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Agenda item 68

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Miss Olajumoke Oladayo OBAFEMI (Nigeria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolutions 34/43 of 23 November 1979.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 1980, the General Assembly decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Third Committee.
3. The Committee considered this item jointly with items 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 76, 79 and 81 at its 35th to 46th, 49th and 50th meetings, from 28 October to 5 November and on 7 November 1980. The views expressed by the representatives of Member States, specialized agencies and observers on this item are contained in the summary records of those meetings (A/C.3/35/SR.35-46, 49 and 50).
4. The Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Letter dated 12 October 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/34/569);
 - (b) Letter dated 3 November 1980 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/35/594).
5. At the 35th meeting, on 28 October, the Chief of the New York Office of the Division of Human Rights made an introductory statement on behalf of the Director of the Division of Human Rights.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/35/L.30

6. At the 49th meeting, on 7 November, the representative of the Netherlands introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/35/L.30) sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Malta, Morocco, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Senegal, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay, subsequently joined by Austria, Bolivia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, the Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Kenya and Nicaragua.

7. At its 50th meeting, on 7 November, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

8. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the need to achieve international co-operation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, as provided in the Charter of the United Nations,

Mindful of article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which proclaim that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,

Convinced of the need for the elaboration of an international instrument on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief,

Recalling its resolution 3267 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974, in which it requested the Commission on Human Rights to submit to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, a single draft declaration on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief,

Recalling also its resolutions 33/106 of 16 December 1978 and 34/43 of 23 November 1979,

Taking note with appreciation of Commission on Human Rights resolution 35 (XXXVI) of 12 March 1980, in which the Commission decided to establish again an open-ended working group at its thirty-seventh session and to allot more time to that working group in order that it might complete the formulation of a draft

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declaration on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief,

Taking note also of Economic and Social Council decision 1980/140 of 2 May 1980 concerning meeting services for the Commission on Human Rights,

1. Welcomes the progress so far made by the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions in its drafting of the declaration and its decision to give the matter the highest priority and to complete the formulation of the draft declaration at its thirty-seventh session;
 2. Urges the Commission on Human Rights to complete its work on the matter at its thirty-seventh session with a view to submitting to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a single draft declaration;
 3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-sixth session the item entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance" and to give it high priority at that session.
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