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Box 75, Folder 5, United Nations - religious intolerance, 1986.

NOV 19 1986

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

date Nov. 17, 1986
to Marc
from Mort
subject

memorandum

I've just seen this. I'm not sure from the letter just what AJC has done with regard to this Committee on Religious Liberty. Do you see the meeting as one to which some media people might be invited? Some religious types in the media conceivably might be interested in what I gather is Ribiero's assignment.





**The American Jewish
Committee**

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November 14, 1986

To:

From: Sidney Liskofsky

I am pleased to invite you to a luncheon on Monday, December 1, 12:45 PM, with Dr. Angelo Ribeiro of Portugal, recently appointed UN Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance.

This position, conceived by Ambassador Richard Schifter, U.S. Representative to the UN Commission on Human Rights, was created last March by resolution of that body. It empowered the Commission's Chairman to appoint "an individual of recognized international standing," initially for one year, as Special Rapporteur with a mandate "to examine incidents and governmental actions in all parts of the world which are inconsistent with" the 1981 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, and "to recommend remedial measures including, as appropriate, the promotion of dialogue between religious communities and their governments." The Chairman's choice, made in consultation with the Commission's bureau (steering committee), was Dr. Ribeiro, the Portuguese government's ombudsman.

The texts of the Commission resolution, the 1981 Declaration and Dr. Ribeiro's bio are attached.

AJC joined recently in establishing a Committee on Religious Liberty for the specific purpose of bringing Dr. Ribeiro to the U.S. to meet with religious and other interested non-governmental organizations, to obtain their suggestions on issues to address, sources to consult and methods to apply in carrying out his assignment. He will be in this country December 1-12 for meetings in New York, Chicago and Washington, D.C. Our meeting on December 1 will be his second, following one with Freedom House.

Obviously, in the short time available at the luncheon, we can only touch on highlights of our concerns and activities in matters of religious intolerance. A main purpose of the luncheon should be to register AJC's identity in Dr. Ribeiro's awareness so as to facilitate subsequent contacts and input of our concerns and data, which are both particularist and universal.

Kindly let me know (extension 316) if you plan to attend the luncheon on December 1. I hope you can.

SL:tm



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Resolution on Religious Intolerance Adopted at the 42nd Session
of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (Geneva, 1986)

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling the Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, which was proclaimed without a vote by the General Assembly in its Resolution 36/35 of 25 November 1981,

Bearing in mind that the General Assembly has, most recently in Resolution 40/109 of 13 December 1985, repeatedly requested the Commission on Human Rights to continue its consideration of measures to implement the Declaration,

Seriously concerned by frequent, reliable reports from all parts of the world which reveal that, because of governmental actions, universal implementation of the Declaration has not yet been achieved,

Determined to promote full implementation of the existing guarantees under the relevant international instruments of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, including the freedom of everyone to have a religion or whatever belief of his choice without fear of intolerance or discrimination,

Recognizing the value of constructive dialogue on the complex and serious questions of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief, and that the problem of such intolerance and discrimination requires sensitivity in its resolution,

Recognizing the valuable nature of the study undertaken by Mrs. Odio Benito, the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, on the root causes and current dimensions of the general problems of intolerance and of discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, including recommended educational and other specific measures to combat these problems,

Convinced also of the need to deal urgently with questions of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief by promoting implementation of the declaration.

1. Expresses its deep concern about reports of incidents and governmental actions in all parts of the world which are inconsistent with the provisions of the declaration on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief,
2. Decides therefore to appoint for one year a Special Rapporteur to examine such incidents and actions and to recommend remedial measures including, as appropriate, the promotion of dialogue between religious communities and their governments,
3. Requests the Chairman of the Commission, after consultations within the bureau, to appoint an individual of recognized international standing as Special Rapporteur,
4. Decides further that the Special Rapporteur in carrying out his mandate shall seek credible and reliable information from governments, as well as specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and non-government organizations, including religious communities and groups of believers,
5. Requests the Secretary-General to appeal to all governments to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur in the performance of his duties and to furnish all information requested,
6. Further requests the Secretary-General to provide all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur,

7. Invites the Special Rapporteur, in carrying out his mandate, to bear in mind the need to be able to respond effectively to credible and reliable information that comes before him and to carry out his work with discretion and independence,

8. Requests the Special Rapporteur to submit a report to the Commission at its forty-third session on his activities regarding questions involving implementation of the declaration, including the occurrence and extent of incidents and actions inconsistent with the provisions of the declaration, together with his conclusions and recommendations,

9. Decides to consider this question again at its forty-third session under the agenda item "Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief."



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

(Excerpt from compilation of
documents published by the
United Nations).

**17. Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of
Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion
or Belief**

Proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations
on 25 November 1981 (resolution 36/55)

The General Assembly,

Considering that one of the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations is that of the dignity and equality inherent in all human beings, and that all Member States have pledged themselves to take joint and separate action in co-operation with the Organization to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Considering that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights proclaim the principles of non-discrimination and equality before the law and the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief,

Considering that the disregard and infringement of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular of the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or whatever belief, have brought, directly or indirectly, wars and great suffering to mankind, especially where they serve as a means of foreign interference in the internal affairs of other States and amount to kindling hatred between peoples and nations,

Considering that religion or belief, for anyone who professes either, is one of the fundamental elements in his conception of life and that freedom of religion or belief should be fully respected and guaranteed,

Considering that it is essential to promote understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion and belief and to ensure that the use of religion or belief for ends inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations, other relevant instruments of the United Nations and the purposes and principles of the present Declaration is inadmissible,

Convinced that freedom of religion and belief should also contribute to the attainment of the goals of world peace, social justice and friendship among peoples and to the elimination of ideologies or practices of colonialism and racial discrimination,

Noting with satisfaction the adoption of several, and the coming into force of some, conventions, under the aegis of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies, for the elimination of various forms of discrimination,

Concerned by manifestations of intolerance and by the existence of discrimination in matters of religion or belief still in evidence in some areas of the world,

Resolved to adopt all necessary measures for the speedy elimination of such intolerance in all its forms and manifestations and to prevent and combat discrimination on the ground of religion or belief,

Proclaims this Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief:

Article 1

1. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to

have a religion or whatever belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.

2. No one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have a religion or belief of his choice.

3. Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, order, health or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others.

Article 2

1. No one shall be subject to discrimination by any State, institution, group of persons, or person on grounds of religion or other beliefs.

2. For the purposes of the present Declaration, the expression "intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief" means any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on religion or belief and having as its purpose or as its effect nullification or impairment of the recognition, enjoyment or exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis.

Article 3

Discrimination between human being on grounds of religion or belief constitutes an affront to human dignity and a disavowal of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and shall be condemned as a violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and enunciated in detail in the International Covenants on Human Rights, and as an obstacle to friendly and peaceful relations between nations.

Article 4

1. All States shall take effective measures to prevent and eliminate discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief in the recognition, exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all fields of civil, economic, political, social and cultural life.

2. All States shall make all efforts to enact or rescind legislation where necessary to prohibit any such discrimination, and to take all appropriate measures to combat intolerance on the grounds of religion or other beliefs in this matter.

Article 5

1. The parents or, as the case may be, the legal guardians of the child have the right to organize the life within the family in accordance with their religion or belief and bearing in mind the moral education in which they believe the child should be brought up.

2. Every child shall enjoy the right to have access to education in the matter of religion or belief in accordance with the wishes of his parents or, as the case may be, legal guardians, and shall not be compelled to receive teaching on religion or belief against the wishes of his parents or legal guardians, the best interests of the child being the guiding principle.

3. The child shall be protected from any form of discrimination on the ground of religion or belief. He shall be brought up in a spirit of understanding, tolerance, friendship among peoples, peace and universal brotherhood, respect for freedom of religion or belief of others, and in full consciousness that his energy and talents should be devoted to the service of his fellow men.

4. In the case of a child who is not under the care either of his parents or of legal guardians, due account shall be taken of their expressed wishes or of any other proof of their wishes in the matter of religion or belief, the best interests of the child being the guiding principle.

5. Practices of a religion or beliefs in which a child is brought up must not be injurious to his physical or mental health or to his full development, taking into account article 1, paragraph 3, of the present Declaration.

Article 6

In accordance with article 1 of the present Declaration, and subject to the provisions of article 1, paragraph 3, the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief shall include, *inter alia*, the following freedoms:

(a) To worship or assemble in connection with a religion or belief, and to establish and maintain places for these purposes;

(b) To establish and maintain appropriate charitable or humanitarian institutions;

(c) To make, acquire and use to an adequate extent the necessary articles and materials related to the rites or customs of a religion or belief;

(d) To write, issue and disseminate relevant publications in these areas;

(e) To teach a religion or belief in places suitable for these purposes;

(f) To solicit and receive voluntary financial and other contributions from individuals and institutions;

(g) To train, appoint, elect or designate by succession appropriate leaders called for by the requirements and standards of any religion or belief;

(h) To observe days of rest and to celebrate holidays and ceremonies in accordance with the precepts of one's religion or belief;

(i) To establish and maintain communications with individuals and communities in matters of religion and belief at the national and international levels.

Article 7

The rights and freedoms set forth in the present Declaration shall be accorded in national legislation in such a manner that everyone shall be able to avail himself of such rights and freedoms in practice.

Article 8

Nothing in the present Declaration shall be construed as restricting or derogating from any right defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights.

Angelo Vidal d'Almeida RIBEIRO

DATE OF BIRTH : 1921

PROFESSION : Member of Lisbon Bar since 1943

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES: Held many positions in Portuguese Law Association of which he was Chairman for three years (1972-1974);

In 1974, member of Commission which drew up electoral law for Portugal's initial elections after return to democracy;

Now holds the position of Ombudsman for Portugal, to which he was elected by the Portuguese Parliament; assisting citizens in redressing violations of bureaucratic regulations, laws and human rights;

HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES:

President of Portuguese Chapter of International Commission of Jurists;

Chairman of Portuguese delegation to United Nations Human Rights Commission, 1978-1981;

Chairman of Portuguese League of Human Rights, 1976-1977;

Representative of Portuguese Ministry of Justice at International Congress on the Teaching of Human Rights, in Vienna, 1978.