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UNITED NATIONS CONCILIATION COMMISSION FOR PALESTINE

COMMITTEE ON JERUSALEM

RESTRICTED  
Com. Jer./SR.40  
22 July 1949  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FORTIETH MEETING

held in Lausanne on Friday, 22 July  
1949 at 10.30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Benoist (France) - Chairman  
Mr. Eralp (Turkey)  
Mr. Barco (U.S.A.)  
Dr. Serup - Committee Secretary

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Discussion of the draft declaration to be made by the political authorities concerned regarding the protection of and access to Holy Places, religious buildings and sites outside the area of Jerusalem.

In the course of preliminary discussion on the draft declaration of guarantees for the protection of and free access to the Holy Places outside Jerusalem, the Committee decided to ask the Secretariat to prepare a new working draft which would be an amalgamation of the draft declaration submitted by the representative of France and the existing draft declaration prepared by the Secretariat.

Discussion of the note prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information received from Mr. Barnes with regard to the Russian Orthodox Properties in Palestine.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the matter should be further studied by the Secretariat, especially from a legal angle, and that it might subsequently be desirable to submit to the Commission for transmission to the Israeli Government a letter stating that the United Nations were concerned with the establishment of authorities for the protection of existing rights in regard to the Holy Places both inside and outside Jerusalem. The representative of Israel had not been able to give the Committee a satisfactory reply in connection with the cession of Russian Orthodox Properties, and therefore the Commission might inform the Israeli Government that it was instituting the appropriate international authority to deal with such matters and that no steps ought to be taken by the Israeli Government

which might prejudice the final arrangement for the protection of such rights.

Plan of work of Committee

Mr. BARCO wished to inform the Committee that he had received from his Government detailed suggestions with regard to the redraft of the proposal for the internationalisation of Jerusalem. Although some of those amendments were extensive, they implied no fundamental changes in the proposal already drawn up by the Committee. The Committee agreed therefore that all members would submit any drafting amendments they might have to the Secretariat before beginning upon discussion of the draft proposal, article by article, at future meetings.