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U.S. Warns U.N. on Rights Violations

Geneva

The United States warned the United Nations yesterday against practicing "selective morality" in dealing with human rights violations.

"If we care only about some human rights violations in some countries, then we do not care about human rights anywhere," Leonard Garment, the U.S. representative, told the 32-nation Human Rights Commission.

In an outspoken policy statement, Garment said that there are increasing doubts that this body "can deal with human rights problems forcefully and impartially."

"We must reject the temptation to submit to one political bias or another in expressing our concern for human rights, allowing universal standards to be subverted to the function of supporting a selective morality," he said.

A few moments earlier, Garment had given notice that the U.S. delegation would boycott the discussion of an item on the commission's agenda concerning "apartheid, racism and racial discrimination" if a reference was made in the item's title to the recent General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism.

Jordan and Egypt pressed to have this resolution listed along with others dealing with racial discrimination, but all references to General Assembly resolutions were dropped under a compromise proposed by Senegal.

The item is of special interest to the black African countries in their campaign against South Africa and its apartheid policy of racial discrimination.

Commission sources expect that the issue of Zionism will be revived by the Arab states as the discussion gets into such specific issues as racial discrimination and Arab allegations of human rights violations in the Arab territories occupied by Israel.

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