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Agenda item 77

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ibrahim BADAWI (Egypt)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-first session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 3267 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974 and the decision taken at its 2441st plenary meeting, on 15 December 1975.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1976, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Third Committee.
3. The Committee considered this item at its 76th meeting, on 9 December. The views expressed by the representatives of Member States are contained in the summary records of that meeting (A/C.3/31/SR.76).
4. In connexion with item 77, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General (A/31/158).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/31/L.47

5. The Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Elimination of all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief" (A/C.3/31/L.47) sponsored by Argentina, Austria, Colombia, Costa Rica, Germany, Federal Republic of France, Ireland, Mexico, the Netherlands, Philippines, Senegal, Sweden and Venezuela, subsequently joined by Denmark, Guatemala and Nepal and, after its amendment was accepted, also by Australia (see para. 7 below).
6. At the 76th meeting, on 9 December, the representative of France introduced the draft resolution, which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 3069 (XXVIII), as well as its resolution 3267 (XXIX), requesting the Commission on Human Rights to submit, through the Economic and Social Council, to the Assembly at its thirtieth session a single draft Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

"Recalling also its decision of 15 December 1975 to consider with appropriate priority the question of elimination of all forms of religious intolerance at its thirty-first session,

"Noting the actions of the Working Group established by the Commission on Human Rights at its thirtieth to thirty-second sessions with a view to elaborating a draft Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

"Noting also decision 7 (XXXII) by the Commission on Human Rights establishing an open-ended working group which would meet three times a week during its thirty-third session, beginning in the first week of the session, and requesting the Secretary-General to provide the necessary facilities for the work of the group,

"1. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to complete its work on the elaboration of a draft Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, by the end of the Commission's thirty-third session and to submit such draft, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session;

"2. Decides to include as an item on the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session the question of elimination of all forms of religious intolerance."

7. Also at the 76th meeting, the representatives of Australia and Bulgaria submitted the following oral amendments to the draft resolution:

(a) The representative of Australia proposed that the first line of the first preambular paragraph should read: "Recalling its resolutions 1781 (XVII) and" before "3069 (XXVIII), as well as its resolution 3267 (XXIX),";

(b) The representative of Bulgaria proposed the following amendments to operative paragraph 1:

- (1) Replacement of the word "complete" by the words "speed up";
- (2) Insertion of the word "single" between the words "elaboration of a" and the words "draft Declaration";

/...

- (3) Deletion of the words "by the end of the Commission's thirty-third session";
- (4) Replacement of the words "such draft" by the words "a progress report".

8. After the sponsors of the draft resolution had accepted the above amendments, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/31/L.47, as revised, without a vote (see para. 9 below).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

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

Elimination of all forms of intolerance and discrimination
based on religion or belief

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 1781 (XVII) of 7 December 1962 and 3069 (XXVIII) of 30 November 1973, as well as its resolution 3267 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974, in which it requested the Commission on Human Rights to submit, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session a single draft Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

"Recalling also its decision of 15 December 1975 1/ to consider with appropriate priority the question of elimination of all forms of religious intolerance at its thirty-first session,

"Noting the actions of the Working Group established by the Commission on Human Rights at its thirtieth to thirty-second sessions with a view to elaborating a draft Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

"Noting also decision 7 (XXXII) of 5 March 1976, by the Commission on Human Rights established an open-ended working group which would meet three times a week during its thirty-third session, beginning in the first week of the session, and requested the Secretary-General to provide the necessary facilities for the work of the group,

"1. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to speed up its work on the elaboration of a single draft Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/10034), p. 100, item 79.

of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief and to submit a progress report, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session;

"2. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session the item entitled 'Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance'."
