

SOUTHERN AFRICA

A Resolution adopted by the Eighth General Synod

June 28, 1971

The General Synod reaffirms its deepest concern for all human beings in the quest for Whole People in a Whole World. It urges upon the constituency of the United Church of Christ, personal and corporate, a sense of outrage in the continuation and reinforcement of any and all institutions that divest any people of their God-given right to peace, security, and liberty.

The United Church of Christ has expressed a concern for the peoples of Southern Africa for well over a century—since 1835 in South Africa, 1879 in Rhodesia, and 1880 in Angola. Our investment in the peoples of Southern Africa has been restricted in recent years by the white minority regimes of this area. Missionaries have been refused visas and have been deported. Leaders of our sister Churches have been imprisoned. The Portuguese government has prohibited the meeting of the General Synod of the Church in Angola since the war of independence began in 1961.

Many of the traditional means of ministry and concern in Southern Africa are no longer possible. We seek new means of supporting the peoples of Southern Africa in their legitimate aspirations for freedom and self-determination.

The UCC has consistently joined numerous other Protestant bodies over the years in expressing its sense of urgency and concern for the problems of racism and colonialism in Southern Africa. In 1965 the General Synod stated that the United States should actively support United Nations recommendations for economic sanctions as a remedial action pending changes in apartheid, and that U.S. corporations should be encouraged to make known their opposition to apartheid in as effective a manner as possible. The General Synod further urged the church membership to provide wider discussion of this problem in local churches and communities, and otherwise to express concern to their representatives in government.

In 1969 the General Synod passed a specific resolution urging withdrawal of funds from banks "doing business with South Africa." There has been marked success in this area. Partly as a result of church, labor union, United Nations, and citizen pressure, a \$40-million floating bank credit arrangement with the South African government has been cancelled.

The situation in Southern Africa

The crisis in Southern Africa is the increasing dehumanization of the 34 million black majority by a white minority numbering 4.5 million.

Portuguese colonialism continues in Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea Bissau. Portugal has made clear its unwillingness to grant independence to its colonies in the face of almost universal condemnation of colonialism by the countries of the world. Militarily, it is fighting against African liberation movements which seek self-determination and independence for their countries. The United States, meanwhile, continues to furnish economic and military assistance to Portugal under its NATO commitments, thereby releasing Portuguese resources for the colonial wars in Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea Bissau. U.S. companies, most notably Gulf Oil Corporation, have made sizeable investments in Angola, and their monetary pay-

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ments to the Portuguese government significantly assist the Portuguese in their colonial wars.

Rhodesia, despite international economic and diplomatic sanctions, remains dedicated to white minority rule and is moving consistently toward the apartheid policies of the Republic of South Africa.

South West Africa, renamed "Namibia" by the United Nations, is still illegally under the control of the Republic of South Africa, which extends apartheid to that territory in gross violation of the mandate entrusted to it in 1920. To signify opposition to the South African government's policy regarding South West Africa, the United States government has recently discouraged any further investment in Namibia. Most recently, the International Court of Justice has ruled that South Africa's control over South West Africa is illegal and that South Africa should surrender this territory immediately to the United Nations.

South Africa, the hub of the Southern Africa wheel, stands determined to keep all political power in the hands of its white minority. In South Africa 3.8 million whites prosper at the price of poverty and oppression for over 16 million inhabitants of South Africa whose only crime is that their skin is not white. The United States is deeply involved in South Africa, even though the U.S. government vigorously condemns apartheid in public statements at the UN.

It provides a preferential sugar quota for South African sugar.

It allows the government-owned South African Airways landing rights in the U.S., although the government of South Africa excludes many black Americans by a selective visa policy.

It continues to operate a NASA base in South Africa.

It allows and encourages U.S. companies to invest freely in South Africa in ways which support and strengthen the white supremacist policies of that government. Many of these companies not only strengthen the South African economy but provide important products and materials for military use. In South Africa over 350 U.S. companies conduct business, making some of the largest profits on the international scene. The total list of U.S. companies investing in South Africa are listed in the appendix. Among those U.S. companies investing in strategic and economic sectors of the South African economy are:

Auto: General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler.

Oil: Mobil, Caltex, and Standard Oil of New Jersey.

Computer: IBM, Honeywell, and National Cash Register.

Banking: Chase Manhattan, First National City.

Rubber: Goodyear Tire, General Tire & Rubber.

Mining: Union Carbide and U.S. Steel.

The United Nations has continually warned that the Southern Africa situation is filled with the possibility of a violent racial war of international scope and consequence.

Action recommended

In light of the seriousness and urgency of the Southern Africa situation and the need for a movement toward a just solution, the General Synod urges the members, local churches, Associations, Conferences, Instrumentalities, and Boards of the United Church of Christ:

1. To urge the U.S. government and her NATO allies
 - (a) to refrain from any sales of arms to South Africa and Portugal;

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(b) to end those military, diplomatic, and economic practices and policies which support minority rule and colonialism, especially the preferential sugar quota;

(c) to seek new ways to press for racial justice in Southern Africa.

2. To discourage United States tourism to Portugal and to the Republic of South Africa.

3. To examine the role which U.S. corporations play in Southern Africa in maintaining the status quo; furthermore, to use their various resources, including the leverage of their investment and stock ownership powers, to press these companies to develop vigorous policies and practices in employment, compensation, public relations attitudes, and business operations which will challenge repressive and unjust conditions. If their activities appear to strengthen colonial or racist oppression rather than change it, they should be pressed to withdraw.

4. To support the humanitarian programs of Southern African liberation organizations through the World Council of Churches.

5. (a) To educate themselves about the situation in Southern Africa, the serious implications of this situation, and the extent to which the United States is involved;

(b) to hold seminars, conferences, and educational workshops on this issue.

The General Synod urges all levels of the United Church of Christ to co-operate with other denominations and concerned secular agencies in the implementation of this resolution.

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