

# The United Nations and Palestine : 1947-1951

This thematic 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.

## Prelude

Following World War I, the Allied Supreme Council met in San Remo, Italy (19-26 April 1920) to address civil administration and defense obligations for Palestine. The 1917 *Balfour Declaration* previously affirmed establishment of a “national home for the Jewish people” in Palestine. Territorial governing responsibilities transferred from the Ottoman Empire to Great Britain and were maintained until April 1947. On 2 April 1947, Britain announced it would terminate its jurisdiction due to financial burden, ongoing political unrest and escalating civil violence between the Arab population and Jewish immigrants over ownership of land. Solving the issue now fell to the fledgling United Nations and was its first test to promote world peace.



Villa Devachan, San Remo, Italy, site of the Mandate Conference, *Photo postcard*  
San Remo to Salerno, Italy, 22 April 1920, Domestic postcard with Registration, 35 Lira



British Mandate Palestine  
Sept. 1923 - May 1948



Lord Balfour (1848-1930)  
*Balfour Declaration*



Certificate VSPV 4'028

League of Nations  
**Overprint Inverted**  
100 printed



The League of Nations  
was succeeded in 1946  
by the United Nations.



United Nations  
*Triangle cutout*  
denotes 1st printing

## Exhibit Plan

	Significant items (1-3 examples reported) have a <b>gold matt</b>	
Special Session on Palestine	- General Assembly forms Special Committee	Pg 2
Special Committee in Jerusalem	- Committee gathers data & develops proposals	Pg 4
Special Committee in Geneva	- Committee moves operations to Geneva	Pg 10
Major and Minor Reports	- Committee in Geneva prepares formal reports	Pg 13
Palestine Commission & Secretariat	- Monitoring transition to independent states	Pg 15
Truce Commission & Monitoring	- Administration of cease-fire, truce & armistice	Pg 16
Independence & Resistance	- Israel declares independence & Arab resistance	Pg 17
Palestine Mediators	- Count Bernadotte & Ralph Bunche seek peace	Pg 18
Relief for Palestine Refugees	- United Nations aid to Arab refugees	Pg 22
Conciliation Commission for Palestine	- Resolution for ongoing issues & assistance	Pg 23