



UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

PRESS RELEASE

799 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release USUN-143(78)
November 30, 1978

Statement by Edward Mezvinsky, United States Representative to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, in the Third Committee, on the Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance, November 29, 1978.

The experience of the people of the United States of America is that freedom of religion, and the struggle against discrimination and intolerance based on religion, belief or ideology, is an essential and important ingredient for our natural identity and creativity. And today, all across our land, one of the great sources of concern for human rights, individual dignity, and fundamental freedoms, is the religious community.

We long for the day when this draft Declaration will be complete, be accepted by the General Assembly, and be part of the common culture and heritage of all the nations -- spelling out in richer detail those provisions already enshrined and honored by us all in the Charter of the United Nations, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We understand that this Declaration will not begin to assume its final form until more nations take an interest in it. We earnestly hope that the resolution before us, of which we are a co-sponsor, will be adopted by consensus, demonstrating our interest to continue the process begun in the Charter of elaborating the standards and aspirations that all peoples hold in common.

The matter of the Declaration on Religious Intolerance has been with us for a long time. We strongly urge the Human Rights Commission at its next meeting in February 1979 to finally complete its task on this item.

* * * * *