

26. RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PRAYER CONSORTIUM FOR ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE

Mr. Curry referred to the Section report and moved that this resolution be referred back to the Ohio Conference for further consideration and that no action be taken by this General Synod. It was

83 GS 102 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod refers the Resolution Calling for a Prayer Consortium for Accountability In The Use of Military Force back to the Ohio Conference for further consideration and that no action be taken by this General Synod.

This concluded the report of Section II.

27. RESOLUTION ON INVESTMENT AND CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY WITH REGARD TO SOUTH AFRICA

The Moderator called on Donald H. Kludy (SOC), Chairperson, to continue the report of Section III. Mr. Kludy referred the delegates to Advance Materials V, pages 157-161, to the Section report, moved the adoption of the Resolution on Investment and Corporate Responsibility with Regards to South Africa, and called on Ellen Hinton (CAC), Chairperson of the small group that considered this resolution, to speak to the motion. There was discussion.

The Moderator recognized Gregory Skiba (IL), who moved to amend the motion by deleting the phrase "significant social and political change in" from column 2 of paragraph c on page 159 and substitute the phrase "an end to." A motion to terminate debate on the motion to amend was adopted. Upon being put to a vote, the motion to amend the motion was adopted. It was

83 GS 103 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts as amended the Resolution on Investment and Corporate Responsibility with Regards to South Africa.

RESOLUTION ON INVESTMENT AND CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY WITH REGARD TO SOUTH AFRICA

As members of the Body of Christ, we have been called by Our Lord to witness for the unity of all people of God.

Apartheid ("separate development") assigns the non-white majority of South Africa to perpetual and enforced inferiority by excluding them from full participation in the political process by which their lives are controlled, thus effectively denying them their human, civil, and political rights.

Peace, reconciliation and racial harmony, which are the prerequisites of Christian community, are precluded in an apartheid state that by nature fosters unrest, alienation, and racial antagonisms.

The National Conference of the South African Council of Churches declared apartheid a heresy. The World Alliance of Reformed Churches, in which the United Church of Christ is a member, in its June 1982 meeting in Ottawa, Canada determined that apartheid was contrary to the teachings and spirit of Christ and suspended the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk (NGK) and the Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk (NHK), the two white Dutch Reformed Churches, because of their support of apartheid practices.

Several General Synods have condemned the system of

apartheid in South Africa as theologically and morally indefensible. The Eleventh General Synod affirmed our partnership with the people of South Africa and our desire to stand with them in their struggle to achieve basic human rights and freedom.

Recent modifications in the system of apartheid have been cosmetic and peripheral and have not changed the basic structures of injustice and exploitation.

Direct foreign investment in South Africa, now estimated to be \$12 billion, often strengthens the economic base upon which the apartheid system rests. United States' corporate investment, now valued at \$2.63 billion, and United States' bank loans, now valued at \$3.65 billion, tend to concentrate in critical sectors of the South African economy, including energy, computers, and transportation, and thus furnish the government with advanced technology vital to the maintenance of apartheid. Foreign corporations designated as "national key points" are required to maintain white militias on their premises and, in the event of unrest or an emergency, to turn their facilities over to the South African government. Pending legislation would also make all foreign corporations more directly involved in the implementation of the pass laws and influx control systems.

Despite claims that continued investment in South Africa promotes social change, most U.S. corporations have not been forcefully allied with the impetus for reform. The Sullivan Principles, the major U.S. corporate response to conditions in South Africa, deal only with labor practices and community development, not with the attainment of fundamental political and human rights, and most U.S. corporations have been lax in implementing the Sullivan Principles. On the basis of their own reporting, only 32 of the 146 signatory companies were rated in the Sixth Report as "making good progress."

The 1979 Assembly of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa—our partner church which is partially the outgrowth of mission begun in 1835 by a predecessor agency of the United Church Board for World Ministries—affirmed that international investment can be employed as a pressure point for internal change. It called on all investors to revise their investment policies in order to bring pressure for change, the total removal of discriminatory practices and wage structures, more educational opportunities for blacks, and the rights of self-determination for all population groups. The United Congregational Church of Southern Africa supports continuation of a multiple-strategy activist shareholder approach by church investors in which pressure for total withdrawal or divestment of shares or at least the threat thereof is an important strategy in the total mix.

The United Church of Christ has been one of the leaders in the movement to utilize investments for purposes of bringing about change in South Africa. For over a decade issues relating to corporate investment in and bank loans to South Africa have been a priority concern of the corporate social responsibility program of the United Church Boards, the four national instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ with investments—the United Church Board for World Ministries, the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the Pension Boards, and the United Church Foundation.