BALM TO THE JEWS, GALL TO THE ARABS
Partition brings call for holy war

The United Nations' decision on Nov. 29 to divide Palestine into Arab and Jewish states quickly filled the Near East with rage and exultation. David Ben-Gurion and other Zionists triumphantly prepared to form a new government on the framework of the Jewish Agency. Members of the underground Hagannah came out into the open with their weapons and arm bands as a well-trained militia. Jews fell upon each other's necks and wept with joy.

But what was balm to Israel was gall to the Arabs. Bitter riots swept Cairo, Baghdad and Jerusalem, although crusty Ibn Saud of Arabia kept his own followers in check by remarking, "There will be no riots here without the approval of the king." British troops struggled hard to keep order, cheered not a bit by rumors that Russia, anxious to extend its influence toward Suez, would be pleased to help. Meanwhile the threat of a holy war, demanded by the Moslem clerics at El Azhar University in Cairo, hung like a blood-red cloud over the Near East.

BRITISH TROOPS (above), friends now instead of enemies, carry the Jewish flag at a celebration at Jewish Agency headquarters where thousands turned out to cheer white-haired David Ben-Gurion (in center, below), who will in all probability become the first premier of the new Jewish state when the U.N. plan becomes effective.