

whole substance of the Palestine problem, this privilege was not widely availed of and the debate in the final plenary session occupied only two days.

The Arab delegations, one by one, again put on record their claim that nothing but one independent State of Palestine would satisfy them, and particularly that the issue of independence should be included in the terms of reference. The Soviet delegate spoke at considerable length reviewing the history of the mandate and quoting from the reports of the Royal Commissions and the Anglo-American Commission. In particular, he referred to the unhappy plight of the Jewish refugees in Europe, and asserted that it would be unjust to deny the right of the Jewish people to a realization of their aspirations for a State of their own. In his opinion the solution most deserving of attention was the creation of a single Arab-Jewish State with equal rights for both races, and if that were unrealizable on account of the deterioration of relations between the Jews and Arabs, the alternative was the division of Palestine into two independent, separate States.

The Polish delegate, in the course of his address, appealed to the Assembly to reintroduce his resolution, rejected in the First Committee, providing for the appointment to the Committee of Inquiry of the five permanent members of the Security Council and six other members, but he did not press this to another vote.

The Syrian delegate broke new ground with a lengthy discourse on the history both of the Jews and the Arabs, taking the Assembly back some four thousand years to what he described as the attack by the Jews against Palestine and its inhabitants, the Arabs then being known as Phillistines. He claimed that very few of those who were now endeavouring to enter Palestine were of the children of Israel or had had any connection with Palestine. Chiefly, he said they were descendants of the "Khazar Dynasty," a tribe of Mongols who settled north of the Caspian Sea but were eventually scattered throughout Eastern Europe when the Russian Empire came into power, and who had adopted Judaism for their religion in the seventh or eighth century A.D.

The Norwegian delegate introduced a resolution which he hoped expressed the views voiced by the New Zealand delegate at a previous plenary session, and which he considered could be accepted without debate. This resolution was slightly amended at the suggestion of the delegate of El Salvador, the final text being as follows :—

"The General Assembly calls upon all Governments and peoples, and particularly on the inhabitants of Palestine, to refrain, pending action by the General Assembly on the report of the Special Committee on Palestine, from the threat or use of force or any other action which might create an atmosphere prejudicial to an early settlement of the question of Palestine."