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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Thirty-ninth session  
Agenda item 11

FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME  
AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION: ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES  
AND WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR  
IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Written statement submitted by the Christian Democratic World  
Union, a non-governmental organization in consultative status  
(Category-II)

The Secretary-General has received the following communication, which is  
circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[23 February 1983]

The Christian Democratic International has considered and proposed for many  
years that better methods and organization should be established within the  
United Nations system in order to promote and protect effectively human rights.

Its main proposal aimed, in accordance with resolution 32/130 of the United Nations  
General Assembly, to create the post of a High Commissioner on Human Rights empowered  
to promote and protect human rights. It has further proposed to extend the meetings  
of the Commission to two sessions a year.

Today, more than ever, UMDIC is convinced that this post is necessary. For despite  
the fact that United Nations instruments on human rights have become more complete,  
cases of their violation persist and may even have multiplied or diversified. This  
implies disregard for the work and resolutions of the entire United Nations system.  
This situation should not be tolerated as it undermines the prestige and importance of  
the world's highest forum. Therefore, we feel that a post should be created and  
charged with the surveillance of and assistance to the implementation of human rights,  
within the framework of the terms of reference, elaborated by the Sub-Commission on  
Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in its resolution 1982/27.

At the thirty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly, two  
resolutions: 37/199 and 37/200 were adopted on this subject: It is obvious that the  
aim of both of these is the implementation and protection of all human rights  
recognized as indivisible and interrelated concerning individuals and peoples. Hence  
the logical consequence of both of these resolutions is the necessity and urgency of  
establishing a High Commissioner on Human Rights.

