

Oct. 4, 1984  
[S. Con. Res. 119]

RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION IN  
WARSAW PACT STATES—U.S. OPPOSITION

- Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, and the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, adopted by the same body on November 25, 1981, proclaim the principles of nondiscrimination and equality before the law and the universal right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion for all individuals;
- Whereas the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (hereafter referred to as the Helsinki Final Act), which all of the Warsaw Pact states have signed, commits the participating states to act in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to fulfill their obligations with respect to human rights and fundamental freedoms as set forth in international law;
- Whereas the Helsinki Final Act reaffirms the commitment of the participating states to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms including the freedom of the individual to profess and practice, alone or in community with others, religion or belief acting in accordance with the dictates of his own conscience;
- Whereas the constitutions of the Warsaw Pact states provide for freedom of religion both for the individual and for religious groups or sects, the laws of these states are highly restrictive with respect to religious activities and practices and do not permit certain denominations such as the Baptists, Pentecostals, and the Seventh Day Adventists to practice their religion freely in the Soviet Union, or sects such as the Jehovah's Witnesses in Romania, East Germany and the Soviet Union and the Uniates in Romania and the Soviet Union to function as legally recognized religious entities;
- Whereas the governments of the Warsaw Pact states impede the free exercise of religion through administrative interference in the affairs of religious bodies including control over seminaries, religious publications and materials, construction and restoration of church buildings, finances, and the selection of religious leaders;
- Whereas the Government of Czechoslovakia, in particular, has not reached an agreement with the Vatican on filling the vacant bishoprics of the Roman Catholic Church in Czech and Slovak dioceses;
- Whereas religious believers in several Warsaw Pact states experience officially sanctioned discrimination in employment, housing, and education;
- Whereas the governments of most Warsaw Pact states severely restrict or prohibit optional religious instruction for children even on church premises;
- Whereas the Governments of Czechoslovakia, Romania, the Soviet Union, and at times Bulgaria persecute, imprison, and confine religious believers for exercising religious freedom;
- Whereas the Government of Poland has attempted to exert pressure on the Catholic Church to endorse governmental policies, particularly with respect to Solidarity and its members;
- Whereas the Government of Czechoslovakia has increased persecution of clergy and religious believers, especially those of the Catholic faith, since the birth of Solidarity in Poland;

Whereas the restrictions imposed by the Government of the Soviet Union on the activities of all religious groups including officially recognized groups such as the Russian Orthodox Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Four Islamic Spiritual Boards, and the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians and Baptists are so severe that thousands of Soviet believers have been forced to form illegal groups in order to practice their religion according to their conscience;

Whereas the Soviet Union has severely curtailed the right of Jews to study and practice their religion and to adhere to their cultural traditions;

Whereas religious activity in the occupied Baltic States of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia has been harshly repressed by the Government of the Soviet Union; and

Whereas in most cases the Warsaw Pact states prevent individuals from escaping religious persecution by denying the fundamental right to emigrate to all of their citizens: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),* That the Congress opposes and condemns infringement of religious freedom, persecution of religious believers, and discrimination on religious grounds by the Governments of the Warsaw Pact states.

SEC. 2. Accordingly, it is the sense of the Congress that the Government of the United States should raise publicly and privately the failure of the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, and Poland, Warsaw Pact states, to fulfill commitments on religious freedom undertaken in the Helsinki Final Act and to respect international law on human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially in the area of religion, at every appropriate international forum, including all of the meetings of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, all appropriate gatherings of the United Nations, and in bilateral meetings with the offending governments.

Human rights.

SEC. 3. The President shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the Ambassador from each of the Warsaw Pact states.

Agreed to October 4, 1984.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC'S  
DISREGARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
ESPECIALLY IN THE UKRAINE—  
UNITED STATES CONDEMNATION

Oct. 4, 1984  
[H. Con. Res. 111]

Whereas over seven million Ukrainians in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, which was created as the result of direct aggression by the Russian Communist military forces against the Ukrainian National Republic in 1918-1920, died of starvation during the years 1932-1933; and

Whereas Moscow having full and complete control of the entire food supplies within the borders of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, nevertheless failed to take relief measures to check the