

Association News

APSA Statement on Freedom of Speech on Campuses

Under the Council procedure for authorizing urgent public statements on an important matter involving professional ethics or academic freedom, the Association's Committee on Professional Ethics and Academic Freedom developed a statement on Freedom of Speech on Campuses which was recently issued by the Association. The statement is as follows:

The statement below on Freedom of Speech on Campuses was adopted by the American Political Science Association in response to several recent disruptive incidents involving members of the political science profession. The Association recognizes a special responsibility to protect the academic freedom of political scientists, but the Association is fully aware that academic freedom is indivisible. It will cooperate with other organizations dedicated to the defense of academic freedom for all members of the academic community.

The American Political Science Association is firmly committed to the proposition that the freedom to speak on American colleges and university campuses includes the right to discuss unpopular or unorthodox ideas. Those who interfere with this right through the use of disruptive tactics not only violate our national commitment, in the words of the United States Supreme Court, "to the principle that debate on public issues should be uninhibited, robust, and wide-open," but also deny the equally significant right to listen to the unhindered discussion of ideas. The Association deplors the activities of self-appointed censors who have been acting in the belief that they have a right to decide who may be heard on our campuses, and pledges to use all the resources at its disposal to protect the fullest possible measure of academic freedom in our colleges and universities.

The above statement is made under procedures adopted by the Association's Council on the recommendation of the Committee on Professional Ethics and Academic Freedom for making urgent public statements on an important matter involving professional ethics or academic freedom (*PS*, Fall 1973, p. 441).

United States National Commission for UNESCO Statement on Exclusion of Israel From UNESCO's Regional Grouping

The United States National Committee for UNESCO Statement on Exclusion of Israel from UNESCO's Regional Grouping is published below for the interest of Association

members. The Association is represented on the United States National Committee for UNESCO by Gene Lyons of Dartmouth College.

PS further notes for the attention of Association members that under the recently passed Amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, funds for UNESCO from the United States were cut off. The language of the act, Section 320(h), is as follows:

"Congress directs that no funds should be obligated or expended directly or indirectly to support the UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION until the President certifies to the Congress that such Organization (1) has adopted policies which are fully consistent with its educational, scientific, and cultural objectives and (2) has taken concrete steps to correct its recent actions of a primarily political character."

STATEMENT

The United States National Commission for UNESCO, meeting at Delavan, Wisconsin, approved the following statement on December 5, 1974:

The resolutions of the 18th session of the UNESCO General Conference, which excluded Israel from UNESCO's regional grouping and invited the Director-General to withhold assistance from Israel, were distortions of the constitutional purpose of UNESCO "to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture..." These resolutions were followed by a public outrage whereby leading international philosophers, playwrights, scientists, and other scholars have decided to withhold their talents from UNESCO, leading newspaper editorials have uniformly condemned this UNESCO action and members of the Congress of the United States and the public at large have expressed their objections.

We are concerned that this erosion of public support for UNESCO threatens moral and financial support of other U.S. agencies such as UNICEF, as well as the work of UNESCO itself, which is performed by a large body of international civil servants, consultants and volunteers who are thoroughly dedicated to the furtherance of the humanitarian work of UNESCO.

Indeed the weakening of UNESCO by the withdrawal of governmental and intellectual support will be counter-productive in that it will eliminate the positive contributions of such governments and intellectuals to those programs of UNESCO which constitute the vast majority of its work, such as reducing worldwide illiteracy, providing access to educational opportunities, creating and disseminating scientific knowledge, preserving cultural heritages and cultivating the artistic and creative potentialities of all peoples.