A CONFERENCE ON TOLERANCE
FOR DIVERSITY OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

OCTOBER 19-22, 1986
SPRING HILL CONFERENCE CENTER
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

SPONSORSHIP

The conference is sponsored by the University of Minnesota, the United Nations Association of Minnesota, and the United Nations Association of the United States of America in cooperation with the World Federation of United Nations Associations in Geneva, Switzerland. Major funding has been provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

PURPOSE

The conference focuses on the formation of a response to the United Nations (U.N.) call for assistance in implementing the 1981 Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief. The two main objectives are:

1. To stimulate dialogue from diverse intellectual and cultural perspectives on the root causes and contemporary manifestations of intolerance based on religion or belief; and

2. To recommend concrete action strategies to implement the 1981 U.N. Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.

PRESENTERS

The conference will be attended by religious leaders, educators and scholars (in many disciplines of the humanities and social sciences), representatives of member nations serving on the U.N. Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, U.N. staff and experts in international law, human rights, education, and development from both the public and private sectors. International participation includes representation from all the voting blocs at the United Nations. Confirmed speakers include:

Robert Anderson
Bishop
Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota

Thomas Atchison
President
United Nations Association of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Jose Miguel Bonino
Theologian
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Kevin Boyle
Professor, Law
University College
Galway, Ireland

Erica-Irene Daas
Professor, Law
Member, U.N. Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination
Athens, Greece

James Finn
Editor, Freedom at Issue
Freedom House
New York, New York

Marek Hagný
Secretary-General
World Federation of United Nations Associations
Geneva, Switzerland

Margaret James
Director, American Red Cross
Omaha, Nebraska

Stephen Lewis
U.N. Ambassador
Ottawa, Canada

Adem Lopaila
Minister of Church Affairs
Peoples Republic of Poland
Warsaw, Poland

Edward Luck
President
United Nations Association of the U.S.A.
New York, New York

Fred Lukermann
Dean, College of Liberal Arts
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Howard Mills
President
United Theological Seminary
St. Paul, Minnesota

Iwao Munekata
Dean, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Science
Sophia University
Tokyo, Japan

Wafa Nazer
Director of Development & Middle Eastern Affairs
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
Washington, D.C.

Elizabeth Ocio-Benito
U.N. Special Rapporteur for the 1981 U.N. Declaration
San Jose, Costa Rica

Bartie Ramcharan
Special Assistant to the Director
U.N. Centre for Human Rights
Geneva, Switzerland

William Sahulka
President
Unitarian Universalist Association
Boston, Massachusetts

Francis Sejersted
Member, Nobel Committee
Norwegian Nobel Institute
Oslo, Norway

Kristian Sorensen
Secretary-General
Danish Red Cross
Copenhagen, Denmark

Leonard Swidler
Professor, Religion
Temple University
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Mohamed Tabet
Professor, Literature and Human Sciences
University of Tunisia
Tunis, Tunisia

Margaret Thomas
Executive Director
Minnesota Council of Churches
Minneapolis, Minnesota

William Thompson
Associate Secretary-General
World Conference, Religion and Peace
New York, New York

Einar Veltvik
Sociologist
Oslo, Norway

David Weisbrodt
Julius E. Davis Professor of Law
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota
PROCESS

The conference is structured to include both intellectual and action discussion. Scholars to be present at the conference represent the social and behavioral sciences, philosophy, and theology. Papers prepared especially for the conference will be distributed to participants to facilitate discussion. Topics include:

The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in the Implementation of the 1981 U.N. Declaration

A Person-Centered Approach to International Conflict Resolution

Basic Interpretations of Human Nature and Their Implications for Political, Military, and Economic Systems.

Differing Views of Collective vs. Individual Human Rights

The Role of Language and Culture in Expression of Beliefs

Descriptions of Action Programs Now in Existence Which Support the Concept of the Declaration, Including Both Local and National Projects, Particularly Where International Cooperation is a Component of the Program

OUTCOMES

A major outcome of the conference is the contribution it will make to developing core groups of individuals and organizations willing to contribute time, thought, and resources to implementing the spirit of the Declaration. The conference will recognize a variety of skills and interests by functional area. For purposes of developing concrete action recommendations, the four functional areas from which recommendations are expected to come are:

1. Analysis—ways in which special studies, research, and curricula can be developed in theological seminaries, universities, and colleges to combat and to eliminate intolerance based on religion or belief.

2. Law—ways in which efforts can be supported to examine international legal structures, national constitutions, national and local legislation, to make sure there is a legal framework for the Declaration in each nation-state of the U.N.

3. Education—development of recommendations for a broadly-based program of education at all levels in schools, government, universities, voluntary organizations, and the media.

4. Development—ways in which organizations of diverse ideologies may be able to work together on humanitarian service projects in the "name and spirit" of tolerance, with mutual understanding, and respect for each other.

REGISTRATION

Conference registration will be available at a fee of approximately $250-300 for all presentations, meals, and social events.

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION MATERIALS CONTACT:

Lori Graven, Program Coordinator
Professional Development and Conference Services
217 N ole Center
315 Pillsbury Drive S.E.
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN 55455

(612) 373-5381; after April call (612) 825-9023

INFORMATION REQUEST FORM

A Conference on Tolerance for Diversity of Religion or Belief

Name__________________________________________________________

Address_______________________________________________________

Affiliation_____________________________________________________

Position ____________________________ Telephone__________________

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