YES: States Holy Places Under U.N. Supervision Acceptable to Israel

By MOSHE SARETT
Foreign Minister of Israel

An international regime of peace which does not derive its authority from the freely expressed will of its inhabitants denies to them the elementary rights enjoyed by their counterparts elsewhere, namely the right to belong to an independent state as the full-fledged citizens.

Can the Holy Places be preserved as religious sanctuaries sacred except by limiting the Jewish inhabitants of Jerusalem in the exercise of their civil and political self-determination? Is it possible, in the long-term interest of churches and religious institutions that they should be charged with responsibility for permanently interfering with the normal course of secular and religious life of the population?

The answer of my Government to all these questions is in the negative.

The draft instrument of the Palestine Conciliation Commission is too unacceptable because its basic idea is the establishment of an outside authority over a whole area, namely, half of the independence of Jerusalem.

We also note the belief expressed by the representative of the U.S. that "the laws of Israel would be neutral and therefore could be presented, to Jewish Jerusalem," and that the decision of the international regime shall prevail it left to Jewish inhabitants of Jerusalem, presumably concerned with the collection of taxes.

But these assumptions (posed by the representatives of the U.S. and France) do not affect the core of the matter, namely, the idea that a maximum extent of local autonomy is repeatedly urged, but this cannot be accepted as a condition. The term "local autonomy" is more deceptive than reassuring.

The conception of the representative of the U.S. retains the establishment of a general council, with vaguely defined powers but with many possibilities of interference with the normal conduct of government.

A complicated system of United Nations courts, with jurisdiction extending with that of the state concerned, is an unsuitable scheme which remains intact. Finally, the distinguished representative of the U.S. argues under conditions more like a demilitarization of Jerusalem.

No illusion could be more dangerous. Demilitarization is an unrealistic approach. In application to a holy city it sounds particularly attractive and plausible.

Jewish Jerusalem is bounded on three sides—north, east and south—by Arab territory. A complete bilateral disarmament of Jewish and Arab areas in Jerusalem would not result in an efficient security equipment. It would leave the Jewish area in a position of very marked inferiority, extremely vulnerable to sudden attacks, which would be unable immediately to ward off.

We thus reject the draft instrument even in its mitigated form.

The delegation of Israel has already had opportunities to indicate the nature of the solution of the Palestinian problem, which is possible and feasible and fair. It accepts the principle of international concern in the Holy Places, expressed by the Conciliation Commission.

It accepts the idea of an international regime to give effect to this concern. But it is a regime involving a functioning of a functional authority, not a territorial character; vis., it should be concerned with the supervision of the Holy Places and the enforcement, throughout the appropriate authorities, of measures necessary for their protection and accessibility.

It points to the possibility of supplementing the exercise of such a functional authority by the United Nations throughout the area of Jerusalem with the complete internationalization of the Old City which represents a maximum concentration of all the main shrines.

The delegation of the Old City and the New City of Jerusalem is, in its essence, and its importance cannot be overshadowed. The Old City, which contains within its walls the chief sanctuaries of the three faiths, all the Christian patriarchates, a number of monasteries and hospitals, the Moslem ecclesiastical foundations and a Jewish quarter with ancient synagogues now in ruins, covers only 6.5 per cent of Jerusalem’s municipal territory and only 2 per cent of 50 town planning area.

The Arab authorities in its control have refused the Jewish access to these shrines—the Wailing Wall, which is the remnant of the Temple.

If the present Arab inhabitants of the Walled City could be induced, by the offer of better housing facilities, to move into the free part of their walls out of the congested quarters and settle in the free space outside the walls, there would be good reason to conclude that a solution could be secured. The compound, relieved of its present ugliness and clutter, containing only 350 inhabitants, would serve as a genuine place of worship and pilgrimage by members of all faiths under the aegis of the United Nations.

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The New York Times
1633 Broadway, New York, N.Y.

SHARET

Question:

Would Jerusalem's problem be solved by granting U.N. supervision of the Holy Places?

Support for Israeli opposition to the internationalization of Jerusalem as proposed by the Conciliation Commission of the U.N. is based on the belief that Jerusalem's problem can be solved by making the holy sites under the control of the Government of Transjordan before the Special Political Committee of the General Assembly.

To that effect is the official report submitted by the Special Political Committee of the General Assembly to the General Assembly with the aim of clarifying the differences of opinion that exist among the two parties most directly concerned.

Most of the Arab nations have supported the concept of full autonomy of all the Holy Places in the Holy City; if not the recommendation of two zones in Jerusalem under Israeli and Arab control, it being recognized that segregation along the lines proposed is unacceptable. The Arab Conciliation Commission in the recent Delphi Conference was not prepared to acknowledge the possibility of two zones. The Government of Transjordan, however, has been on record that it is prepared to accept the two zones proposal provided the Jewish quarter of Jerusalem is permitted to be retained under Israeli control.

The United States, meanwhile, continues to support the concept of the U.S. as the original and autonomous proposal for internationalization. The fact that these proposals are not only against the Jewish people, but against the interests of the Jordanian and Palestinian Arab people, and all the interested parties, is further justification for giving the United Nations more prominent role in solving this problem.

Our State Department would seem to be hedging with the other Arab nations on all considerations, but the European and the Arab nations maintain that the United Nations has not been a real problem solver. If the United Nations is included in the decision of the armistice conferences, it is likely that the final conference will not be able to solve the problem of the Holy Places.

The armistice agreements provided for detailed stipulations concerning the protection and protection of the Holy Places, but all these provisions are not only against the United Nations, but against the interests of the Jordanian and Palestinian Arab people, and all the interested parties. The United Nations has not been a real problem solver. If the United Nations is included in the decision of the armistice conferences, it is likely that the final conference will not be able to solve the problem of the Holy Places.

Having made such a contribution in preserving and protecting the Holy Places and having endeavored to reorient the normative situation that existed, my country hopes that the delegation of the United Nations will be able to play an important role in solving the problem of the Holy Places.

It is understandable that the Jewish area is occupied among Arab areas a position of paramount importance. Your honorable committee will not fail to recognize that the responsibility for the defense of these areas has been shrouded by the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom. The armistice agreements provided for detailed stipulations concerning the protection and protection of the Holy Places, but all these provisions are not only against the United Nations, but against the interests of the Jordanian and Palestinian Arab people, and all the interested parties. The United Nations has not been a real problem solver. If the United Nations is included in the decision of the armistice conferences, it is likely that the final conference will not be able to solve the problem of the Holy Places.

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MULKI

NO:

Worns of ‘Unspeaking Dangers’ If Arabs Withdraw from Old City

By FOUZI PASHA EL MULKI
Minister of Justice of Jordan

Our Government is deeply concerned with the problem of Jerusalem and the extension of the existing armistice agreements. Therefore, it is imperative that we express our views on the problem of Jerusalem with a keen desire that this issue will eventually be resolved, which will be consistent with the principles of justice and democracy.

My Government views the security of Jerusalem as a duty, as an obligation from which we cannot be absolved. Moreover, our Government's responsibility before the world and the nations to come can only be discharged by securing the safety and stability of the Holy City.

It is needless to emphasize our respect for the wishes of the international community represented in this honorable organization, but although we are not a member of this organization, yet our Government has sent an official delegation to state their views before the honorable organization.

We hoped that our talks with the Conciliation Commission would help our points of view. To begin with, I can make this declaration, from which I can never depart. The Holy Places, which are under the control of my Government, shall be the sacred trust protected everywhere do for the benefit of all mankind.

It is worthy of note that our military forces have already taken the Holy Places, with all the resources under their command, and have endeavored to bring about the destruction of the Holy Places from destruction, thus securing the revenue which is held by the believers of the whole world.

We are not for this genuine effort on the part of the Jordan Kingdom, Jerusalem, like the rest of Arab Palestine, now under Jewish control, would have been destroyed. Consequently, we would be as far away, discussing the future of the Holy City, for the Holy City should not be the Holy City to all mankind.

They have made a contribution in preserving and protecting the Holy Places and having endeavored to reorient the normative situation that existed, my country hopes that the delegation of the United Nations will be able to play an important role in solving the problem of the Holy Places.

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