

Vice-Presidents of the Assembly: The Chief Representatives of the United States of America, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Turkey, and Peru.

The above-mentioned representatives, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, comprised the General Committee of the General Assembly. This Committee recommended to the Assembly on 19th April that the application of Burma for membership in the United Nations be considered by the General Assembly without reference to Committee, and that the item "Further consideration of the question of the future government of Palestine" be referred to the First Committee for consideration and report.

Burma was thereupon admitted to membership of the United Nations unanimously, and the Palestine question was referred to the First Committee without debate.

I. FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE

Security Council

On 29th November, 1947, the General Assembly had recommended for Palestine a plan of partition with economic union, and requested the Security Council to take the necessary measures as provided in the plan for its implementation. The Security Council was also asked to take steps to empower the United Nations (Palestine) Commission to exercise its functions if the Council should decide that circumstances during the transitional period before the termination of the mandate constituted a threat to the peace.

In the ensuing months the Palestine Commission had submitted two regular reports to the Security Council and two special reports, one urging action to maintain security in Palestine, and the other recommending measures to ensure adequate food-supplies for Palestine after the termination of the mandate on 15th May. After exhaustive discussions, including private consultations among the five permanent members of the Council, the Security Council was able to take only limited action. It called for a truce in Palestine under Chapter VI of the Charter, and, on the initiative of the United States, for a special session of the General Assembly "to consider further the question of the future government of Palestine." It did not formally accept the responsibilities assigned to it under the plan of partition, nor did it attempt to find that conditions in Palestine constituted a threat to the peace requiring action under Chapter VII of the Charter. Subsequently,