

limitations under which it now suffers, and which must some day be removed, it is clearly unable to perform. We wish to be certain that before any course of action is initiated, there is a reasonable expectation that it can be carried through to a good conclusion, and that the members of the United Nations will support the organization in this process."

On this question of Jerusalem, it seems to me that we should keep our eye firmly on our proper objective, which is the international protection of the Holy Places. If we assert an international interest far beyond what is necessary for this purpose, we may endanger the accomplishment of this objective.

My delegation feels, therefore, that the essential requirement is an effective United Nations control with full safeguards for the protection of the Holy Places and Sites and for free access to them, and for religious freedom. Subject to this, we should seek to allow the maximum local autonomy for the Arab and Jewish communities of Jerusalem. The solution of our problem should therefore be to establish that kind of United Nations control which is required to ensure effective protection of religious interests, while avoiding the assumption by the United Nations of responsibilities and controls which are unnecessary for this purpose. Such unnecessary responsibilities, if beyond the powers of the United Nations, would be inadequately discharged. Such a situation would place the Holy Places and the interests of religious persons throughout the world in jeopardy.

My delegation believes that the proposal put forward by The Netherlands and Swedish delegations meets the principles of practicability, of effective protection for religious interests, and of maximum local autonomy compatible with this effective protection. The Canadian delegation will vote for this joint Netherlands-Swedish proposal.

In doing so, we do not claim that it is perfect in all its clauses. We do believe, however, that it is the one promising solution, suggested in the course of our deliberations in this Assembly, which gives evidence of practicability and which seems likely to command the necessary international support to make it effective.

We hope that this joint Netherlands-Swedish proposal will be adopted, and in consequence we will vote against the Australian proposal, which we hope will be defeated.

I must make it clear that the Swedish-Netherlands proposal, like any other proposal, is necessarily in the nature of an experiment. The interest of the United Nations in the protection of the Holy Places, and therefore in the situation in Jerusalem, must be a continuing interest.

For this reason, a feature which appeals to us in this proposal, is the provision for review by the General Assembly at an early future session. The adoption by this Assembly of the Netherlands-Swedish resolution would in no sense prejudice the right, and indeed the duty of the General Assembly to revise the form and scope of internationalization for Jerusalem, should experience and future developments in the area make this desirable.