

hances the possibility of more violence from security forces and associates the United States with acts of oppression which can only alienate the majority of the people of El Salvador;" and

WHEREAS, the late Archbishop Romero of the Catholic Church of El Salvador has stated, "The church must call for structural changes and accompany the people in their fight for liberation. An authentic church is duty-bound to stand with and among the poor in solidarity with their risks and their fate as victims of persecution; the church must stand ready to bear supreme witness of love and to defend those whom Jesus loved above all others;" and

WHEREAS, the West German, Swedish, French, Dutch, Spanish, Canadian, Mexican, and Venezuelan governments have all called for dialogue and negotiations between the government of El Salvador and all of the groups united in opposition to it; and

WHEREAS, the United States in supplying \$35 million in military aid to El Salvador from January through June 1981 (including 56 military advisors) — the largest military aid program for any Latin American country in the last five years — is contributing to the volume of deaths in that nation; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ shares with the United States Catholic Conference, the Catholic Church of El Salvador, and the late Archbishop Romero, a deep commitment to social justice and an end to the suffering of the poor and oppressed;

THEREFORE, the Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ endorses the call of the United States Catholic Conference and the Catholic Church of El Salvador for an end to all United States military aid to the Government of El Salvador, and urges members of the United Church of Christ to support legislation in the United States Congress to prohibit further military aid to the Government of El Salvador;

The Thirteenth General Synod urges the President of the United States and members of the United States Congress to use the leverage they have with the Salvadoran government to persuade them to negotiate with the opposition for an internationally mediated political settlement of the Salvadoran conflict.

4. RESOLUTION ON CONTINUATION OF THE INFANT FORMULA CAMPAIGN

Mrs. Richards moved the adoption of the Resolution on Continuation of the Infant Formula Campaign. It was

81-GS-48 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Continuation of the Infant Formula Campaign including the Appendix.

RESOLUTION ON CONTINUATION OF THE INFANT FORMULA CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS, Christ calls us to feed the hungry and reminds us that we should not give a child a stone for bread; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding is acknowledged to be the

preferred method of feeding for all infants, and
WHEREAS, responsible medical research has shown that the use of breastmilk substitutes in areas where poverty, illiteracy, impure water and inadequate sanitation prevail, has resulted in infant malnutrition, illness, brain damage and death; and

WHEREAS, manufacturers of breastmilk substitutes have vigorously promoted the use of their products and have continued to resist efforts by church, health, community and consumer groups to appropriately limit company activities; and

WHEREAS, since 1974, through shareholder resolutions to U.S. infant formula manufacturers, and in 1979, through the endorsement of the Nestle boycott by General Synod XII (79-GS48), the UCC has sought to limit promotion of breastmilk substitutes by calling for an end to: 1) public consumer advertising; 2) distribution of free samples; 3) use of company personnel to promote directly to mothers; and 4) gifts and contributions by industry to health personnel and institutions; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization, in consultation with industry, national health ministries, non-governmental organizations, and scientific experts, has developed the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes that provides a minimum standard of acceptable practices by the formula industry; and

WHEREAS, by a vote of 118-1, the World Health Assembly adopted the code May 21, 1981, the single dissenting vote being cast by the US delegation on instruction from the White House; and

WHEREAS, the US House of Representatives, by a vote of 301-100, and the US Senate by a vote of 89-2, endorsed the WHO Code in principle and regretted the vote cast by the US delegation at the World Health Assembly; and

WHEREAS, neither Nestle, the Swiss-based company that sells nearly 40% of all breastmilk substitutes marketed in the developing world, nor the U.S. formula companies (Abbott/Ross, American Home Products, and Bristol-Myers) have expressed willingness to voluntarily comply with the code's provisions,

THEREFORE, the Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ,

1. commends the World Health Assembly for its adoption of the code which recommends minimum standards for the promotion of breastmilk substitutes;
2. commends the World Health Organization for the thorough and conscientious process it used in developing the recommended code;
3. condemns the action of the Reagan Administration for isolating the U.S. from the world health community by directing the US delegation to vote against the WHO code, the U.S. vote being the only dissenting vote out of 119 cast;
4. calls on infant formula manufacturers to voluntarily abide by all provisions of the code;

5. supports continued shareholder action and other appropriate efforts with regard to U.S. manufacturers (e.g. Abbott/Ross, American Home Products, and Bristol-Myers) of breastmilk substitutes until it is clearly demonstrated that they are in compliance with the code;
6. continues its endorsement of the boycott of Nestle Alimentana S.A. products and those of its subsidiaries, such as Taster's Choice, Nescafe, Decaf, Sunrise, Nestea, Souptime, Quik, Chocolate Morsel, Crunch, Stouffer's frozen foods, Stouffer's hotels, Stouffer's restaurants, Libby's canned goods, and Beechnut Baby Foods, until it is clearly demonstrated that Nestle's promotional practices are in compliance with the code;
7. calls on our partner churches to urge their governments to implement by law the WHO-recommended code;
8. calls upon members, congregations, conferences and instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ to:
 - notify President Reagan of their displeasure over the U.S. vote, urge U.S. companies to comply with the code, exercise their responsibilities as shareholders, and continue/renew their participation in the Nestle boycott;
9. requests the United Church Board for World Ministries to monitor closely the implementation of and compliance with the code, and when appropriate, to bring recommendations to the United Church of Christ regarding alteration of provisions of this action.

APPENDIX TO RESOLUTION ON CONTINUATION OF THE INFANT FORMULA CAMPAIGN

On May 21, 1981, in plenary session, the World Health Assembly adopted the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and its enabling resolution by a vote of 118-1, the U.S. being the single negative vote. South Korea, Japan and Argentina abstained.

The code's adoption is an explicit recognition by the world's health authorities that breastfeeding and infant health must be protected from the aggressive marketing campaigns of the infant formula companies. However, without implementation by individual nations, the code has no force of law. The World Health Organization, like all UN agencies has no enforcement powers, but must rely on the power of consensus and public support to achieve its goals.

Anwar Fazal, president of the International Organization of Consumers' Unions, said at the close of the Assembly, "Adoption of the Code is a tremendous victory for infant health. The struggle is far from over. The baby milk companies fought the Code at the WHO level. Now they will pressure national governments to draft weak codes which undermine the intent of the WHO Code. Citizen groups in every country must push for strong codes based, as a minimum, on the WHO Code."

Background on the Code

The code adopted by the 34th World Health Assembly on May 21, 1981, was the fourth draft code developed by the World Health Organization and UNICEF. It was based on the recommendation of an October, 1979 Meeting on Infant and Young Child Feeding. These recommendations were endorsed in their entirety by the 33rd WHA in May, 1980, and WHO staff were empowered then to proceed with the development of an international code of marketing, in consultation with WHO member states, experts, industry and non-governmental organizations. The fourth draft which emerged from these consultations was adopted by the WHO Executive Board in January, 1981.

The Executive Board enabling resolution accompanying the Code contained four important operative provisions:

1. Adoption of and adherence to the Code is a "minimum requirement."
2. Member nations are urged to monitor implementation of the Code and the Director-General of WHO is directed to assist nations in that process.
3. The Code will be reviewed at the May 1983 Assembly and if it has been found to be ineffective, both
4. As a concession to nations such as the U.S., the Board also called for the Code's adoption as a "recommendation" rather than the more binding "regulation" status preferred by a majority of nations on the Board.

1. *Aim of Code*

To provide adequate infant nutrition by protecting and promoting breastfeeding and ensuring proper use of breastmilk substitutes.

2. *Scope of Code*

The code applies to the marketing of breastmilk substitutes including infant formula and bottle-fed complementary foods "when marketed or otherwise represented" as suitable replacements for breastmilk; feeding bottles and teats.

3. *Definitions*

Breastmilk substitute, complementary food, container, distributor, health care system, health worker, *infant formula*, label, manufacturer, marketing, marketing personnel, samples, supplies.

4. *Information and Education*

- 1) Governments are responsible for ensuring the provision of objective information on infant and young child feeding.
- 2) All information shall discuss:
 - a) benefits of breastfeeding, b) maternal nutrition, c) negative effect on breastfeeding of partial bottle-feeding, d) difficulty of reversing the decision not to breastfeed, and e) the proper use of infant formula. Materials on infant formula use shall include information on the implications of its use and shall not idealize its use.
- 3) Manufacturer's materials shall be donated only with government's written request and approval.

These materials shall not refer to proprietary products covered by the code, but may bear company name and logo.

5. *General Public and Mothers*

- 1-3) Prohibited are all forms of promotion to the general public, including advertising, product samples and point-of-sale promotion.
- 4) Manufacturers shall not distribute gifts which may promote bottle-feeding to pregnant women or mothers.
- 5) Marketing personnel shall not contact pregnant women or mothers.

6. *Health Care Systems*

- 1-3) Health care facilities shall not be used for promotion of infant formula. Product displays, posters and other company materials are not permitted.
- 4) Use by health care systems of company personnel shall not be permitted.
- 5-7) Breastmilk substitute *supplies* may be provided by manufacturers for use by infants who "have to be fed on breastmilk substitutes." Steps shall be taken to ensure adequate supplies.
- 8) Equipment donated by companies shall not refer to proprietary products covered by the code.

7. *Health Workers*

- 1-2) Health workers shall promote breastfeeding. Information supplied by manufacturers shall be scientific and factual.
- 3) No financial or material inducements to promote from companies to health workers are allowed.
- 4) Samples are allowed only for professional evaluation or research.
- 5) Contributions for fellowships, study tours, research grants, etc., are allowed providing both manufacturers and recipients disclose such donations to the health worker's institution.

8. *Company Personnel*

- 1) Bonuses and quotas for sales of breastmilk substitutes are not permitted.
- 2) Company marketing personnel shall not "educate" mothers. Upon request of government authorities, marketing personnel may perform other functions in the health care system.

9. *Labelling*

- 1-2) Labels must intelligibly communicate the superiority of breastfeeding and the hazards of inappropriate artificial feedings. Labels shall not have pictures of infants nor shall they idealize formula use.
- 3) Products which can be modified for use as infant foods shall include a warning that unmodified it is not a sole source of nourishment. Sweetened condensed milk (SCM) labels should not include instructions for infant feeding use.
- 4) Labels shall also include information on product composition, required storage conditions, batch number and expiration date.

5. RESOLUTION ON TOWARD A COVENANT IN MISSION AND FAITH: THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF THE UNION, GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

Mrs. Richards moved the adoption of the Resolution Toward a Covenant in Mission and Faith. It was

81-GS-49 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution Toward a Covenant in Mission and Faith: The United Church of Christ and the Evangelical Church of the Union, German Democratic Republic and Federal Republic of Germany.

TOWARD A COVENANT IN MISSION AND FAITH:
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (USA)
AND THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH
OF THE UNION
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Summary

The resolution recalls the history of UCC relationships with the ECU and places them in the context of our partnerships with churches around the world. It acknowledges with gratitude the Kirchengemeinschaft action taken by the ECU Synods in 1980, and responds by calling for the development of a UCC/EKU covenant for joint action in faith enrichment and mission outreach.

Preamble

A gift is offered to the United Church of Christ by an overseas partner.

- This gift comes in a form which can have a very significant impact upon our life as a church.
- It emerges from the pattern of richly diverse partnerships in mission which the United Church of Christ sustains around the world. It will move the United Church of Christ toward another pilgrimage in mission and faith.

Background

For more than 170 years the United Church of Christ fellowship has responded to the great commission to make disciples of all nations. Through the Board for World Ministries the witness of the United Church of Christ is now joined to that of nearly 50 churches and church councils abroad. This globally shared "doing and telling of the Word" calls the United Church of Christ into a style of faithfulness which discloses ever new horizons in the shedding abroad of God's grace.

The Lord of all people in all places is present in the Church as we share with these many partners. The Lord of all creation is present in this global mission.

These partnerships include ties with those fellowships which are the ancestors in faith of the United Church of Christ.

One of our ancestors in faith is the Evangelical Church of the Union (EKU). In 1972 the EKU organized the Synod, the Council and the Secretariat into regional bodies. The Regions are: Region German Democratic Republic/Region Federal Republic of Germany