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DRAFT DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS
OF INTOLERANCE AND OF DISCRIMINATION BASED ON
RELIGION OR BELIEF

Comments received from Governments pursuant
to Commission resolution 22 (XXXIV)

SEYCHELLES

[12 February 1979]
[Original: English]

As far as Seychelles is concerned, Human Rights are enshrined in the present constitution. They include the right of free selection of religion. No doubt similar clauses will appear in the future Constitution. It is interesting to note that only one third of the Members of the United Nations have subscribed to "Human Rights". As this particular Convention is still in draft form, it does not legally bind Seychelles; the only legal force that may arise is when a Convention has come into force and Seychelles adheres to it.

Seychelles subscribes to the principle of free exercise of belief in religion including the right not to believe at all. A state must retain some control over the practices of its citizens. Cases have arisen in other countries where the practice of a religion of a certain faith led to a refusal to acknowledge the civil power, together with a downright refusal to pay any rates or taxes. This principle is modified in paragraph 35 on page 63 of document E/CN.4/1292. The phrasing used is that freedom to manifest one's religion or belief may be subject only to limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect the public safety, order health or morals of the fundamental freedoms of others. There is also an interesting modification of this in paragraph 28 on page 61 advanced by the United Kingdom. Seychelles is particularly impressed by the Bulgarian proposal at paragraph 16 on page 59. This proposal limits freedom of religious beliefs, providing that such freedom should not be used to endanger the security of the Society... which may incite citizens to refrain from performing their obligations as citizens.