In this thesis entitled "Zionism and the UN debates before the formation of Israel" an effort has been made to discuss and analyse the Zionist activities directed towards the formation of Israel. The focus is on the first half of the twentieth century. The Zionists had the network of their organizations and strategic contacts with the key figures in Great Britain, United States of America and the Soviet Union, the three powers which were directly concerned with the issue. They made concerted and well orchestrated effort in these countries to achieve their long-cherished goal i.e. the formation of Israel. These efforts of the Zionist paid rich dividends in promoting the cause of Israel in these countries and finally the United Nations General Assembly also. The culmination of all this was the Partition Resolution of 1947.

The thesis has been divided into six chapters. An outline summary of these chapters has been given below:

Chapter I which serves as an introduction to the thesis deals with the evolution of the Zionist ideology. It draws heavily from my M. Phil dissertation in Summary form and serves to place the present thesis in perspective. The chapter briefly discusses pre Herzlian Zionism, the
rise of Herzl and his book Der Judenstaat. The role of Basle Congress which was held in 1897 has also been briefly discussed.

Chapter II deals with the Zionism in practice. After all the Zionists were the people who inspired and activated other actors -- Great Britain, United States of America and the Soviet Union and ultimately through them the U.N. General Assembly. The evolution of post-Herzlian Zionist activities and their sophisticated diplomacy form the main part of this chapter.

Chapter III discusses the role of Great Britain which was the Mandatory power of Palestine from 1920 to 1948. Earlier it had issued the Balfour Declaration -- the seeds of the Israeli state. The British policy towards the Zionist goal has been discussed from World War I through the Mandatory period to the end of World War II. The British role culminated into her bringing the Palestinian Question on the agenda of the General Assembly in 1947.

Chapter IV deals with the U.S. policy towards Zionism, its support to the Zionist Organisations and finally the cause of Israel. The U.S. was a reluctant supporter of the
Zionist cause in the beginning. With the passage of time however, the Zionist efforts turned it into the main bulwark. It was the U.S. which through its might and diplomatic leverage gathered a preponderant majority (Two thirds) to vote for the partition of Palestine.

Chapter V discusses the role of the Soviet Union. It was strongly anti-Zionist but over the years specially after World War II, turned into a supporter of the idea of Israel. The Soviet role in the U.N. was crucial in the sense that without its support, the support of its Republics and the East European countries, the two third majority was impossible.

Chapter VI concentrates on the dynamics within the United Nations, and the specific role played by the "Jewish Agency", the Arab Higher Committee and the three major powers. The deliberations and debates resulting into the resolution on the partition of Palestine of 29 November 1947 have also been discussed in detail in this chapter.

It is hoped that this study will contribute, in its own modest way, to the understanding of Zionism and the role of the United Nations in creating the state of Israel.