Forum: Historical Security Council (HSC)

Issue: Question of Palestine (22 July 1980)

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Introduction

The region that we currently call Palestine and Israel was under the territory of the Ottoman Empire for centuries. At the beginning of the 20th century, after the loss of World War I, the Ottoman Empire (together with the Central Powers) had greatly lost major parts of its territory. Two League of Nations initiatives were thus established to oversee the former Ottoman lands in the Middle East: the "Mandate for Palestine" and the "Mandate for Syria and Lebanon." As it could be fitted to this year's theme of RCIMUN, "International Reconciliation: Resilience in the Face of Shifting Power Dynamics," the region is an ever-changing socio-culturally diverse area facing power dynamic shifts. With nudges and triggers from external states in the West and Europe, the area continues to suffer from cyclical wars and turmoil.

The "Question of Palestine" refers to the political and humanitarian issues surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, particularly the struggle for Palestinian self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. The term gained prominence after the Arab-Israeli conflict of 1948, which resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and the creation of the state of Israel.

Definition of Key Terms

Central Powers: The wartime military alliance of Bulgaria, Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Germany (and, for some time, Italy) during World War I (WW1). The two founding members of the alliance, Austria-Hungary and Germany, were located in central Europe, hence the name. The Ottoman Empire became a part of the alliance in November 1914, while the Kingdom of Bulgaria, the last member, joined it in October 1915 ("Central Powers").

Mandate: A mandate is an official authorization given by the League of Nations to a member nation, allowing them to oversee a former German or Turkish colony. The region was referred to as a mandated territory, sometimes known as a mandate. After the Ottoman Empire and the German Reich were defeated in World War I, their African and Asian territories, which were considered unprepared for self-governance, were divided among the triumphing Allied powers. Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations authorized this division, which itself had been created by the Allies

as well (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*).

Class A Mandate: The territory encompassed the previous Turkish regions of Syria, Iraq, Palestine, and Lebanon. The areas were deemed sufficiently developed to have their temporary autonomy acknowledged, but they were under the supervision of the Allied administration until they achieved complete self-sufficiency. The UK was allocated Palestine and Iraq, which include modern Israel and Jordan, while France received Turkish-ruled Lebanon and Syria. By 1949, all Class A mandates had achieved complete autonomy (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*).

Zionism: Zionism, in its most basic definition, is an attempt to restore Jewish presence in Israel. The word "Zion," which refers to Jerusalem in Hebrew, is the source of the name. Based on the notion of a declared "land of Israel," where Jewish freedom would be restored, the classic Zionist concept emerged from the "deep-rooted biblical tradition" (Rai). In 1897, Theodor Herzl, a Jewish political activist and journalist from Austria, launched modern Zionism as an official political movement. Herzl argued that the Jewish people needed their own territory and country in order to survive.

The Balfour Declaration: The affluent and well-known head of the British Jewish community, Baron Rothschild, received a letter from British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour in 1917. Balfour conveyed the British government's endorsement of the creation of a Jewish homeland in Palestine in the brief communication. The passage was part of the Mandate for Palestine, a 1923 League of Nations resolution assigning Great Britain the task of founding a Jewish national homeland in Palestine, which was under British rule. A week after it'd been released to the media, this letter became known as the "Balfour Declaration." Nahum Sokolow and Chaim Weizmann, two well-known Zionists, were pivotal in securing the Balfour Declaration.

Black September: In September 1970, Jordanian forces clashed with Palestinian guerrilla groups in what became known as "Black September" or the "Jordanian-Palestinian civil war." The conflict arose from tensions between the Jordanian government and Palestinian militants, leading to a crackdown on Palestinian factions and the expulsion of PLO elements from Jordan to Lebanon.

The Geneva Peace Conference (1973): The conference aimed to negotiate a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, based on UN Security Council Resolution 242. However, the conference did not lead to a breakthrough, and subsequent negotiations were held under the auspices of the United Nations and other international forums. Also, Syria refused to attend the conference.

The Camp David Accords: "The Camp David Accords, signed by President Jimmy Carter, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin in September 1978, established a framework for a historic peace treaty concluded between Israel and Egypt in March 1979. President Carter and the U.S. Government played leading roles in creating the opportunity for this agreement to occur. From the start of his administration, Carter and his Secretary of State, Cyrus Vance, pursued intensive negotiations with Arab and Israeli leaders, hoping to reconvene the Geneva Conference,

which had been established in December 1973 to seek an end to the Arab-Israeli dispute *(Office of the Historian".*

General Overview

Over the course of a few centuries, the land that is now known as Palestine and Israel was a part of the Ottoman Empire. After its defeat in World War I, the Ottoman Empire and the Central Powers suffered a vast loss of territory at the beginning of the 20th century. This loss was significant enough to be considered severe. Consequently, the League of Nations developed two initiatives to supervise the countries in the Middle East that were under the Ottomans: the "Mandate for Palestine" and the "Mandate for Syria and Lebanon," which were classified as "Class A" mandates. The administration of Mandatory Palestine was given to the UK. The British government was, as stipulated in the mandate agreement, to ensure that the obligations made in the Balfour Declaration were carried out accordingly. Hebrew, Arabic, and English were the three official languages of the mandates.
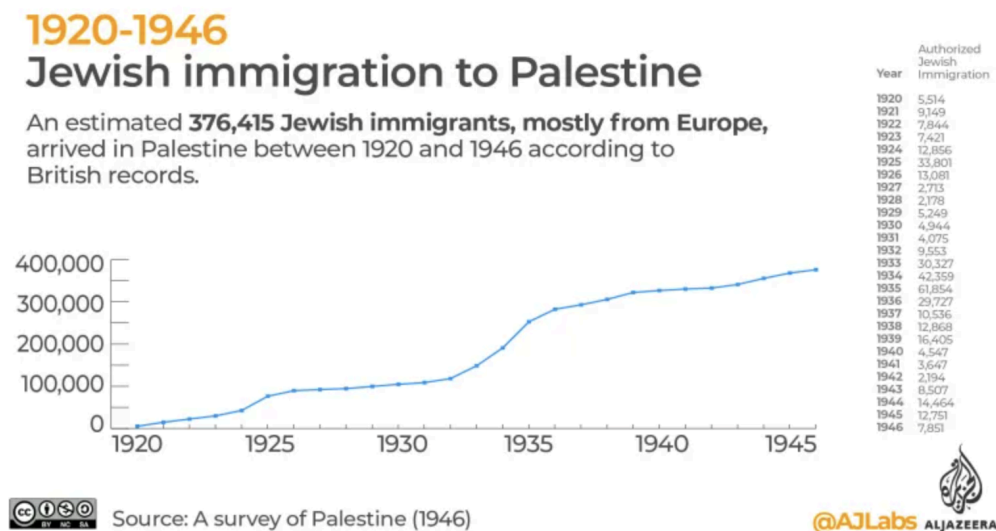

Figure 1: Data on the Jewish immigration to Palestine from 1920-1946

Between 1922 and 1947, the Jewish population in Palestine, mostly consisting of immigrants, grew from less than 10% in 1917 to more than 30%. The Palestinian quest for self-determination and opposition to Jewish migration resulted in an uprising in 1937, which was thereafter accompanied by persistent acts of terrorism and bloodshed from both parties during and soon following WWII. The UK, in its role as the Mandatory Power, executed many strategies in order to achieve independence in a nation that was severely affected by conflict. Various proposals, such as a partition scheme, a formula for regional autonomy, and a unitary, independent Palestine, were deliberated upon but ultimately discarded. Consequently, due to mounting irritation, Great Britain sent the issue to the United Nations in 1947. With the United Nations unable to develop a viable alternative government for Palestine as the British Government gradually withdrew from the region, the Zionist movement took steps to seize

control of the newly formed Jewish State. Concurrently, the Arab states that bordered the area declared their intention to intervene.

Figure 2: Map of the United Nations partition plan of 1947

The Arab-Israeli War of 1948:

The first hostile and savage conflict occurred in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. The Jewish-Arabic conflict in Palestine was provoked by the State of Israel's independence and the UN resolution on partitions (Rai). Attacks by intermittent groups of Palestinian Arabs affiliated with local Arab Liberation Army units made up of volunteers from Palestine and other Arab nations marked the start of hostilities. These organizations began attacking Jewish military installations, cities, and communities. The Jewish forces consisted of the LEHI and the Irgun, two tiny irregular organizations, and the Haganah, the clandestine militia of the Jewish population in Palestine. Originally, the Arabs wanted to stop the Jewish state from being established and to obstruct the Partition Resolution. The goal of the Jews, on

the other hand, was to take command of the land that the Partition Plan had given them. With the aim of creating an independent Jewish state in the Land of Israel, the Zionist movement persisted in expanding. That being said, Jewish immigration to Mandatory Palestine was severely restricted by British officials. They took this action, in part, to quell the violence and disturbance caused by the Arabs and Jews living there. These immigration limitations infuriated a lot of Zionists *(United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)*.

The conflict escalated after Israel proclaimed its independence on May 14, 1948, when other Arab groups joined the Palestinian Arabs in invading territories under the old Palestinian authority. The Israelis withstood an air assault on Tel Aviv by the Arabs on the eve of May 14. The invasion of the old Palestinian mandate by Arab forces from Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Egypt came after this operation. A Saudi Arabian unit fighting under Egyptian leadership was dispatched. In the end, British-trained troops from Transjordan entered the battle. However, they did so only in regions that the UN Partition Plan and Jerusalem's corpus separatum had identified as belonging to the Arab state. Israeli soldiers, now under combined direction, gained the offensive after tough early combat.

A 1947 United Nations resolution accorded Israel some land that had previously belonged to the Palestinian Arabs. Jordan and Egypt continued to rule over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, respectively. Fighting persisted until 1949, despite two cease-fires mediated by the UN throughout the war. It wasn't until February that official armistice agreements were reached between Israel and the Arab governments. These bordering governments agreed to official armistice borders under separate agreements between Israel and the neighboring states of Transjordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt. Up until 1967, these armistice lines were in place; even though they remained out of the armistice discussions, the USA believed that the Middle East's instability wouldn't affect the balance of power between the US and the Soviet Union *(Office of the Historian)*.

The Suez Crises of 1956:
The Suez Crisis, also known as the Second Arab-Israeli War, took place in 1956. The Suez Canal was nationalized by Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser. The canal was previously owned and operated by the Suez Canal Company which was a Franco-British Enterprise. The canal has an important geography since it connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea. The President of Egypt's decision to nationalize the canal was mostly due to his vision of pan-Arab nationalism and his desire to assert Egypt's sovereignty and independence from the Western countries. By nationalizing and controlling the Suez Canal, they would be able to show Egypt's modernization and strength. Also by considering the current status of the world, both Western and Eastern countries were trying to assert their influence in the Middle East. France and the United Kingdom tried to maintain control of the region whilst the USA and the Soviet Union tried to prevent the conflict from escalating.

Operation Kadesh/Musketeer was the name of the Israeli military operation during the Suez Crisis in 1956. The primary objective was to capture and secure the Sunai-Suez region to reopen the Suez

Canal which had been nationalized by the President of Egypt, Gamel Abdel Nasser. The operation was conducted in cooperation with the French Republic and the United Kingdom. Following the operation Israel started to occupy the Sinai Peninsula. However, international pressure, particularly from the United States of America, and the Soviet Union, forced Israel to withdraw its forces from the Sinai Peninsula by March 1957. This withdrawal was observed by the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF). The military intervention by Israel, France, and the United Kingdom faced widespread international condemnation. The USA and the Soviet Union opposed the actions of the three countries and pressured them to withdraw their forces from Egyptian territory. The crisis also led to the deployment of the UNEP to supervise the withdrawal of forces and maintain peace. This crisis has escalated the tensions between Israel and Egypt. The crisis was resolved through international diplomacy but it still laid the groundwork for future conflicts.

The Six-Day War of 1967:

The Six-Day War was a brief but pivotal conflict that took place between June 5 and June 10, 1967, primarily involving Israel and the neighboring Arab states of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. The immediate trigger for the war was the concentration of Egyptian forces in the Sinai Peninsula and the blockade of the Straits of Tiran, effectively cutting off Israel's access to the Red Sea. These actions were perceived as acts of aggression by Israel, prompting them to launch a preemptive strike against Egyptian airfields on the morning of June 5, 1967. In a coordinated campaign, Israel swiftly incapacitated the Egyptian Air Force, gaining air superiority within hours. This preemptive strike, known as Operation Focus, paved the way for Israel's subsequent victories on multiple fronts. Over the course of the next six days, Israeli forces launched successful offensives against Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. They captured the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip from Egypt, the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan, and the Golan Heights from Syria. The speed and decisiveness of Israel's military campaign astonished the world and reshaped the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East.

Yom Kippur/October War of 1973:

In October 1973, during the holiest day in the Jewish calendar which is Yom Kippur, and during the month of Ramadan for Muslims, a war between Israel and a coalition of Arab states which is led by Egypt and Syria began. Egypt and Syria aimed to regain the territories which they lost during the Six-Day War. Syria and Egypt launched a coordinated surprise attack on the State of Israel. Egyptian forces attacked from the Sinai Peninsula after passing the Suez Canal and Syria attacked from the Golan Heights. They caught Israel off guard since they were observing religious rituals. Israel quickly mobilized its military reserves and launched a counteroffensive to repel the opposing coalition's advances. They quickly conducted a series of coordinated ground, air, and naval operations to push back the Egyptian and Syrian forces.

The United States, the Soviet Union, as well as other world powers, became involved in diplomatic efforts to end the conflict with no further escalation. On 22 October 1973, a ceasefire was brokered by the United Nations where there were no clear victors. This conflict set the stage for future peace

negotiations including the Camp David Accords in 1978 and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty in 1979.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

Israel: On May 14, 1948, Israel was established after the British Mandate for Palestine. The Arab-Israeli War of 1948–1949, which resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and the establishment of Israel's borders, was caused by the creation of Israel. Israel seized control of the Golan Heights from Syria, the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan, the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip from Egypt and the West Bank from Jordan during the Six-Day War in June 1967. The Israeli military occupied these areas, significantly changing the geopolitical circumstances of the area. Israel began establishing settlements in the seized regions after the Six-Day War, especially in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These settlements, considered illegal under international law, became a major point of contention in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and a significant obstacle to peace negotiations. In response to threats from Palestinian militant groups like the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), which launched attacks against Israeli civilians and military sites, Israel conducted a number of military operations and security measures. Israel maintained diplomatic, military, and economic ties with important allies, particularly the United States. Additionally, Israel worked to strengthen its relations with other nations that shared its views and advocated for support in international forums such as the United Nations.

Palestine: Palestinian communities, both within the occupied territories and abroad, engaged in various forms of popular mobilization, including protests, strikes, and civil disobedience, to challenge Israeli policies and demand Palestinian rights. Palestinian leaders and organizations attempted to promote unity among Palestinians and coordinate their efforts in the struggle against Israeli occupation and for national liberation, despite internal divisions and factionalism.

Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO): In 1964, the PLO was established with the intention of stepping in for the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination. The Arab League and several other nations acknowledged the PLO, led by Yasser Arafat, as the only authorized representative of the Palestinian people. In order to secure Palestinian self-determination, the PLO engaged in both armed struggle and diplomatic efforts.

Egypt: Egypt participated in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. Egypt's involvement included military operations in the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula. In 1956, Egypt nationalized the Suez Canal, which caused Israel, France, and Britain to step in militarily. Under international pressure, the Israeli, French, and British forces withdrew from Egypt during the Suez Crisis, which provided a major setback to Egypt's enemies and improved Egypt's position in the area. The Six-Day War began, among other things, with Egypt's military presence in the Sinai Peninsula and the closing of the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping. Following an attack by Israel against Egypt's air force, Israeli forces

occupied the Sinai Peninsula. Israeli occupation of the Sinai began with Egypt's defeat in the war, which dealt a major setback to Egypt's military position. During the Yom Kippur War, also known as the October War, Egypt launched a surprise offensive against Israeli forces in the Sinai Peninsula and the Suez Canal. Egypt pursued its own national goals and diplomatic efforts while maintaining an important role in the Arab League and working to mobilize Arab support for the Palestinian cause.

Jordan: Jordan captured the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, as a result of its participation in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. The international community, except Pakistan, did not recognize this action, which was only recognized by Britain. Palestinian refugees were also compelled to leave their homes as a result of Jordan's takeover of the West Bank. Jordan lost the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, to Israel as a result of its involvement in the Six-Day War. Due to Israel's capture of formerly Jordanian territory, the war had an immense effect on Palestinian nationalism and Jordanian sovereignty. During the Arab-Israeli conflicts, a considerable number of Palestinians who were compelled to leave or were displaced were taken in by Jordan. Like other Arab nations, Jordan attempted to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian dispute diplomatically. However over time, especially after Egypt and Israel signed the Camp David Accords in 1978, their strategy changed. King Hussein of Jordan expressed doubts about the agreements and continued Jordan's support for the Palestinian cause while pursuing his own peace suggestions.

Syria: Syria participated in the Arab-Israeli War in 1948. Territorial changes resulted throughout the battle; Syria lost control of the Golan Heights, which Israel subsequently occupied. Israel took the Golan Heights from Syria after the 1967 Six-Day War. Tensions between Syria and Israel focused on the Golan Heights, with Syria demanding the territory be returned and Israel claiming sovereignty over it. The unresolved situation surrounding the Golan Heights has led to continued disputes between Israel and Syria. Syria and Israel fought each other in the military with the goal of Syria taking back the Golan Heights and other occupied areas. Syria engaged in diplomatic attempts to settle the bigger Arab-Israeli dispute as well as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Nonetheless, Syria's diplomatic approach was frequently defined by a combination of military language and support for extremist organizations, which was reflective of its bigger plan to challenge Israel through several channels. Syria contributed to the Arab unity and solidarity movement against the Israeli invasion. It joined forces with other Arab nations, including Jordan and Egypt, to support the Palestinian cause and seek for an Arab unity against Israel.

United States of America: The US became Israel's most reliable ally by providing significant military, economic, and diplomatic support. This support took the form of military assistance, arms sales and diplomatic support in international forums. Israel was viewed by the United States of America as a strategic partner in the Middle East that shared their goals. In an effort to facilitate peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbors, the United States took an active role. The United States approached the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from the perspective of its larger Middle East goals, which included energy security, limiting Soviet influence, and maintaining regional stability. These

geopolitical concerns often influenced U.S. policies regarding the conflict.

USSR (The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): The Soviet Union provided extensive political, military, and economic support to Arab states, including Egypt, Syria, and other countries opposed to Israel. This support took the form of military aid, arms sales, and diplomatic support in global forums. In the larger Cold War framework, the USSR saw the Arab governments as friends and attempted to counterbalance Western influence in the Middle East. The Soviet Union provided Egypt and Syria, two Arab nations at war with Israel, with weaponry and military equipment. Soviet arms sales contributed to the buildup of military capabilities in the region and heightened tensions between Arab states and Israel. In order to coordinate the Arab governments' actions against Israel and promote unity among them, the Soviet Union provided support. In order to challenge Western dominance in the Middle East and achieve its own geopolitical goals, the USSR attempted to take advantage of Arab unity. Propaganda and ideological messaging were used by the Soviet Union to portray Israel as an aggressor and to promote the Palestinian cause. Arab communities and the international world were encouraged to hold an anti-Israel attitude by Soviet media outlets and diplomatic channels that emphasized Palestinian concerns.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA): UNRWA was established in 1949 to provide humanitarian assistance such as education, healthcare and relief to Palestinian refugees displaced as a result of the Arab-Israeli conflict. UNRWA continues to operate to this day.

Timeline of Events

1885	"The term "Zionism "was first coined by the Viennese writer, Nathan Birnbaum" *(United Nations)*.
2 November 1917	The Balfour Declaration was a public statement put out by the British Government during the First World War.
24 July 1922	The League of Nations grants Britain to govern the British Mandate of Palestine.
1 September 1939 - 2 September 1945	The Second World War started with the invasion of Poland by the Germans. During the war, it can be seen that there have been immigration activities of Jews to Palestine.

29 November 1947	The United Nations approved a partition plan for Palestine by recommending the creation of separate Jewish and Arab states. The plan is rejected by Arab states and Palestinian Arab leaders and accepted by Jewish leaders.
May 15, 1948 – Mar 10, 1949	Arab-Israeli War
14 May 1948	Independence of the State of Israel. After the declaration of the State of Israel, neighboring Arab states including Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon. As a result, Israel gained some territory.
29 October 1956	The Suez Crises: After the nationalization of the Suez Canal by the Egyptian President, Gamal Abdel Nasser, the joint Israeli-British-French attack on Egypt started.
1964	Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) was established.
5 June 1967 - 10 June 1967	The Six-Day War
September 1970	Black September
1973	Yom Kippur/October War
December 21-29, 1973	The Geneva Peace Conference
17 September 1978	The Camp David Accords was signed between Egypt and Israel which aimed to maintain more peaceful relations.
1979	Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty

Treaties and Events

The peace treaty between Egypt and Israel (1979): The peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, signed on March 26, 1979, marked a historic milestone in Middle Eastern diplomacy and significantly altered the dynamics of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The peace treaty between Egypt and Israel was the culmination of negotiations that began with the Camp David Accords in September 1978. The Camp David Accords laid out a framework for peace between Egypt and Israel, with the primary goal of ending decades of conflict and establishing peaceful relations between the two countries.

https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-201580/

UN Involvement

The United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 181, also known as the Partition Plan, which recommended the partition of Mandatory Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem as a corpus separatum under international control. While accepted by Jewish leaders, Arab leaders rejected the plan, leading to the Arab-Israeli War of 1948.

The UN General Assembly has passed numerous resolutions addressing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including resolutions affirming the rights of Palestinian refugees, condemning Israeli actions, and calling for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied territories. The UN Security Council has issued several resolutions addressing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, such as Resolution 242 (1967) which called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from territories occupied during the Six-Day War and Resolution 338 (1973) which called for an immediate ceasefire and negotiations aimed at achieving a peaceful settlement.

The UN has deployed peacekeeping forces to the region to monitor ceasefires and maintain peace, including the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) established in 1956 following the Suez Crisis and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) established in 1974 to monitor the ceasefire between Israel and Syria.

Relevant UN Documents

UN General Assembly Resolution 181 (1947): Also known as the Partition Plan, this resolution proposed the partition of Mandatory Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem as an international city. While accepted by Jewish leaders, Arab leaders rejected the plan, leading to the Arab-Israeli War of 1948.

https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-185393/

UN Security Council Resolution 242 (1967): Adopted in the aftermath of the Six-Day War, Resolution 242 called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from territories occupied during the conflict, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states in the region, and the right of every state in the area to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries. It became the basis for subsequent peace negotiations.

https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-184858/

Khartoum Resolution (1967): Following the Six-Day War, Arab leaders convened in Khartoum, Sudan, and issued the "Three No's" - no peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, and no negotiations with Israel. This stance hindered early attempts at peace negotiations between Israel and the Arab states.

https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-193039/

United Nations Security Council Resolution 338 (1973): Issued during the Yom Kippur War, Resolution 338 called for an immediate ceasefire and negotiations aimed at achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, based on UN Resolution 242. It provided a framework for subsequent peace efforts.

https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/SCR338%281973%29.pdf

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Israel engaged in international negotiations as well as diplomatic talks with neighboring Arab states in an attempt to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. President Jimmy Carter of the United States facilitated the 1978 Camp David Accords, which resulted in a peace agreement between Egypt and Israel but left unaddressed the fundamental questions of Palestinian independence and self-determination.

In 1978, the United States was a key player in facilitating the Camp David Accords between Egypt and Israel. The negotiations, led by President Jimmy Carter, resulted in a restoration of relations between Egypt and Israel, marking the first peace agreement between an Arab state and Israel. The

agreements were seen as a significant diplomatic success and a turning point in the Middle East peace movement. In order to protect Israel from resolutions that criticized its actions in the occupied territories, the United States used its veto power in the UN Security Council. Resolutions concerning Palestinian rights, Israeli settlements, and other aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict were included in this.

In 1969, U.S. Secretary of State William Rogers proposed the Rogers Plan. The plan called for an ongoing Israeli departure from occupied territory in exchange for peace and recognition, with the ultimate goal being peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors. Leaders in both Israel and the Arab world rejected the proposal, which prevented it from becoming real.

After being displaced by the 1948 Arab-Israeli War and other conflicts, Palestinian refugees formed and fought for their rights, such as the right to return to their homes and financial recompense for their losses. In addition to supporting Palestinian refugees' needs for healthcare and education, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) provided humanitarian aid.

Possible Solutions

When we think of possible solutions for the Palestine issue as of 1980, it's essential to consider the historical context and the dynamics of the conflict at that time. The formation of two distinct states, one for Israelis and one for Palestinians, coexisting in peace and security was one of the most frequently debated solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian issue. Besides the state of Israel, this solution would probably involve the formation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with East Jerusalem serving as its capital. A single democratic state with equal rights and citizenship for Israelis and Palestinians was suggested by some advocates, and it would include Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. However, the demographic, religious, and political differences between Israelis and Palestinians created major challenges to this solution.

According to the "Land for Peace" plan, Israel would give up control of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem, among other areas it occupied during the Six-Day War, in exchange for a truce with surrounding Arab governments and acknowledgment of its legitimate claim to exist within safe and established borders. Resolution 242 of the UN Security Council essentially expressed this idea. Another possible idea would be establishing a federal framework between Israel and a future Palestinian state that maintains some degree of sovereignty while promoting cooperation on issues of shared interest, such as security, economic development, and shared resources. To reach a comprehensive conclusion to the conflict, it could be a good idea to hold a peace conference with representatives from Israel, Arab states, Palestinians and other important powers such as the US and the USSR. A conference of this kind could improve on previous attempts such as the Geneva Peace Conference and the Camp David Accords.

Notes from the Chair

REMINDER! Any information that dates after July 22, 1980, is not relevant to this committee and should not be taken into account.

Useful Links:

1. "The Question of Palestine- Timeline of Events" by the United Nations:
   https://www.un.org/unispal/timeline/
2. "The Origins and Evolution of the Palestine Problem: Part II (1947-1977)" by the United Nations:
   https://www.un.org/unispal/history2/origins-and-evolution-of-the-palestine-problem/part-ii-1947-1977/
3. The Balfour Declaration:
   https://www1.udel.edu/History-old/figal/Hist104/assets/pdf/readings/14balfour.pdf
4. The Camp David Accords:
   https://www.peaceau.org/uploads/camp-david-accords-egypt-1978.pdf
5. The Rogers Plan: https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-rogers-plan-december-1969
6. The Geneva Peace Conference:
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