New York University
School of Law
Center for International Studies
in cooperation with
The Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights

International Legal Conference on
Anti-Semitism, Anti-Zionism and the United Nations

Sunday-Monday-Tuesday
April 13-14-15, 1986
International Legal Conference on Anti-Semitism, Anti-Zionism and the United Nations

Sunday, April 13, 1986
6:15 p.m. Reception (Faculty Library)

7:00 p.m. Dinner (Snow Dining Room)
Greetings: Dean Norman Redlich, New York University School of Law
Keynote Speaker: Ambassador Alan Keyes, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations, Department of State

Monday, April 14, 1986 (Room 346)
9:30 a.m. Opening Remarks:
Professor Thomas M. Franck, Director, Center for International Studies
Professor Yoram Dinstein, Visiting Professor, New York University School of Law

10:00 a.m. First Session
Anti-Semitism in the Context of UN Conventions, Instruments and Bodies Dealing with Racial and Religious Discrimination and Prejudice
• Paper submitted by Mr. John Carey, Alternate U.S. Member, UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities
• Discussion

12:00 noon Lunch (on premises)

1:30 p.m. Second Session
Incitement to National, Racial and Religious Hatred in the Rhetoric of UN Bodies
• Paper submitted by Mr. Sidney Liskofsky, Director, Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights
• Discussion

Tuesday, April 15, 1986 (Room 346)
9:30 a.m. Fourth Session
The Effect of the Institutionalization of Anti-Zionism on the Integrity of the UN Secretariat
• Paper submitted by Professor Seymour Maxwell Finger, Ralph Bunche Institute on the United Nations, City University of New York
• Discussion

12:00 noon Lunch (on premises)

1:30 p.m. Fifth Session
The Impact of the Zionism-Racism Resolution on the Standing of the UN
• Paper submitted by Mr. Edward Luck, President, United Nations Association of the U.S.A.
• Discussion

3:30 p.m. Coffee Break

4:00 p.m. Sixth (Concluding) Session
Remedies
• Paper submitted by Professor Gidon Gottlieb, University of Chicago Law School
• Discussion
Concluding Statement
of
International Legal Conference on
Anti-Semitism, Anti-Zionism and the United Nations
New York University School of Law
April 13-15, 1986

On the initiative of the Center for International Studies of the School of Law of New York University and The Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights, an international legal conference was held on April 13-15, 1986, to discuss the question of Anti-Semitism, Anti-Zionism and the United Nations. The Conference, attended by 43 international law scholars and practitioners from 11 countries, examined and found in the records of United Nations organs and related bodies statements containing anti-Semitic imagery and language manifesting hostility to Judaism, the Jewish people and Jews as such.

The Conference reached the conclusion that such anti-Semitic expressions and assertions by representatives of United Nations Member States violate the general principles of international law as reflected in the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.
The Conference also examined statements made in United Nations organs and related bodies, which advocate, expressly or by implication, the destruction of the State of Israel, a Member State of the United Nations. It held that such statements threaten international order, impugn the integrity of the United Nations and damage its credibility.

The Conference concluded as follows:
1. United Nations, organs representatives of Member States, accredited observers and other participants in United Nations proceedings must respect the international legal principle proscribing incitement to national, racial, ethnic or religious hatred.
2. Member States should instruct their representatives in every United Nations forum to place on record their condemnation of violations of the aforementioned principle.
3. The United Nations Secretariat should counsel presiding officers of United Nations organs and related bodies to rule out of order such defamatory statements and try to assure that they are not incorporated in materials distributed by the United Nations.
4. An equation of Zionism with racism must be rejected.
5. Implementation of these principles and recommendations will enhance cooperation by States in promoting the fundamental purposes of the United Nations Charter.
NEW YORK . . . A recently-held International Legal conference on "Anti-Semitism, Anti-Zionism and the United Nations," which addressed the current dimensions of hostility toward Jews in the world body, rejected the equation of Zionism with racism, and found in United Nations records "statements containing anti-Semitic imagery and language manifesting hostility to Judaism, the Jewish people and the Jews as such."

The Conference, co-sponsored by the Center for International Studies of New York University Law School and the American Jewish Committee's Jacob Blaustein Human Rights Institute, brought together 43 experts in international law and international organizations from 11 different countries.

In addition to characterizing verbal attacks against Jews as a violation of general principles of international law, the experts condemned statements advocating the destruction of the State of Israel, which, they said, "threaten international order, impugn the integrity of the United Nations and damage its credibility."

In a series of recommendations, the Conference declared that participants in UN proceedings are obligated to refrain from inciting hatred toward national, racial, ethnic or religious groups, and that UN member states should instruct their representatives to record their condemnation of hateful speech, whenever it occurs. It recommended that the UN Secretariat should counsel presiding officers at UN sessions to rule out of order group defamation, and try to assure that defamatory statements are not incorporated into materials distributed by the UN, an apparent reference to the fact that the UN's Department of Public Information provides extensive media services, especially to developing countries.

In his keynote address, Alan Keyes, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations, charged that the UN had strayed from its original conception as an instrument of peace, and had become "a mirror of passionate hatred and resentment in the rivalries and conflicts that beset the globe," especially in its "most persistent, insidious and offensive" war against Israel.

This distortion of the UN Charter purpose, he said, was brought about by states subscribing to "the tactical doctrines of Marxism-Leninism," for whom the
UN was merely another "battleground in the international class conflict," and by Third World states which espouse "at least tactically the socialist doctrines of international struggle" and "whose political cultures ascribe no intrinsic worth to the processes of constitutional democracy."

Ambassador Keyes charged that "by inserting anti-Zionism in the canon of the supposedly 'progressive' views of the UN majority, this campaign encourages tolerance for it among those who regard support for these views as a test of solidarity for Third World states and peoples..." He included in this group "some among the black leadership in the United States," who, he charged, "hesitated to speak out against anti-Semitic rhetoric despite the importance of ties between black and Jewish Americans in the history of actual black progress in the United States."

The Conference sessions, led by international law scholars Yoram Dinstein and Thomas Franck of the New York University faculty, discussed rhetoric in UN bodies constituting incitement to national, racial, ethnic and religious prejudice; applicable international principles; the role of bloc politics in the UN; the institutionalization of anti-Zionism and its effect on the integrity of the UN secretariat; the impact of the Zionism-equals-racism resolution on the UN's standing; and ways to discourage anti-Semitic manifestations in the world organization.

In a paper on anti-Semitic rhetoric in the UN, Sidney Liskofsky, director of the American Jewish Committee's Jacob Blaustein Human Rights Institute, cited examples from the 1985 General Assembly and several earlier Assemblies. He asserted that they showed that anti-Semitic speech, undisguised or camouflaged as anti-Zionist or anti-Israel, prevailed in the UN long before the adoption of the Zionism-equals-racism resolution in 1975, remained prevalent today, and was focused in the Arab, Muslim and Marxist-Leninist states and purveyed by certain Third World governments and regional organizations and by the PLO and several other national liberation movements accredited to the UN.

Edward Luck, President of the UN Association of the USA, pointed out, based on public opinion polls, that American citizen support for the UN declined considerably following adoption of the "Zionism-equals-racism" resolution.

Seymour Max Finger, former director of the Ralph Bunche Institute on the UN of the City University of New York, reported that "by giving partisan, one-sided instruction to the Secretary-General, the [UN] organs have impaired the balance and objectivity of the Secretariat."

A University of Chicago international law professor, Gidon Gottlieb, said that the "Zionism-equals-racism" resolution and other anti-Israel excesses could not be cured merely by procedural reforms. The more fundamental problem, he said, lay in the anti-democratic character of the regimes comprising the UN's controlling majority, and in the General Assembly's having assumed powers not envisaged in the UN Charter. Professor Gottlieb argued that nothing less than the reduction of the political weight of the General Assembly in international affairs was called for to overcome this problem.