

UNITED NATIONS CONCILIATION COMMISSION FOR PALESTINE

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Letter dated 22 December 1949 addressed by the Legal
Adviser of the Commission to Mr. Lourie of the Delegation
of Israel regarding the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of
Jerusalem.

Dear Mr. Lourie:

Two representatives of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem have recently called on a member of the staff of the Conciliation Commission in Jerusalem and made a statement from which it appears that the Patriarchate at present is facing an extremely difficult financial situation as a result of the hostilities in Palestine which have meant a curtailment of the revenues of the Patriarchate to one-fourth of its original amount. This situation is said to have considerably limited the financial capacity of the Patriarchate to maintain its religious, educational and philanthropic activities in Palestine and neighbouring territories, and to carry out relief work to refugees.

It was further explained that the greater part of the normal revenues of the Patriarchate came from properties at present in the territory now being controlled by the Government of Israel, in particular, real estate properties in the Cities of Jerusalem, Jaffa and Haifa and rural properties in Brerg and

Mr. Arthur Lourie,
Permanent Delegation of Israel to the
United Nations,
11 East 70th Street,
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Caesaria. It was pointed out in this connection that the Government of Israel through the Custodian of Abandoned Property has until now prevented the owners to draw the revenues for their properties.

The statement of the Patriarchate was considered at the meeting of the Commission held on 9 December in New York on which occasion the Commission expressed the conviction that the Government of Israel would wish to give favourable consideration to the possibility of a transfer of funds which would enable the Patriarchate to carry on its religious, educational and philanthropic activities.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) Axel Serup
Legal Adviser