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### ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

#### Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Grzegorz POLOWCZYK (Poland)

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1984, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its thirty-ninth session the item entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.
2. The Third Committee considered the item jointly with items 96, 97, 98 and 99 at its 44th to 46th, 48th to 52nd, 56th and 57th meetings, on 19 to 21, 23, 26 to 28 November and 3 December 1984. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/39/SR.44-46, 48-52, 56 and 57).
3. The Committee had before it the following documents:
  - (a) Report of the Economic and Social Council, chapter V, section A (A/39/3 (Part I)); 1/
  - (b) Letter dated 16 January 1984 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/39/79 and Corr.1);
  - (c) Letter dated 13 April 1984 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/39/180 and Corr.1).

1/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/39/3).

4. At the 44th meeting, on 19 November, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights made an introductory statement.

## II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/39/L.51

5. At the 56th meeting, on 3 December, the representative of Ireland introduced a draft resolution entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance" (A/C.3/39/L.51), sponsored by Australia, Austria, Belgium, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Rwanda, Samoa, Suriname, Sweden, Uganda and the United States of America, as well as Canada and the Ivory Coast.

6. At its 57th meeting, on 3 December, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.51 without a vote (see para. 7).

## III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

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

### Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance

#### The General Assembly,

Conscious of the need to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Reaffirming its resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981, in which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

Recalling its resolutions 37/187 of 18 December 1982 and 38/110 of 16 December 1983, in which it requested the Commission on Human Rights to consider what measures might be necessary to implement the Declaration,

Welcoming Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/39 of 24 May 1984, in which the Council authorized the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to entrust the Special Rapporteur with the preparation of a study, in accordance with the terms of Sub-Commission resolution 1983/31, on the current dimensions of the problems of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief,

Noting the outline for the study as presented by the Special Rapporteur to the Sub-Commission at its thirty-seventh session,

Welcoming the fact that the Secretary-General will hold in December 1984, within the framework of the advisory services programme, a seminar on the encouragement of understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief,

Recognizing that it is desirable to enhance the promotional and public information activities of the United Nations in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief and that both Governments and non-governmental organizations have an important role to play in this domain,

Aware that intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief continue to exist in many parts of the world,

Believing that further efforts are, therefore, required to promote and protect the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief,

1. Reaffirms that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief;

2. Urges all States to give continuing attention to the need for adequate legislation to prohibit discrimination based on religion or belief in the recognition, exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3. Also urges all States to take all appropriate measures to combat intolerance and to encourage understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief;

4. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to continue its consideration of measures to implement the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief and to report, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fortieth session;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to this end to submit the report of the Seminar on the Encouragement of Understanding, Tolerance and Respect in Matters relating to Freedom of Religion or Belief to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-first session and to the General Assembly at its fortieth session;

6. Invites the Secretary-General to continue to give high priority to the dissemination of the text of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, in all official United Nations languages, and to take all appropriate measures to make the text available for use both by United Nations information centres as well as other interested bodies;

7. Requests the Secretary-General in this context to invite interested non-governmental organizations to consider what further role they could envisage playing regarding the dissemination of the Declaration in national and local languages;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fortieth session, the item entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance" and to consider the report of the Commission on Human Rights in the context of that item.