

Bonnie Greene, United Church of Canada

Proposed follow-up from the Roundtable on Religious Persecution

17 March 1998

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 on which Canada needs to be active.

APPENDIX I

The following recommendations were submitted by several participants as individuals and on behalf of their organizations. They represent only the views of those organizations and individuals and not necessarily of Canadian Jewish Congress or any other participant unless so indicated.

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 the recommendations together.