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A/AC.25/5
16 November 1949
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Letter dated 16 November 1949
addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations
by the Conciliation Commission, concerning protection of
and free access to the Holy Places, religious buildings,
and sites outside the Jerusalem area

Sir,

By paragraph 7 of the resolution of 11 December 1948, the General Assembly resolved that the Holy Places - including Nazareth - religious buildings and sites in Palestine should be protected and free access to them assured, in accordance with existing rights and historical practice. The Assembly further resolved that arrangements to this end should be under effective United Nations supervision and that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, with respect to the Holy Places outside the Jerusalem area, should call upon the political authorities of the areas concerned to give formal guarantees as to the protection of the Holy Places and access to them, which undertakings should be presented to the General Assembly for approval.

The Conciliation Commission accordingly addressed to the Heads of the Delegations of Egypt, the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom, Lebanon and Syria and to the Head of the Delegation of Israel, a letter dated 2nd September 1949, communicating the text of a proposed declaration to be made with respect to the Holy Places, religious buildings and sites in Palestine outside the area of Jerusalem.

On 8 November 1949, Mr. A. Lourie, Representative of Israel addressed a letter of reply on behalf of his Government to the Chairman of the Conciliation Commission.

On 15 November 1949 the Heads of the Delegations of Egypt, the Hashemite Jordan Kingdom, Syria and Lebanon transmitted on behalf of their respective Governments to the Conciliation Commission a declaration made in New York on that date regarding the Holy Places, religious buildings and sites in Palestine outside the area of Jerusalem.

The Conciliation Commission has the honour to submit herewith copies of the three above documents* for transmission to the General Assembly.

* A/AC.25/2
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