

JERUSALEM - PROPOSED INTERNATIONALISATION:

In his Easter message, the Pope has called for international guarantees to be given to the City of Jerusalem because of its special status to three religions. Under three resolutions of the General Assembly, those of 29 November 1947, 11 December 1948 and 9 December 1949, it was decided to constitute a part of the City of Jerusalem as a separate entity to be known as an International City. The proposed Statute of the City was submitted to the General Assembly on 14 June 1950. The International City, to be limited to the Holy Places, was to be placed under the collective sovereignty of the United Nations and to be administered under the control and responsibility of the Trusteeship Council by a Governor, the "Governor of the Holy Places". He or she was to hold office appointed for three years by the Trusteeship Council. The Governor would be assisted by a Legislative Council of 40 members. An international police force placed under the authority of the Governor would assure the protection of the Holy Places. The International City was to be demilitarized and neutralized and be a free trade zone with its own special citizenship. The Statute was to run initially for 10 years and was to be modified following a referendum among the inhabitants at the expiration of that time. However, neither Israel nor Jordan took measures to adopt the Statute. On 7 June 1967 Israel occupied the Jordanian administered sector of Jerusalem after the Six Days War and on 23 January 1950, the Knesset transferred the Israeli capital from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. This act is recognized neither by the United Nations nor by most states. An Israeli law, that of the 27 June 1967 guarantees free access and organises the protection of the Holy Places: see Rousseau, Droit International Public, 1974, Paris, volume 2 at pages 446, 447.