

ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL on business referred to it by the Fourteenth General Synod

The Executive Council, meeting in Pittsburgh, PA, on June 29-30, 1983, reviewed the items referred to the Council by the Fourteenth General Synod in Vote 83-GS-108.

Only the action of the Executive Council adopting an item is printed as part of the Minutes. The Executive Council acting ad interim for the Fourteenth General Synod took the following actions.

1. RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR MICRONESIA

VOTED 83 6 EC 9a: The Executive Council, acting ad interim for the Fourteenth General Synod, receives and adopts the resolution "Concerning the Right of Self-Determination for Micronesia" with the changes proposed by Section 1:

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ, through the United Church Board for World Ministries maintains partner church relationships with Micronesia which date from the arrival of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions missionaries from Hawaii in 1853; and

WHEREAS, as the people of faith who are committed to love of neighbor and the dignity of human life, who affirm universal justice that prompts us to uphold the civil rights of all people, and who follow the Prince of Peace and, therefore believe that a peaceful world free from war and the preparation for war is as God intends it to be, we seek to respond to the concerns now afflicting the Micronesians.

WHEREAS, we have come to recognize that the United States has placed military interests above its Trusteeship obligation to "promote the development of the inhabitants of the territory toward self-development or independence as may be appropriate . . . and to . . . promote the economic advancement and self-sufficiency of the inhabitants . . . and to . . . encourage the development of fisheries, agriculture, and industries . . . and to protect the inhabitants against loss of their lands and resources . . . and to . . . protect the health of the inhabitants"; and

WHEREAS, the Compact of Free Association with its military subsidiary agreements negotiated by the United States with Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia outlines a political status which appears to cut short any Micronesian aspirations for sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, the Compact with its subsidiary agreements promotes U.S. Military strategy interests through provisions for 1) the storage and transportation of nuclear weapons in Micronesia, 2) the storage and disposal of nuclear wastes in the waters of Micronesia, and 3) the usage of land for military bases in Micronesia.

WHEREAS, the Compact fails to address adequately Micronesia's political, economic, social, educational, and health needs; and

WHEREAS, the Pacific and Asian American Ministries of the United Church of Christ, established in 1974, has sought to give voice and advocacy to the problems, concerns, and insights of Pacific Islanders and Asian Americans;

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

1. Declares its opposition to U.S. policies and procedures which are designed for further military expropriation of land;
2. Declares its support of Micronesian landowners seeking to recover lands which have been expropriated in the past;
3. Supports the resolution of the National Council of Churches of Christ, USA (November 3, 1982) which, in part:
 - a. Urges the U.S. to acknowledge responsibility for the tragic effects of its self-interest policies under the Trusteeship Agreement and to negotiate means by which the U.S. can actively cooperate with Micronesian entities in solving the educational, social, health, and economic problems they face; and
 - b. Urges the United Nations, prior to the remaining plebiscites in the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, to guarantee and monitor an extensive educational program considering all political options, including independence, and
 - c. Urges the United Nations General Assembly to play an active role in the termination process of the Trusteeship; and
4. Recognizes that it will be particularly important, if the U.S. Trusteeship is terminated, for the United Church Board for World Ministries to continue its work in Micronesia; and
5. That these resolutions be communicated to: a) the appropriate members of the churches in Micronesia; b) the United Church Board for World Ministries; c) the Focus on Micronesia Coalition of the National Council of the Churches of Christ, U.S.A.; d) Ambassador Fred Zeder, Office for Micronesian Status Negotiations; e) appropriate members of the U.S. Congress; f) the U.S. Department of the Interior; and g) the U.S. Department of Defense.

2. RESOLUTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RESPONSE OF THE CHURCH

VOTED 83 6 EC 10a: The Executive Council, acting ad interim for the Fourteenth General Synod, receives and adopts the resolution "Human Rights and the Response of the Church" with the changes proposed by Section 1:

Introduction

Respect for human rights is central to our Christian faith. As affirmed in the Pronouncement on Human Rights of the Twelfth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, human rights have their source in God's act of creation, reconciliation, and redemption. The Pronouncement also recognizes that human rights are grounded in human responsibility to God. All human beings have equal rights by virtue of their being created in the image of God. Thus, all persons and all civil orders are under moral obligation to develop policies, programs, and politics which respect basic human rights.