

being fully determined to carry it out in the face of the vigorous opposition which it would certainly arouse. The Canadian delegation also shares the view expressed by the eminent and experienced delegate of Lebanon on Saturday and again yesterday when he said that something has to be done now if something is to be done at all. Postponement of action would lessen the authority of the United Nations and would encourage the forces tending to new "faits accomplis", which might make it much more difficult to ensure the kind of internationalization deemed necessary for safeguarding the paramount religious interests in Jerusalem.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that the Canadian delegation recognizes the genuine and legitimate desire of the two main groups which inhabit the city to administer their own affairs in the closest possible relation with their respective States, and we recognize that if their legitimate aspirations are met in this regard, then the protection of the Holy Places will rest on a firmer and more enduring foundation. Actually the Conciliation Commission plan, in its broad lines, and with the modifications I have indicated, seems to us to contain the formula which best meets such desires without endangering the international religious interests with which we must all be primarily concerned. Thus the Canadian delegation regards the Conciliation Commission plan not as a compromise, but as the basis for an effective long-term solution in which all interests will have been duly taken into account.

In conclusion I would like to say, Mr. Chairman, that it is our earnest hope that all the Governments concerned will recognize the necessities of the position which has now been reached and that they will fully explain these necessities to their peoples. In this respect, I think a particular responsibility rests with the State of Israel, since it was made clear to that State when it was admitted to membership in the United Nations last spring, that the world continued to count on a solution to the problem of Jerusalem which would be satisfactory to all parties. We supported Israel's application for membership in the United Nations in the confidence that our expectations in regard to the proper protection and access to the Holy Places would be fulfilled. On May 6, 1949, our representative on this Committee referred to the unsolved problems in Palestine -- final boundary adjustments, Arab refugees, and the future of Jerusalem -- and stated our understanding that solutions would be reached "within the meaning and spirit of the resolutions of the Assembly and the Security Council and of the aims and purposes of the United Nations." We trust that the Government of Israel will now agree to fulfil their part of these obligations in good faith.

2. Statement on the Internationalization of Jerusalem and the Protection of the Holy Places, made by General A.G.L. McNaughton, in Plenary Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, December 9, 1949.

During the discussion in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Australian proposal for a "corpus separatum" in the Jerusalem area, my delegation indicated our misgivings on its practicability.