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LETTER DATED 22 MARCH 1976 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In my statement before the Security Council on 22 March 1976, I referred to the resolutions of the third plenary meeting of the Jerusalem Committee, established by Mayor Kollek seven years ago, which includes 70 outstanding international personalities.

This Committee serves as a world advisory council on matters pertaining to the restoration and beautification of the City. In view of the relevance of its work to the matter under discussion in the Security Council, I have the honour to request that the resolutions of its third plenary meeting, which I am enclosing, be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Chaim HERZOG
Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations

Annex

RESOLUTIONS

THE JERUSALEM COMMITTEE

Third plenary meeting, December 1975

More than two years have passed since the last meeting of the Jerusalem Committee, a period of crucial events in this ancient city, this region and throughout the world.

The Committee was satisfied to discover that the delicate fabric of intercommunal relations has largely withstood the challenges of the October War and its aftermath. Indeed the Committee was deeply impressed with evidence of a spirited quality of life clearly related to the mobility and interchange provided by a united city and also due to marked improvement in the physical environment with new and better housing and a growing system of parks and recreational and cultural facilities. The Committee believes that this has been achieved by the implementation, in letter and spirit, of that universal brotherhood which was discussed by the Committee at its second plenary meeting. In a world of distressing frictions and intolerance, Jerusalem observes and encourages religious and communal freedom, full access to its holy places and shrines of worship, a deep respect for the cultural and historical heritage of all its citizens, and beyond that, for all mankind. Attempts to break the peace through acts of terror or civil disturbance that have recently occurred or may recur should not deflect or deter the responsible guardians of this universal city from the continued policy and practice of ever-increasing intercommunal co-operation.

The Committee acknowledges the energy, imagination and sensitivity which Mayor Kollek and his colleagues are applying to the problems as well as the opportunities to be found in the now unified city. Especially is it impressed by the dedication, objectivity and sophistication being brought to bear on the excavation and restoration of the relics and the rich past of the city, carried out with due respect for the integrity of all the existing holy and historical places. Recognizing their unique and heavy responsibility, a group of highly qualified archaeologists is uncovering heretofore unsuspected and important physical aspects of all of the great cultures and faiths - Judaism, Christianity, and Islam - to which Jerusalem has been home for thousands of years. It is already evident that when these projects are completed, investigation, excavation and restoration will have become revelation and historical clarification. The commitment of the Government and the skill of its archaeologists have put the civilized world in their debt.

Having once again visited Jerusalem and recalling its earlier recommendations for physical planning and development, the Committee notes with gratification that much has been accomplished in implementing its proposals. We are happy to note a sense of orderly growth and stability mindful of change.

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The Committee is pleased with the fact that a clear and definitive delineation of the boundaries of the city has been made. It is pleased with the establishment of the two significant green belts, i.e., the inner green belt surrounding the walled Old City and the outer green belt along the boundaries of the entire municipality.

The Committee acknowledges that the city has made a strong effort to adjust its physical development to the actual rate of growth of population at the present time.

The Committee notes with satisfaction that the extensive superhighway system proposed in an earlier version of the city's master plan has been withdrawn with the exception of one major arterial road from north to south.

Since the city is embarking on a significant programme of development and redevelopment of its business areas, the Committee expresses its concern about the proper re-use and preservation of existing buildings and sections that continue to be of value and utility. We feel that at this juncture it would be desirable and advantageous to develop comprehensive area-wide plans for the central business district and for other business districts that the city may wish to promote.

The Committee is pleased to note that the municipality has made a strong effort towards a more decisive control of the height of buildings and that in fact it has succeeded in persuading developers who already possessed building permits to discontinue their plans for high-rise construction. We highly recommend that concrete efforts be made to limit further construction to the height of a maximum of eight storeys and it is satisfying to observe that where taller buildings are already constructed or are under construction, a careful counter-balance is provided in terms of corresponding low-rise construction and open space.

The Committee notes with satisfaction that strong efforts have been undertaken for the purpose of historic preservation with the registration of 1,100 buildings for special protection and preservation along with the general attempt to maintain and revitalize streets and sites of historic value as well as entire neighbourhoods of that nature. The Committee recommends that greater efforts be made in the direction of tout ensemble (i.e. complete planning unit) planning.

The Committee supports the municipality's continued efforts toward social planning. These consist, among other things, of protective measures in neighbourhoods and local communities for the advancement of "the mosaic approach". The role of neighbourhood committees in co-operation with the municipality in the promotion of diversity of local community life as well as the creation of such physical developments as local playgrounds, small parks, small green places, schools, libraries, and other community facilities should be strengthened.

The Committee recommends that citizen participation in planning and development be further enhanced by considering at an appropriate time the adoption of a more formal status for existing neighbourhood committees which may further contribute to the achievement of even smaller-scale diversity and self-fulfilment on the part of the residents.

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The Committee is impressed by the extraordinary and careful efforts of the municipality in bringing the walled Old City to its former charm and splendour. The Committee notes the substantial progress in rebuilding the Jewish Quarter of the Old City, with respect both for tradition and contemporary requirements, wherein architectural imperfections appear to be subordinated to the over-all quality.

Equally impressive is the outstanding achievement of the Jerusalem Moslem Council (Waqf) in restoration of the Moslem holy places and especially the reconstruction of the El Aqsa Mosque, which is being carried forward with consummate care, skill, and craftsmanship.

Outstanding is the initiative, imagination and planning which is leading to the creation of an "archaeological garden" adjacent to the South Wall of the Temple Mount which is being carried out with the utmost care and skill.

Another important contribution to the life and resources of the community is the tastefully designed Armenian Seminary which was most recently completed, thus adding a new dimension to Christian activity within the City.

In reviewing the full range of planning and development activity in Jerusalem, the Committee is disturbed by the prolonged absence of both a chief planner and city engineer. While recognizing that final responsibility for municipal planning decisions must appropriately lie in the hands of those concerned with the totality of facets involved, namely the Jerusalem administrative authority, the Committee stresses the immense importance of the aesthetic and technical contribution of a chief city planner, without whom the planning process can be seriously impaired. In view of the current difficulties encountered in filling this post, the Jerusalem Committee undertakes to assist in finding suitable candidates.

The Committee strongly recommends that the planning be formally supported by an extension of existing tools; these include a working physical model to facilitate solving complicated problems of three-dimensional urban design, technical measures for dealing with invisible interactions such as travel and environmental pollution and extended records for keeping track of the social and physical changes within the city. We are especially pleased by the aggressive programme of placing contemporary works of art throughout the city. We earnestly encourage the continuation of this programme including the commissioning of original works of art where possible.

The Committee senses the need for creating a plan document primarily concerned with the entire planning process and guidelines for future action thus providing for a continuous process of planning responsible to experience and change rather than producing a rigid stationary plan. It is likely that through a wide dissemination of such a document, a more equal distribution of development can be achieved throughout the community.

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The Committee recommends that the Jerusalem municipality, jointly with the Jerusalem Committee, undertake a strong effort toward a wide dissemination of information on the physical as well as the educational, scientific, and cultural achievements in Jerusalem and that furthermore the municipality take advantage of the offer of the members of the Jerusalem Committee to be helpful even when the Committee is not in session. The Committee further recommends that a consolidated effort be undertaken between itself and the Jerusalem Foundation. It further suggests that the Mayor consider convening the Town Planning Sub-Committee with a somewhat greater frequency so that it can be of greater assistance.

The Committee would like to acknowledge the successful efforts made in the field of education. Everywhere we observed the building of new schools, appropriately located, serving all ethnic and religious groups. Especially does the Committee applaud the action within the educational system of Jerusalem, permitting schools, Christian and Moslem alike, to allow their students to choose a curriculum that gives them the opportunity of choice to continue their education in Israeli universities as well as universities in Arab countries.

The Committee finds it necessary to express its conviction that Jerusalem is and should remain a united city, humane and universal. In the views of the Committee, those at present responsible for administering the city have proved themselves conscious of the trust to serve the best interests not only of its inhabitants but of all mankind.

Finally, the Committee calls upon the peoples of the world and on all international organizations to recognize their responsibility to assist those engaged in planning and executing the restoration and development of this universal city, Jerusalem, by intensifying their interest and concern and providing support for this important work.

THE JERUSALEM COMMITTEE

Third plenary meeting
16-19 December
Jerusalem, Israel

Participants

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Country</u>
Mr. Manuel Aguilar	Publisher	Madrid, Spain
Prof. Jaap Bakema	Architect	Rotterdam, Holland
Prof. Hellmut Becker	Director, Max Planck Institute	Berlin, Germany
Prof. Max Bill	Architect, sculptor, painter, writer	Zurich, Switzerland
Mr. Etienne Boegner	Civic leader	New York, New York
Rev. W. G. M. Brandful	General Secretary, Christian Council of Ghana	Accra, Ghana
Justice Haim Cohn	Israel Supreme Court Justice	Jerusalem, Israel
Prof. Jacques Courvoisier	Professor of ecclesiastical history	Geneva, Switzerland
Prof. Mario Cravo, Jr.	Sculptor, art historian	Salvador, Bahia, Brazil
The Hon. Sixto A. Duran-Ballen	Mayor	Quito, Ecuador
Prof. Leon A. Feldman	Historian	New York, New York
Prof. Luigi Gedda	Director, Instituto di Genetica Medica	Rome, Italy
Prof. Charles M. Haar	Chmn., Joint Center for Urban Studies, Harvard and MIT	Cambridge, Mass.
Mr. Lawrence Halprin	Architect, town planner	San Francisco, California
Prof. Britton Harris	Architect	Philadelphia, Pa.
Mr. Karl Katz	Museum director	New York, New York
Mr. Denys Lasdun	Architect	London, England
Prof. Saul Lieberman	Rector, Jewish Theological Seminary	New York, New York

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<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Country</u>
H.E. Dr. Enrique De Marchena D.	Statesman, diplomat	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
Mr. Harry Mayerovitch	Architect	Montreal, Canada
Prof. Benjamin Mazar	Archaeologist, educator	Jerusalem, Israel
Mr. Samuel R. Mozes	Architect	New York, New York
Dr. Franklin D. Murphy	Chmn., Los Angeles Times Mirror Co.	Beverly Hills, California
Prof. Jacques Nantet	Writer	Paris, France
Prof. Andre Neher	Rabbi, educator	Jerusalem, Israel
Dr. Ursula Niebuhr	Theologian	Stockbridge, Mass.
Rev. Dr. Roger Ortmyer	Educator	Orlando, Florida
Dr. Paul Peters	Architect, Editor Baumeister	Munich, Germany
Prof. Luigi Piccinato	Architect, town planner	Rome, Italy
Mrs. Monica Pidgeon	Editor, Journal of the Royal Institute of British Architects	London, England
Mrs. Diana Rowntree	Architect, journalist	Hexham, England
Dr. Willem Sandberg	Museum Director, humanist	Amsterdam, Holland
Mr. Arie Sharon	Architect, town planner	Tel Aviv, Israel
Prof. Goran Sidenbladh	Architect, town planner	Stockholm, Sweden
Sir George Weidenfeld	Publisher	London, England
Prof. Zwi Werblowsky	Professor of religion	Jerusalem, Israel
Prof. Bruno Zevi	Architect	Rome, Italy

Guest participants

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Country</u>
Lord Bernstein	Chmn., Granada Group Ltd.	London, England
Mr. Paul Bevan	Architect	London, England
Mr. Kenneth Bialkin	Attorney	New York, New York
Mrs. Jean Floud	Principal, Newnham College	Cambridge, England
Prof. Suzanne Keller	Sociologist	Princeton, New Jersey
Prof. Bernard Lewis	Professor, Islamic and Middle East Affairs	Princeton, New Jersey
Prof. Paolo Parisi	Professor of Genetics	Rome, Italy
