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Confidential

To: All missions (according to list)

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From: The Ministry, Jerusalem

Sent: 26.6.67

Immediate

The Knesset is going to enact this week, in one day, the three following laws:

- A. Law and Administration Ordinance (Amendment No. 11) Law, 5727-1967
- B. Municipalities Ordinance (Amendment No. 6) Law, 5727-1967
- C. Protection of Holy Places Law, 5727-1967.

According to A. and B., the government and the Minister of Interior will issue two orders which mean the inclusion of the Old City in the boundaries of Jerusalem (we will telegram the wording upon publication).

In view of the situation in the Assembly, we will try in our representation to the outside to highlight the Holy Places Law and downplay A. and B., but it is not clear how much we will succeed in this.

In your conversations and public representation the measure concerning Jerusalem should be presented not as a political historic gesture, but rather as a practical necessity arising from the desire to run the entirety of the city in a proper manner. It must be described not as annexation but as MUNICIPAL FUSION [English and uppercase in the original] which would allow operating the services adequately, including water; electricity; public health; welfare; education. If asked, you may confirm that the currency in the entire city will be Israeli.

However, if it is vital to explain our position on the future of Jerusalem, please rely on the Foreign Minister's words at the 21<sup>st</sup> Assembly, when he said:

“OUR POLICY IS THE PRESERVATION OF THE JEWISH UNITY OF JERUSALEM, THE ELEVATION OF ITS MORAL AND CULTURAL LIFE, FREE ACCESS TO THE HOLY

PLACES OF ALL FAITHS AND A PERFECT RESPECT FOR RELIGIOUS INTERESTS”.

[English and uppercase in the original]

As to the Holy Places Law, whose wording we will telegram, you may add that advisory councils adjacent to the Prime Minister have been established, one Christian and the other Muslim, to handle the holy places. Israel is also prepared to come into contact with representatives of every religion in order to discuss wishes and special suggestions regarding places holy to it. The above is for your information only until notification about the enactment of the laws.

Tekoah

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Distribution:

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