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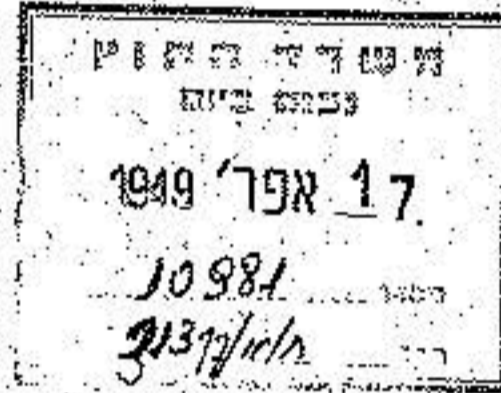
EYTAN KOHN HAMISRAD



TELAVIV

STRONGLY URGE OFFICIAL REACTION ENCYCLICAL FOLLOWING LINES ONE  
REITERATION OUR ATTITUDE HOLIES GENERALLY TWO APPRECIATION  
UNIVERSAL INTEREST JERUSALEM ROOTED IN HOLIES THREE READINESS  
EXPLORE ALL AVENUES REACH SOLUTION JERUSALEM UNDER UN AUSPICES  
WHICH WITHOUT IMPAIRING BASIC STAKE JEW PEOPLE AND ISRAEL IN  
JERUSALEM WOULD FULLY MEET SAFEGUARD UNIVERSAL INTEREST AND

משרד החוץ  
המנהל הכללי



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EXPRESSION CONFIDENCE PRACTICABILITY SUCH SOLUTION FOUR  
PARTICULAR ANXIETY REACH FULL ACCORD CATHOLIC CHURCH FIVE  
ASSURANCE INTACTNESS CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS RIGHTS USAGES SIX  
APPRECIATION CATHOLIC ASSISTANCE RESCUE JEWS NUMBER COUNTRIES AND  
POPE'S PERSONAL PART IN SHIELDING JEWS ITALY STOP POSSIBLY  
SEVEN SHARING POPE'S ANXIETY SPEEDY SOLUTION ARAB REFUGEE  
PROBLEM

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BY EARLY RESETTLEMENT TO WHICH READY CONTRIBUTE FUNDS  
EXPERIENCE PARAGRAPH GENERAL LINE NOT UNDERLINE POINTS  
DIFFERENCE BUT WITHOUT GIVING AWAY POINTS CONCILIATE BY  
INDICATING POSSIBILITY HARMONIOUS SOLUTION WHICH NEED NOT  
CONFLICT WITH POPE'S FORMULATION BG MUST APPROVE

SHARETT

EG

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ITEM 29  
POPE ON JERUSALEM INTERNATIONALISATION

VATICAN CITY, Friday (Reuter 95)- A plea by the Pope for the internationalisation of Jerusalem and the protection of pilgrimages to the Holy Places in Palestine was contained in an encyclical letter to the Catholic episcopate.

The letter "Redemptoris Nostra" called for an international regime for the city and its environments, the safeguarding of all holy places in Palestine and free access for all pilgrims to them, liberty to all Catholic cultural institutions in the country, and preservation of the rights acquired by Catholics. 1949

The Pope made a similar appeal in his encyclical letter on Palestine last October 23.

In his letter the Pope expressed satisfaction at the armistice in Palestine but declared that there was no real peace.

The letter said that laments of innumerable refugees continue to reach him as aid requests for help and protest against grave damage to religious institutions, churches and other cultural places. The letter concluded with an invitation to all Catholic bishops to emphasise the gravity of conditions in Palestine to their congregations and to increase their prayers.



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17.4.49

The Government of Israel is in full accord with the plea made by Pope Pius XII in his Good Friday Encyclical for the care and safety of the Holy Places in Palestine and for effective guarantees to all pilgrims to enter them. The State of Israel regards the freedom of religious worship, the liberty of access to <sup>the</sup> Holy Places and the protection of sacred sites and buildings as essential. It is fully alive to the sacred associations which Palestine in general and Jerusalem in particular holds for Christians, Moslems and Jews, and is prepared to do whatever lies in its power to safeguard these interests and to ensure the unhampered freedom of religious institutions and the preservation of <sup>all</sup> ~~these~~ existing rights in respect of Holy Places, religious buildings or sites and sacred institutions. The Government of Israel is aware of the complexity of the Jerusalem problem. It is ready to explore every avenue that may lead to such a solution under the auspices of the United Nations as will safeguard the rights and interests of all religious organisations and institutions without detriment to the historical *connection* ~~association~~ of the Jewish People with the Holy City and the right of its Jewish population to form part of Israel. The Government of Israel feels confident that such a solution is practicable.

The people of Israel heartily echo the Pope's appeal for true peace in Palestine. <sup>They</sup> are ready to do what they can to help bring it about. They gratefully recollect the efforts made by the Pope himself and by leading dignitaries of the Catholic Church to rescue Jews in European countries from extermination by the Nazis and the active efforts made by the Pope to shield the Jews of Italy during the tragic years of the war. They are anxious to reach <sup>a</sup> full accord with the Roman Catholic Church and to ensure the safety of its institutions and the security of its rights and usages. They deeply regret that in the course of the invasion of Palestine by the armies of neighbouring States damage was done to religious institutions, churches, synagogues and other places of worship and are anxious that with the advent of peace the damage shall be repaired and the recurrence of such destruction be precluded.

The people of Israel equally deplore the tragic plight of the Arab refugees who have left Palestine, to which Pope Pius referred in his Encyclical. The exodus of these unfortunate people from their homes was not the result of any oppression or force on the part of the Government of Israel. The Jewish people knows better than any other in the world the tragic implications of refugee life and, though not responsible for the plight of these refugees, is prepared to contribute as far as it can by financial assistance and by technical aid towards their early resettlement.

The people of Israel, whose survival after centuries of oppression is a supreme vindication of the power of the spirit against brute force, stands by its ancient message of the Divinity and the Brotherhood of Man. It is resolved to ~~rebuild~~ rebuild its commonwealth on foundations of peace and righteousness, to safeguard the rights of all who dwell within its territory and to maintain the special position which its ancient land holds in the spiritual consciousness of mankind.