

## INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM AND NATIONAL SECURITY - 1954

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They shall sit every man under his vine and under his figtree, and none shall make them afraid.  
(Micah 4:4)

We recognize the continuing danger to America, world freedom, and religious freedom, from the forces of communism. Constant vigilance is needed to guard against these dangers. We support efforts to guard our liberties against subversion, through proper governmental agencies and due process of law. Yet we recognize that wrong methods of meeting the communist menace can and do undermine the very civil and spiritual liberties which they claim to protect. The whipping up of hysterical fears and the making of irresponsible attacks upon individuals who are not given an adequate opportunity to defend themselves must be condemned as un-American and inimical to the American democratic tradition. In focusing public attention on these threats to fundamental freedoms, American religious leaders of all faiths and other distinguished civic leaders have performed an invaluable public service.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Executive Board of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods in annual session assembled in New York, New York, on behalf of its United States units, respectfully urges that the President of the United States be requested to appoint a Presidential Commission on National Security and Individual Freedom. This commission shall comprise religious leaders of all faiths and other outstanding citizens who will be representative of a broad cross-section of American life. Such a commission should study the best way of protecting the nation from communist danger without at the same time subverting traditional American freedom. Furthermore, this commission should be charged with the responsibility of recommending such safeguards as it may deem necessary in the conduct of lawful investigations by legislative investigating bodies.