November 29, 1947 – UN Partition Plan for Palestine

On November 29, 1947, the UN General Assembly voted in favor of a resolution to partition (לחלק) Palestine/Land of Israel. This resolution led to the declaration of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948. The vote in the UN General Assembly was conducted following the recommendation of a majority of the members of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP).

UNSCOP was appointed by the UN General Assembly on April 28, 1947, after the British government returned the Mandate for Palestine to the United Nations. On August 31, 1947, UNSCOP issued its recommendations. The committee members recommended unanimously to end the British Mandate for Palestine. A majority of the committee's members proposed to Palestine into two independent states, Jewish and Arab, which would be joined in an economic union. The Jerusalem and Bethlehem region was intended to be neutral territory, under UN control. The Jewish leadership in Palestine agreed to accept the partition plan, since it recognized the right of the Jewish people to a state. The Arab leadership however, rejected the Partition Plan.

On November 29, 1947, the vote was held at the UN General Assembly: 33 states voted to approve the plan, 13 states voted against it, and 10 states refrained from taking a position. The United States and the Soviet Union were in favor of accepting the recommendations of the majority of the committee members. Based on the committee's report, the UN General Assembly decided that the British Mandate would end by August 1, 1948.

The adoption of the General Assembly's resolution in support of establishing a Jewish state was received by the Jewish community in Palestine with great joy. Close to midnight, when the news was broadcast on the radio that the necessary majority had been obtained in the UN General Assembly, masses of people danced in the streets. However, it was clear that the establishment of the state would only be possible after a difficult military and diplomatic struggle, and that the Arab states and the Palestinian Arabs would battle against the implementation of the plan to establish a Jewish state.

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QUESTIONS

What event took place on November 29, 1947?

A. The British Mandate officially ended
B. The UN General Assembly voted on the partition plan
C. The State of Israel was declared
D. UNSCOP was established

2. What did the UN resolution passed on November 29, 1947 eventually lead to?

A. The formation of UNSCOP
B. The end of World War II
C. The declaration of the State of Israel
D. The division of Jerusalem into four zones

3. Who recommended the partition plan that the UN General Assembly voted on?

A. The British government
B. The U.S. Congress
C. The United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP)
D. The Arab leadership

4. Why was UNSCOP created?

A. To end World War II
B. Because the British government returned the Mandate for Palestine to the UN
C. To supervise the first Israeli elections
D. To negotiate peace between Jewish and Arab communities

5. When did UNSCOP issue its recommendations?

A. April 28, 1947
B. May 14, 1948
C. August 31, 1947
D. November 29, 1947

6. What did all UNSCOP committee members agree on?

A. To divide Jerusalem equally
B. To extend the British Mandate
C. To end the British Mandate for Palestine
D. To form a single unified state

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7. Which of the following describes the majority proposal of UNSCOP?

A. Create one independent Jewish state
B. Divide Palestine into two independent states with an economic union
C. Place all of Palestine under UN control
D. Only the Jewish state would be independent

8. How did the Jewish and Arab leaderships respond to the partition plan?

A. Both accepted it
B. Jewish leadership rejected it; Arab leadership accepted it
C. Both rejected it
D. Jewish leadership accepted it; Arab leadership rejected it

9. How many states voted in favor of the partition plan at the UN General Assembly?

A. 13
B. 10
C. 33
D. 45

10. What was the reaction of the Jewish community in Palestine to the adoption of the resolution?

A. They held protests
B. They ignored the news
C. They danced in the streets with joy
D. They immediately declared independence

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