

## ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

resources and timely news during this biennium to the churches and Conferences regarding human rights through existing publications and to take other such appropriate actions to advance the cause of basic human rights in South Korea through social and political initiatives; and

3. Calls upon the government of the United States to make the termination of human violation a clear condition for any continuation of our military and economic aid.

### 3. RESOLUTION ON FREEDOM TO TRAVEL TO AND FROM CUBA

VOTED 83 6 EC 11a: The Executive Council, acting ad interim for the Fourteenth General Synod, receives and adopts the resolution "Freedom to Travel To and From Cuba" with the changes proposed by Section 1:

#### Background

In 1979 the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopted a resolution which called for increased relations between the United Church of Christ and the Cuban churches through two-way visits, exchange programs, and the sharing of resources, and for full diplomatic and trade relations between the governments of Cuba and the United States.

Since then, United Church of Christ study seminars have been held annually in Cuba, U.C.C. youth have participated in a Cuban Workcamp, a Cuban missionary has served in one of our Conferences, Cuban youth have spent time visiting U.C.C. churches, and several Conferences have developed close ties with the churches and Christians of Cuba.

Today, however, because of tightening restrictions placed by the U.S. upon travel to Cuba, it is increasingly difficult for Christians to travel to that country. On April 20, 1982, the Treasury Department issued a new regulation, under the authority of the Trading with the Enemy Act, which was intended to prevent travel to Cuba by prohibiting travel-related "transactions."

The Helsinki Accords of 1975 affirmed the universal right to travel freely. As Christians, we also affirm a basic right: for Christians to travel anywhere in God's world, and to maintain contact and fellowship in the faith with fellow Christians despite any human and temporal political or economic barriers.

*Biblical Perspective:* Christ prayed that we might be one in him (John 17:20). Paul traveled through his world strengthening all believers (Acts 18:23). Christians need to bear witness to this unity by encouraging one another in the faith.

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ over the past four years in response to the resolution of the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, has developed deepening ties with churches and Christians in Cuba; and

WHEREAS, the present Administration has sought to restrict travel by U.S. citizens to Cuba, thereby disrupting the opportunity for U.S. Christians to travel and maintain fellowship with Christians in Cuba;

THEREFORE, the Executive Council, acting ad interim for

the Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

1. Expresses its opposition to the restriction on travel to and from Cuba imposed by the present Administration;
2. Calls upon the members, congregations, Conferences, Instrumentalities, and agencies of the United Church of Christ to protest these restrictions to the President, the Department of State, the Treasury Department, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and the House Foreign Affairs Committee;
3. Urges the Cuban government to permit reciprocal travel for all Cuban citizens who wish to visit the United States for the same purposes;
4. Calls for an increase in two-way visits and exchange between the churches of the U.S., the United Church of Christ, and the Cuban churches;
5. Calls upon the United Church of Christ to use its ecumenical influence to encourage involvement of other communions in this effort.
6. Encourages the United Church Board for World Ministries to enter into intentional dialogue with the Cuban churches through the Ecumenical Council of Cuba and the Ecumenical Seminary of Matanzas concerning the theology of mission and the mission of the church.

### 4. RESOLUTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST ARMS RACE

VOTED 83 6 EC 12a: The Executive Council, acting ad interim for the Fourteenth General Synod, receives and adopts the resolution "The Middle East Arms Race" with the changes proposed by Section 1 and amended:

WHEREAS the Middle East Arms race constitutes a major threat to regional and world peace; and

WHEREAS this arms race has made the Middle East, arguably the most volatile region of the world, now the most heavily militarized region of the world, with the highest per capita expenditure for arms; and

WHEREAS the United States and the Soviet Union are the major suppliers of destructive and sophisticated arms to Middle Eastern nations; and

WHEREAS we are called to be in solidarity with Christians of the Middle East who seek to carry out the ministry of reconciliation;

The Executive Council, acting ad interim for the Fourteenth General Synod:

1. Calls upon the President of the United Church of Christ to communicate to the leadership of the Russian Orthodox Church our concern about the threat the Middle East arms race poses to world peace and to propose that our churches join in a joint witness to our governments on this issue; and
2. Urges the U.S. Government to work toward a multi-lateral agreement among all arms supplying nations to limit or freeze arms transfers and/or military aid to Middle Eastern countries; and
3. Encourages those nations in conflict to seek diplomatic solutions to Mid-East problems and that other inter-