

**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

does occur and to repair physical damages done to the ecology or communities during years of military use; and copies of this resolution be transmitted forthwith to the President of the United States and to each member of both houses of Congress; and

The United Church of Christ congregations be invited to pray for the people of Vieques and to advocate for the withdrawal of U.S. military presence from the island of Vieques.

## 12. RESOLUTION ON REDRESS/REPARATION TO JAPANESE AMERICANS

Mr. Wilson called on Russell Bennett (KO), Chairperson of the small group that considered the Resolution on Redress/Reparations to Japanese Americans, who indicated that the Position Statement In Support of Redress/Reparations to Japanese Americans is to be attached to the resolution. He reviewed the resolution, stressed its urgency, and moved its adoption. It was

81-GS-71 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Redress/Reparation to Japanese Americans.

### RESOLUTION ON REDRESS/REPARATION TO JAPANESE AMERICANS

The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms redress/reparation to all those who suffered evacuation/incarceration as a result of Executive Order #9066, which includes:

- Making available to individuals or their heirs, monetary compensation for property losses, and that these persons will include all those who suffered evacuation/incarceration as a result of Executive Order #9066.
- Exposing the racism inherent in the legal cases that justified the evacuation/incarceration, and overturning the decisions that were made and exonerating the parties to the cases.
- Supporting others who solely on the basis of race or ancestry have suffered or are suffering from similar unjust actions taken by the United States government.

The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the United Church of Christ Board for Homeland Ministries, Office for Church In Society, the Commission for Racial Justice, and the Office of Communication, to provide educational resources during this biennium to the churches of the Conferences on the history of evacuation/incarceration of American citizens and residents of Japanese ancestry, and on the concerns of the President's Study Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians Act.

The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the Office for Church In Society to present testimony to the President's Study Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians Act supporting redress/reparations to Japanese Americans (or their heirs) incarcerated as a result of Executive Order #9066.

## POSITION STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF REDRESS/REPARATIONS TO JAPANESE AMERICANS

### PURPOSE:

The purpose of this position statement is to support redress/reparations to Japanese Americans and to call attention to the history of the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II and to the current concerns related to the President's Study Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilian Act.

### BACKGROUND:

During World War II, on Feb. 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order #9066 that authorized the removal and incarceration of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, both citizens and resident aliens of America residing in the states of Oregon, Washington, California, Pacific coast states of Mexico, Central and South America, Alaska and Hawaii. Imprisonment was in concentration camps scattered throughout the most desolate areas of California, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Texas and Arizona. All were deprived of liberty and property without criminal charges and without trial of any kind. The rationale for the action was "military necessity." However, according to documents discovered later, the Japanese Americans were imprisoned on the sole basis of race and ancestry, an action that constituted a gross violation of human rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights and the Constitution.

This segment of the American history that has been buried and ignored, happened 38 years ago at the time United States was fighting Hitler's racism in Europe.

*Concerns of this unjust act were expressed at the 6th Regular Meeting of the Council of the Congregational and Christian Churches of the United States on June 18, 1942 at Durham, New Hampshire. A resolution deploring "the fact that all persons with any Japanese blood, citizens as well as aliens, were as a group subjected to evacuation without hearing or other means of determining loyalty; pledging support to the Congregational Christian Committee for Work with Japanese Evacuees, etc. . . ." was adopted and copies of the resolution were sent to the President, Governors of States, and to members of Congress.*

### BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL RATIONALE:

The case of redress/reparation has a strong moral and legal basis. Documents point to the fact that at the time military orders were issued for the removal and incarceration of Japanese-Americans, marital law was not declared, the writ of habeas corpus was not suspended, the civic courts were in full operation, and anyone charged with espionage or sabotage could have been brought to trial. Yet, even with this document, several legal doctrines or principles stand as barriers to such redress/reparations. One is timeliness. The doctrine of laches provides a court with the right to refuse relief by discussing a suit because of "unreasonable and unexcusable delay."

The other barrier is the principle of *sovereign im-*