

RESTRICTED
M/32
13 April 1948

UNITED NATIONS PALESTINE COMMISSION

Communication Received from the Union of Orthodox
Rabbis of America

The following telegram has been received, concerning International Trusteeship for the City of Jerusalem:

KARL LIBICKY, CHAIRMAN UNITED NATIONS PALESTINE COMMISSION

WE THE UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS OF AMERICA DESIRE TO PLACE BEFORE YOU OUR SENSE OF DEEPEST CONCERN OVER THE SECURITY OF JERUSALEM, A CITY SACRED TO ALL MEN AND WOMEN OF FAITH. FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS JERUSALEM HAS BEEN A SANCTUARY AND A HOLY CITY. IT HAS BEEN A SPIRITUAL CENTER FROM WHICH HAS COME FORTH AND WILL CONTINUE TO FLOW CONSOLATION TO COUNTLESS MULTITUDES OF MANKIND.

IT IS WITH HORROR WHICH WE BELIEVE MUST BE SHARED BY MILLIONS OF RELIGIOUS MEN AND WOMEN EVERYWHERE, THAT WE HAVE LEARNED OF THE DESECRATION WHICH ARMED ARAB GANGS HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO PERPETRATE IN ITS HOLIEST PRECINCTS. THE ANCIENT WALLING WALL, SOLE REMNANT OF THE GLORIES OF THE TEMPLE OF SOLOMON AND HOLIEST SANCTUARY OF ISRAEL, HAS BEEN PROFANED BY ARMED HOOLIGANS, AND JEWS WHO THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES HAVE PRAYED AT ITS HALLOWED STONES FORCIBLY PREVENTED FROM ACCESS TO ITS ENVIRONS. THE ENTIRE CITY OF JERUSALEM WITH ITS POPULATION OF 100,000 JEWS HAS BEEN ISOLATED BY HOSTILE FORCES WHICH THREATEN THE LIVES OF INNOCENT MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN AND SEEK TO STARVE AND DESTROY THEM.

WE CALL TO YOUR ATTENTION THE DISCUSSIONS IN WHICH YOU PARTICIPATED PRECEDING THE DECISION OF THE TWENTYNINTH OF NOVEMBER 1947 OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO INTERNATIONALIZE JERUSALEM AS THE COMMON SPIRITUAL HERITAGE OF ALL MANKIND. IN THE DECISION THEN TAKEN YOU PLAYED A LEADING AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE. WE THEREFORE APPEAL TO YOU AND THROUGH YOU TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PALESTINE COMMISSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO ENSURE THAT IMMEDIATE ACTION

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BE TAKEN TO ESTABLISH FORTHWITH INTERNATIONAL TRUSTESHIP OF THE CITY AND
TO EFFECTUATE THE DECISION OF THE UNITED NATIONS INCLUDING THE RECRUITMENT
OF A NON-PALESTINIAN FORCE TO KEEP THE PEACE IN THE HOLY CITY.

UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS OF AMERICA

132 NASSAU STREET, RABBI ISRAEL ROSENBERG CHAIRMAN PRESIDUM

RABBI EL SIDWER I LEVINTEAL, PRESIDUM

RABBI I SELTAER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR