

*Israel's Basic Law: Jerusalem, Capital of Israel, 30 July 1980 (translated from Hebrew)\**

**BASIC LAW: JERUSALEM, CAPITAL OF ISRAEL**

Jerusalem,  
Capital of Israel

1. Jerusalem, complete and united, is the capital of Israel.

Seat of the President  
the Knesset,  
the Government  
and the Supreme  
Court

2. Jerusalem is the seat of the President of the State, the Knesset, the Government and the Supreme Court.

Protection of  
Holy Places

3. The Holy Places shall be protected from desecration and any other violation and from anything likely to violate the freedom of access of the members of the different religions to the places sacred to them or their feelings towards those places.

Development  
of  
Jerusalem

4. (a) The Government shall provide for the development and prosperity of Jerusalem and the well-being of its inhabitants by allocating special funds, including a special annual grant to the Municipality of Jerusalem (Capital City Grant) with the approval of the Finance Committee of the Knesset.

(b) Jerusalem shall be given special priority in the activities of the authorities of the State so as to further its development in economic and other matters.

(c) The Government shall set up a special body or special bodies for the implementation of this section.

MENACHEM BEGIN  
*Prime Minister*

YITZCHAK NAVON  
*President of the State*

\* *Laws of the State of Israel*, Vol. 34, 5740 - 1979/80, p. 209.

***Letter from Israel's Prime Minister, Menachem Begin, to the President of Egypt, Anwar Sadat, 4 August 1980 (extracts)\****

Dear President Sadat,

I thank you for your letter dated August 2, 1980, which I studied carefully yesterday evening.

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4. On Jerusalem: With this letter I attach three documents: a) my letter to President Carter of September 17, 1978; b) the Law of the Holy Places adopted by the Knesset in June 1967; and c) the Basic Law: Jerusalem, Capital of Israel, adopted by the Knesset last week.

I am aware that you wrote a letter about Jerusalem to President Carter, who also wrote to me a letter after having withdrawn his first draft. About that draft we said to our American friends that should it become official we shall not sign the Camp David agreement which was already completed on that Sunday, September 17, 1978.

I put to you a simple, logical question: By what letter should we, Israel, stand? By yours? By President Carter's? Or by the letter of Israel's Prime Minister who, on this matter, speaks for ninety-five percent of the Israeli people, without distinction of party affiliation?

I have never misled you, nor anybody else. Time and again I repeated that Jerusalem, in its entirety, is the capital of Israel, a city re-united and indivisible for all generations.

Yes, indeed, there are in Jerusalem places holy to Christians and Moslems. We respect them. It was not so under Jordanian occupation as far as the Jewish Holy Places were concerned. Israel assures men and women of all religions absolutely free access to the places sacred to them, guaranteed by the Basic Law forever. We know that from the point of view of religious faith Jerusalem is holy to Christians and Moslems. To the Jewish people Jerusalem is not only holy; it is their history for three millennia, their heart, their dream, the visible symbol of their *national* redemption.

You assure me, Mr. President, that you are for the unity of Jerusalem, but in your speech at the National Press Club in Washington, a few months ago, you demanded that "Eastern Jerusalem" be put under Arab sovereignty. This is a contradiction in terms. Two sovereignties over one city mean its re-partition. Impossible. Jerusalem is and will be one, under Israel's sovereignty, its indivisible capital in which Jews and Arabs will dwell together in peace and in human dignity. Whosoever declares that the sovereign acts of our democratic Parliament are null and void makes a declaration which is null and void.

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\* M. Medzini (ed.), *Israel's Foreign Relations – Selected Documents*, 1979-1980, Vol. 6 (1984), pp. 319-323.