P R E F A C E

This study was initiated almost two years ago, at the instance of Mr. M. H. Blinken, President of the American Palestine Institute, 165 Broadway, New York City. The A.P.I. retained Mr. Robert R. Nathan as a consulting economist to undertake a survey of the potentialities of economic development in Palestine. Mr. Nathan invited Mr. Oscar Gass to collaborate in the survey and to direct such research as might be required. Mr. Daniel Creamer became assistant director of research. The A.P.I. has furnished the funds required for investigation and travel in the United States, Britain, and the Middle East. The authors, however, bear exclusive responsibility for the analysis and conclusions presented in this Report.

The first stage in the study consisted of an analysis of published and unpublished materials on Palestine and the Middle East that were available in the United States. In this stage, the authors were assisted by research and analysis undertaken by Miss Blanche Bernstein, Miss Florence Schoenberg, Mr. Frederick S. Straus, Mr. Lawrence Hart, and Mrs. Majorie Galenson. The authors wish to acknowledge the aid rendered by all of these assistants, and especially by Miss Bernstein and Miss Schoenberg. With the exception of Miss Schoenberg, however, none of these assistants has been associated with the inquiry during the past nine months, when conclusions were being formulated. None share responsibility for the views expressed in this volume.

This study is a joint product. The authors spent the months December 1944-March 1945 together in Palestine in continuous investigation and discussion of all aspects of the Palestinian economy. We have also constantly exchanged views, on large issues and small, at every stage in our work.

Due however to Mr. Nathan's other responsibilities, most recently as Deputy Director of the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion, most of the burden of research and writing has been assumed by Mr. Gass and Mr. Creamer. Mr. Nathan is primarily responsible for Chapters 13, 16, 23, and 26; in the prepara-