

**10. RESOLUTION ON PEACE AND RECONCILIATION
IN ANGOLA**

Mrs. Richards moved the adoption of the Resolution on Peace and Reconciliation in Angola.

It was

81-GS-69 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Peace and Reconciliation in Angola.

**RESOLUTION ON PEACE AND RECONCILIATION
IN ANGOLA**

WHEREAS, we are called upon to be peacemakers among our brothers and sisters throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ is in a unique position to be a reconciling force in Angola because of its continuing relationship with church groups aligned on either side of the conflict.

THEREFORE, the Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ pursues the task of reconciliation in the following ways:

1. Recognizes the need for the United Church Board for World Ministries to continue its ministry to all of the Angolan people and to work for reconciliation among the three political parties (MPLA, UNITA, and FLNA) and for the reunification of the Council of Protestant Evangelical Churches of Central Angola.
2. Declares its support for the U.S. government to pursue a policy in southern Africa which will be conducive to a peaceful resolution of the civil conflict in Angola that will respect the interests of all the Angolan people and will be conducive to a settlement in Namibia that will provide genuine independence from South Africa.
3. Urges U.S. government recognition of the MPLA government in Angola as the de facto government* and a full negotiating partner in the quest for peace and reconciliation in southern Africa.
4. Supports the retention of the Clark Amendment and opposes efforts by the U.S. government to provide covert or open assistance to any factions in the Angolan conflict.
5. Requests that the President of the United Church of Christ inform the State Department and the President of the United States of this action.
6. Urges United Church of Christ members and others to immediately contact their political representatives to express their concerns and to support the policies outlined above.

* Recognition does not imply approval.

**11. REPORT OF SECTION D — RESOLUTION ON THE
ISLAND OF VIEQUES**

The Moderator recognized the Rev. John Wilson (CAC), Chairperson for a continuation of the Section's report. Mr. Wilson called on Hollis Wilson (CAL.S) Chairperson of the small group that considered the

Resolution on the Island of Vieques to make the report. Mr. Wilson indicated the importance of the resolution and moved its adoption. It was

81-GS-70 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on the Island of Vieques.

RESOLUTION ON ISLAND OF VIEQUES

WHEREAS, the United States Navy is an overwhelming presence on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques, a 26,000 acre tract of land which was expropriated in 1941; and

WHEREAS, three-quarters of its land mass is controlled by the Navy, the island of Vieques, which was formerly based on a subsistence agricultural, dairy and fishing economy, has been all but subsumed by the Navy's target practice and 119 demolition depots, which endanger life and limb; and

WHEREAS, the shooting and bombing targets from ship-to-shore and air-to-ground by the Navy occupying the island of Vieques cause serious dangers to the lives of its inhabitants, causing also disruptive noise and the cracking of buildings and houses; and

WHEREAS, since the Navy has set up military shop in Vieques, unemployment, which now hovers between 45 and 50 percent, has become more marked; and

WHEREAS, the presence of the Navy has caused the pollution of the natural water resources on the island of Vieques, the destruction of the fishing industry on the island of Vieques, the massive emigration of citizens from Vieques; and

WHEREAS, the Christians, including Pentecostals, Protestants and Catholics of Vieques, also the 182nd Annual Massachusetts Conference, UCC, the Methodist Conference, the Baptist Convention, and the Episcopal Church of Puerto Rico; the National Council of Churches; the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church, USA; the Hispanic Caucus of the U.S. Congress and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have called for the cessation of the shooting and bombing and the return of the territory under the U.S. military control to the people of Vieques; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States, as Commander-in-Chief, is invested with power to stop such operations and withdraw from the island the presence of all U.S. military;

THEREFORE, The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ hereby urges President Reagan and the Congress of the United States to exercise their best offices in terminating military bombardment of, and expediting civilian dominion over the Puerto Rican island of Vieques, and

The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ hereby urges that President Reagan instruct the Department of Defense to compensate residents of Vieques where damage has been done to their properties or where deprivation of means of livelihood has or