

President's Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad

Excerpts Adapted to the Canadian Situation .

Justice

- Accountability for religious persecution and other human rights abuses should be a cornerstone in rebuilding post-conflict societies
- Countries where the absence of rule of law has been responsible for religious persecution should receive assistance establishing the rule of law

Peace Process

Canada should

- Support, where appropriate, efforts of religious groups to protect human rights, encourage conflict resolution, promote reconciliation
- Support inter-faith initiatives

Multilateral Diplomacy

Canada should

- Continue to raise the profile of religious freedom at the UN GA and CHR through resolutions, statements, full integration of religious freedom considerations in UNCHR programs
- Strengthen the role of the UN High Commission
- Support the work of the Special Rapporteurs
- Call for annual reports by all states on contributions made to the promotion of religious tolerance

International Development

Canada should

- Allocate funds for projects promoting religious tolerance and freedom of religion and belief
- Ensure that CIDA funded human rights projects include religious freedom as a goal

Trade

- Information provided to businesses should include facts on country-specific human rights situations including religious freedom

Religious Communities

- Should be encouraged to cooperate with each other in areas of mutual concern
- Should be encouraged to enter into dialogue with each other and to establish contact with members of their same faith in different countries
- Should work to promote understanding of the religious freedom issue through the news media

OSCE

Freedom of Religion - Advisory Panel of Experts

Preliminary Report

15 October 1997 - Excerpts

1. Conduct a comprehensive survey of existing constitutional, legal and administrative procedures regarding freedom of religion by sending relevant questionnaire to participating states of the OSCE and analyzing legal documents received
2. Undertake a study of comparative models of church-state society relations in the region in order to promote understanding of legitimate national differences and to identify fundamental principles, while simultaneously identifying standards that should be universally applicable to all
3. Compile and disseminate applicable religious human rights texts, and summaries of how they may be invoked