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## UN Proposal Guards Holy Land Shrines

**Like Success — (NC) —** The United Nations Special Committee on Palestine, while presenting two basically different proposals concerning the political future of the Holy Land, has unanimously approved a recommendation that "in whatever solution may be adopted for Palestine, the sacred character of the holy places must be preserved and existing rights in Palestine of the several religious communities shall be neither impaired nor denied."

In their voluminous report, which will be submitted to the General Assembly of the United Nations, the members of the committee agree that Palestine, as the Holy Land, "is sacred to Christian, Jew and Moslem alike," and that "the spiritual interests of hundreds of millions of adherents of the three great monotheistic religions are intimately associated with its scenes and historical events."

"Any solution of the Palestine question should take into consideration these religious interests and the safeguarding of the holy places, buildings and sites located in Palestine should be a condition to the grant of independence," the committee declares unanimously.

**THE CONSTITUTIONS** of whatever state or states to be created in Palestine should guarantee existing rights and interests, the report declares, and "with a view to maintaining religious peace in Palestine it may be useful to stipulate that such undertakings will be guaranteed internationally."

On the course of committee sessions in Palestine, both Latin Patriarch Luigi Barlassina of Jerusalem and the Most Rev. Albert Gori, O.F.M., Custos of the Holy Land, presented memoranda dealing with Christian rights in the holy places. The custodian's testimony was given by his English-speaking counsellor, the Rev. Somerventure Simon, O.F.M., an

## LEAD SPAIN'S CATHOLIC ACTION



Some 250,000 lay persons of all groups and classes comprise the reorganized Spanish Catholic Action, according to two of its active members now visiting the United States. Pictured in Washington, with Mr. John Farr (right), of the Latin American Bureau of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, are Prof. Jose Maria Otero (left), of Madrid, vice-president of the Men's Section, and Prof. Armando Duran of the faculty of the University of Madrid. Mr. Otero, at 40, is the youngest member of the Spanish Royal Academy of Sciences. (NC Photos)

## Post-War Growth of Spanish Catholic Action Revealed

Washington — (NC) — Spanish Catholic Action, reorganized since the end of the Civil War in Spain to band together all classes and groups of laymen in a vigorous apostolate, now has a membership of about 250,000 persons, it was stated here by one of its officials, Jose Maria Otero, of Madrid, who is visiting this country.

In outlining the organization of Catholic Action, Mr. Otero said that it has four main divisions: a section each for men, women, boys and girls. Mr. Otero is national vice-president of the Men's Section, which is further broken down into groups for workmen, the military, professional people and intellectuals, and capitalist proprietors.

The workers' division of Catholic Action has burgeoned to a membership of 30,000 in the 18 months since it was organized, the visitor attested. Mr. Otero pointed out that this branch of Catholic Action, as well as all the others, has no connection with the Spanish Government, neither operationally nor financially.

The entire movement is under the direction of the Spanish Hierarchy, with a representative

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