

Department of External Affairs



Canada

Ministère des Affaires extérieures

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
FORTY-FOURTH SESSIONITEM 23 - IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION
ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF INTOLERANCE
AND OF DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RELIGION OR BELIEFSTATEMENT OF THE OBSERVER DELEGATION OF CANADA
DELIVERED BY MR. THOMAS C. HAMMOND
DEPUTY HEAD OF DELEGATION
FEBRUARY 19, 1988

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation welcomes this opportunity to speak on Item 23 concerning the Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief. Seven years have passed since the UN adopted the Declaration and it is now possible to draw some conclusions about the implementation of the Declaration and thus to see more clearly what should be done next.

We believe that this issue is particularly important for the Commission, not only because the problem of religious intolerance is known in all regions of the world and in every economic, social and political system, but also because this unfortunate phenomenon manifests itself in violations of the most fundamental of human rights across the spectrum of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. The obligation of states to protect persons belonging to religious minorities, a fundamental principle of the Universal Declaration, is consequently a preoccupation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on Human Rights as well as this body.