

**PERMANENT MISSION OF DENMARK
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

Statement by
H.E. Dr. Per Stig Møller
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark



60th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
Holocaust remembrance

New York
31 October, 2005

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Mr. President,

The Danish Government wishes to lend its active support to the draft resolution on Holocaust Remembrance introduced by Israel and we concur fully with the views just expressed by the Presidency of the European Union.

Denmark is a member of the International Task Force on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF) and we hope through our membership to be able to stimulate further research and awareness of the Holocaust and other genocides. A Danish research center on these matters has been established and January the 27th has been designated "Auschwitz Day".

The Danish experience of the Holocaust is primarily related to the rescue operation of the Jewish community in Denmark during the month of October 1943. A spontaneous action by the Danish people - made possible in part by the generous acceptance of the Jewish refugees by Sweden, your own country Mr. President. This event illustrates an important point, which is that one has to take action when ethnic cleansing and genocide are on the march. Passivity and silence must not become part in the crime. Responsibility to protect populations from genocide and other crimes against humanity is an imperative. You are not guilty, because you belong to a certain race, but you are guilty if you pursue people, because they belong to a certain race.

We have unfortunately been witness to genocide and ethnic cleansing since the Holocaust as if we have not learned the lessons of the past. But we have also seen a major breakthrough in the strengthening of the international legal order since then. I am, of course, referring to the establishment of the various ad hoc international criminal tribunals and in particular to the permanent International Criminal Court (ICC), which has the competence to prosecute and convict persons who have committed, participated in or ordering the committance of the crime of genocide. The Danish Government believes that the ICC will have a preventive effect in deterring governmental regimes in carrying out a policy of genocide. At the same time, we lend our full support to the effective functioning of the ICC in its pursuit of justice.

In conclusion, Mr. President, we must all learn from the hard lessons of the past and in that spirit we welcome the draft resolution on Holocaust Remembrance as a timely initiative.

I thank You, Mr. President