

**From Speech by Soviet Representative at Plenary
Meeting of UN General Assembly on Palestine
Question, December 11, 1948**

The Soviet Union takes a clear, consistent and principled position on the question of Palestine. It champions the freedom of the peoples, their right to self-determination, and the maintenance of peace and security. The Soviet Union's stand accords with the principles, tasks and goals of

the United Nations Organisation, as outlined in the Charter of our Organisation. It is precisely for this reason that the Soviet delegation still believes that a radical settlement of the Palestine problem can be achieved on the basis of the General Assembly's resolution of November 29, 1947, which grants the two peoples of Palestine the right to an independent existence, based on equality.

In the light of the above-mentioned, the Soviet delegation maintains, there is no point in introducing reservations such as those that have now been included in the so-called proposal of seven states, in Document 424, into the General Assembly's resolution of November 29.

We must see to it that this resolution is carried out, for it will fully accord with the interests of both the Jewish and the Arab population of Palestine, with enabling these peoples to implement their right to national self-determination, to set up independent, democratic states. The events in Palestine and the very development of these events have convincingly illustrated the correctness of the Soviet Union's stand on the Palestine issue, for this stand serves the common interests of all peace-loving peoples, and the whole of progressive humanity.

As to the draft resolution submitted by the First Committee, the Soviet delegation believes that it can only lead to negative results, precisely because of the considerations I have had the opportunity of mentioning in my speech. Moreover, the composition of the arbitration or conciliation commission proposed in the draft, as well as the failure of the draft to mention such a vitally important measure as the immediate

withdrawal of all foreign troops and military personnel from Palestine, a measure intended to achieve a peaceful settlement in Palestine, makes this draft resolution unacceptable for the Soviet delegation and it will have to vote against it.

The Soviet delegation feels that the interests of peace in Palestine require the immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops and military personnel stationed on the territory of the Jewish and Arab states in Palestine—the creation of these states is stipulated in the General Assembly's resolution—and that the Security Council should take appropriate measures to prevent the resumption of hostilities in Palestine.

We must find a way to solve the Palestine problem. The resolution submitted by the majority of the First Committee for your consideration, does not provide the answer. Today it can only be found by observing the principles outlined in the resolution of the General Assembly of November 29, 1947.

Izvestia, December 15 and 16, 1948