development and recommended the removal of restrictions on Jewish purchase of Arab land and the immediate authorization of 100,000 Jewish immigration certificates. As the committee had made no precise recommendations as to the nature of the administration or the steps to be taken to pre-pare for self-government during the long period of British rule which they envisaged, delegations of British and American officials met in London to draw up a detailed plan covering these points. This plan, whose principle was that of provincial autonomy, proposed the division of Palestine into an Arab and a Jewish province with a third area under the direct control of a central government administered by the British High Commissioner with a nominated executive council. Each province would have an elected legislature and executive with a wide range of functions including

ust, 1947. A majority of the members recommended the partition of Palestine into independent Arab and Jewish States. with special provisions for the neutrality of Jerusalem and the preser-vation of Palestine's economic unity. A minority recommended the creation of a federal state, in whose government both Arabs and Jews would share. Neither plan was acceptable to the Arabs, but the Jews were willing to agree to partition subject to certain detailed reservations.

The Committee's report was considered by the General Assembly of the United Nations in September, 1947, when the United Kingdom delegate explained that His Majesty's Government were not themselves prepared to un-dertake the task of imposing a policy in Palestine by force of arms and that, in the absence of a settlement, they must plan for an early withdrawal of British forces and of the British administration from Palestine. He also urged that any recommendations made by the General Assembly should be accompanied by a clear definition of the means by which they were to be carried out. These warnings were repeated throughout the Assembly's ses-sion, which closed on the 29th November, 1947, with the adop-tion, by 33 votes to 13 with 10 abstentions, of a modified scheme of partition to be implemented by a commission of five members unsupported by any police or military forces. This plan was accepted in principle by the majority of the Jews, but the Arabs announced their intention of resisting it by every

The Government of Palestine had now to hold apart two peo-ples bent on open war and to guard the coast and frontiers of Palestine against the arms and supporters which both Arabs and Jews attempted to introduce, while simultaneously winding un their administration and evacuate their officials, withdrawing their security forces and negotiating with the United Nations the transfer of their authority and functions. Inevitably not all of

August, 1948. His Majesty's Gov-ernment's decision to end the

Mandate was welcomed by Arabs and Jews alike, as well as by the

means within their power and were promised full support in

were promised full support in their resistance by Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Trans-Jordan and the Yemen. While this plan was still being discussed and before the vote was taken, His Majesty's Government encetedly emphasized that in

repeatedly emphasized that, in

the absence of agreement by both

Arabs and Jews, they would not

themselves enforce it and an-nounced their intention to with-

draw all British forces from Pal-estine by the 1st August, 1948.

The 27-Year Cost

now striven for twenty-seven

years, without success, to reconcile Jews and Arabs and to pre

pare the people of Palestine for

self-government. The policy adopted by the United Nations had aroused the determined re-sistance of the Arabs, while the

states supporting this policy were themselves not prepared to en-

Eighty-four thousand troops,

who received no cooperation from the Jewish community, had proved insufficient to maintain law and order in the face of a

campaign of terrorism waged by highly organized Jewish forces

equipped with all the weapons of the modern infantryman. Since the war 338 British subjects had

been killed in Palestine, while the

military forces there had cost the British taxpayer £100,000,000. The renewal of Arab violence

on the announcement of the United Nations decision to par-

force it.

His Majesty's Government had

plished. It had originally been the in-tention of the United Nations that the commission appointed to implement the Assembly's recommendations should succeed to the authority exercised by the Government of Palestine, and should arrange for the transfer and maintenance of essential services operate' by that Government.

these tasks were fully accom-

Experts fro: the United Kingdom and Palestine were accord ingly appointed to assist the commission at Lake Success, and the many problems involved were discussed in detail, both in London

selves. To that end His Majesty's Government are still prepared to give every assistance in their power, short of imposing by force a so lution not acceptable to both peoples.

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