

The United Nations and Palestine: 1947-1951

(Latest jury feedback incorporated into the exhibit)

Exhibit Scope

This exhibit documents efforts between 1947 and 1951 of the fledgling United Nations organization to settle the land dispute between the Arab and Jewish populations in the Palestine Mandate.

Historical Background

The United Nations replaced the League of Nations in 1946 and inherited the League's resources and responsibilities, including the oversight of international mandates. In April 1947, Great Britain announced it would no longer administer the Palestine mandate as of May 1948. They proposed a 'Special Session' of the U.N. Security Council to address administration and security under U.N. auspices once British forces departed.

Exhibit Development

Exhibit development progresses chronologically (date range top right of exhibit pages - some ranges overlap) and presented using related material to illustrate each subject:

British responsibility for Palestine Mandate, Special Session on Palestine, U.N. Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP), Palestine Commission, Truce Commission (UNPTC), Palestine Mediators and transfer of responsibilities to the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), U.N. Relief for Palestine Refugees (UNRPR) and Epilogue - U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWAPR).

Exhibit Plan

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Special Session on Palestine | - General Assembly discussion / formation of Special Committee |
| 2 Special Committee on Palestine | - Committee gathers data & develops reports (Jerusalem, Geneva) |
| 3 Palestine Commission and Secretariat | - Monitoring of the transition to independent states |
| 4 Truce Commission | - Administration & monitoring of cease-fires, truces and armistices |
| 5 Independence and Resistance | - Israel declares independence and Arab resistance |
| 6 Palestine Mediators | - Count Bernadotte and Ralph Bunche seek peace |
| 7 Relief for Palestine Refugees | - United Nations aid to the Arab refugees |
| 8 Conciliation Commission for Palestine | - Resolution for ongoing issues and refugee assistance |
| 9 Epilogue | - Transfer of Conciliation Commission to UNTSO and UNRWAPR |

Subject Knowledge

The story-line of this exhibit includes major events arranged by date and illustrated with diverse philatelic elements selectively chosen to demonstrate specific story-line details and balance presentation.

Philatelic Knowledge

Care is taken to ensure proper descriptions of philatelic elements to demonstrate knowledge of philately and includes information on stamps, cancel devices, rates, rarity or other justified information as appropriate.

Philatelic Elements

This exhibit utilizes a rich array of materials spanning many exhibit types (traditional, thematic, postal history, post card, etc.) to carry the story forward. Examples of mail from all special bodies and/or offices are included and mail from the appropriate time period and office is preferred and incorporated.

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Condition and Rarity

U.N. official service mail from Palestine during this period utilized special stationery with preprinted corner-card text (or in some cases, manuscript notations). Due to each committee / office's brief existence, official service mail from each entity is extremely scarce. Service mail is known from the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine, Palestine Commission, Truce Commission, Palestine Mediator, Relief for Palestine Refugees and Conciliation Commission - all rarely obtainable. This exhibit includes examples for each area.

Covers are selected for best condition, bearing in mind service mail is seldom pristine. Folds, creases, nicks, small tears or missing corners are indications of actual transit through the mail systems of the time and place.

Challenge for this area is high as many items are either scarce or unique. Key items are matted on gold mats and include the discovery cover of the American Friends Service Committee (Quaker) efforts in Palestine.

- Special Committee on Palestine service mail (manuscript) sent internationally (6 reported)
- **Special Committee on Palestine service mail sent to Haifa (2 reported)**
- **Committee member countrywide pass with embossed British M.E.F. seal (only reported)**
- Special Committee on Palestine service mail sent internationally (6 reported)
- **Special Committee on Palestine service mail sent within Jerusalem (only reported)**
- **Special Committee on Palestine service mail sent as postcard (only reported)**
- **American Friends Service Committee (AFSC/UNRPR) Geneva service mail (only reported)**
- Two Special Committee on Palestine service covers from Geneva to Canada and USA (9 reported)
- **Palestine Commission service mail (3 reported)**
- Palestine Truce Commission service mail ('**Emergency P.O.**' in use 9 days - 5 reported)
- Palestine Mediator (Count Bernadotte) service mail and letter from Rhodes, Greece
- **Truce Supervision Organization mail from Trans-Jordan post office (3 reported)**
- **Palestine Mediator service mail documenting assassination broadcast (only reported)**
- **Palestine Mediator service mail from Third General Assembly in Paris (3 reported)**
- Relief for Palestine Refugees (UNRPR) service mail from Beirut, Lebanon (4 reported)
- Conciliation Committee service mail from Geneva (4 reported)

Rarity is determined from published sources and personal correspondence.

- Articles from "*The Journal*" (UNPI) and "*The Israel Philatelist*" (SIP)
- Gaines Catalog / monographs of international U.N. philatelic societies
- Philatelic exhibits (international) / web sites / personal correspondence

Political Viewpoint

This exhibit attempts to remain non-partisan on a controversial subject.

Key Literature References

- "*1948 Security Council Truce Commission*", *The Journal of United Nations Philatelists*, 2014, **Vol. 38 #2**
- "*To Consider the Future of Palestine*", *The Israel Philatelist*, 1998, **Vol. 49 #4**
- "*UN Conciliation Commission*", *The Journal of United Nations Philatelists*, 2015, **Vol. 39 #2**
- "*UN Relief for Palestine Refugees*", *The Journal of United Nations Philatelists*, 2015 **Vol. 37 #2**
- "*United Nations Philately*", Arleigh Gaines, R&D Pubs, 1980-92, **pages 1715-1717, 3026, 1791 and 1425**
- *Wikipedia* - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Special_Committee_on_Palestine (9/28/16)
- *Wikipedia* - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Truce_Supervision_Organization (9/28/16)

Exhibitor contributes League of Nations and U.N. related information and images to:

- *Articles on League of Nations / U.N. forerunners published in "The Journal" (of UNPI)*



American Friends Service Committee
Discovery cover