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Proposed follow-up from the Roundtable on Religious Persecution
17 March 1999

1. That we ask the Minister to establish an Advisory Group on Elimination of Religious Persecution and Intolerance

Rationale:

Religious persecution, intolerance, and misunderstanding between religious communities are intensifying in the current environment. They play a growing role in issues affecting Canada's foreign policy. Neither governments nor faith communities can solve the problems on their own. Collaboration between the Canadian government and NGOs, particularly religious communities, is crucial. As well, the Canadian government and NGOs need to develop their ability to work effectively and knowledgeably in this area on the basis of a well-thought out strategy.

Purpose

- (i) To increase the capacity of the Canadian government and of NGOs to act effectively and knowledgeably on the elimination of religious persecution and intolerance;
- (ii) To identify key issues of religious persecution and intolerance on which Canada needs to be active;
- (iii) To identify strategies for government, NGO, academic, and private sector action.

Makeup of the Group

Relevant government representatives (including people from HR, Industry and Trade and Security divisions of DFAIT; CIDA and geographic desk people as appropriate;

Representatives of religious communities

Academics in this field

Representatives of development organisations

Representatives of business community

Timeline

At least two years to get its recommendations together.