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ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Nikolai N. KOMISSAROV (Byelorussian Soviet
Socialist Republic)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 33/106 of 16 December 1978.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 21 September 1979, 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 at its 33rd and 41st meetings, on 1 and 9 November. The views expressed by the representatives of Member States and observers on this item are contained in the summary record of those meetings (A/C.3/34/SR.33 and 41).
4. The Committee had before it the following documentation:
 - (a) Note by the Secretary-General (A/34/303);
 - (b) Letter dated 10 October 1979 from the Permanent Representatives of Colombia, Fiji, Lebanon, Lesotho, Poland and Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/34/566);
 - (c) Letter dated 12 October 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/34/569);
 - (d) Letter dated 24 October 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/34/614-S/13587);

(e) Letter dated 26 October 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/34/621-S/13589).

5. At the 33rd meeting, on 1 November, the Director of the Division of Human Rights introduced the item (see A/C.3/34/SR.33).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/34/L.31

6. At the 41st meeting, on 9 November, the representative of the Netherlands introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/34/L.31) entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance", sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Canada, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Morocco, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Samoa, Suriname, Uganda and Venezuela, subsequently joined by Austria, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Peru, Senegal, and the United States of America.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.31 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

8. 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,

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,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ which proclaims that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,

Convinced of the desirability of elaborating 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,

1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

Recalling also its resolution 33/106 of 16 December 1978,

Taking note of the work so far done by the Commission on Human Rights,

1. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to continue to give high priority to the drafting of the Declaration on the Elimination of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief;
2. Further requests the Commission on Human Rights to strive towards completion of the draft Declaration at its thirty-sixth session with a view to submitting to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a single draft Declaration;
3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fifth session the item entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance" and to give it high priority.