

stalled an early warning system along the Nicaragua-Costa Rica border, and under USA influence hosted a regional conference, Forum of Peace and Democracy, in October 1982 which excluded Nicaragua;

WHEREAS the Assembly of the Evangelical Churches and representatives of other religious bodies of Nicaragua have specifically requested the support of religious people and organizations in the United States to prevent the outbreak of open hostilities between Nicaragua and Honduras, and the escalation of U.S. involvement in the conflict and to establish the basis for a just and lasting peace in the region;

WHEREAS the Latin American Council of Churches has urged the churches in the United States to oppose any form of aggression against Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS other governments in the area have offered their good offices and made concrete proposals for a negotiated solution to this conflict;

THEREFORE the Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

1. Expresses alarm at the growing danger of war between Nicaragua and Honduras and the threat which such a war would pose to the peoples of the entire Central American region;
2. Calls upon the United States Government to lead all other governments by reversing its policy of seeking military solutions to the conflicts in Central America, and to pursue with vigor every opportunity to obtain just, negotiated solutions;
3. Calls upon the United States government to cease all direct or indirect activity designed to destabilize the Government of Nicaragua;
4. Applauds the offer of Mexico and Venezuela to help bring about a negotiated peace along the Nicaraguan-Honduran border and urges the Administration to pursue this opportunity for promoting peace in the area;
5. Calls upon the United States government to reverse its policy of seeking military solutions to the conflicts in Central America, and to pursue with vigor every opportunity to obtain just, negotiated solutions;
6. Requests the United Church Board for World Ministries to pursue the development of peace-making programs in Central America;
7. Calls upon the President and concerned members of the United Church of Christ to communicate these concerns to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State and to members of Congress.

10. RESOLUTION ON URGING EXTENDED VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE STATUS FOR EL SALVADORANS AND GUATEMALANS SEEKING REFUGE IN THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. Albert continued the report of Section I, moved the adoption of the Resolution on Urging Extended Voluntary Departure Status for El Salvadorans and Guatemalans Seeking Refuge in the United States, and called on Nancy S. Schongalla (PNE) Chairperson of the small group that had considered this resolution, to speak to the motion. There was no discussion, and it was

83 GS 54 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod

adopts the Resolution on Urging Extended Voluntary Departure Status for El Salvadorans and Guatemalans Seeking Refuge in the United States.

RESOLUTION ON URGING EXTENDED VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE STATUS FOR EL SALVADORANS AND GUATEMALANS SEEKING REFUGE IN THE UNITED STATES

Summary and background:

The American Council of Voluntary Agencies Committee on Migration and Refugee Affairs issued a statement on June 3, 1983, calling for Extended Voluntary Departure Status for Salvadoran and Guatemalan nationals seeking safe haven in the United States.

The statement expressed the concern of the member national agencies including Church World Service over the tragic human consequences of the expulsion from the U.S. of large numbers of Salvadorans, Guatemalans, and other Central Americans seeking safe haven here. The agencies called into question the arguments utilized to deny protection to refugees in this country. They noted that "the situations of El Salvador and Guatemala, like so many others in the world, are precisely those which motivate refugee flight. That flight is a natural and predictable response by people to escape crossfire and the danger of pervasive random violence. These are situations from which refugees must be protected."

It has been conservatively estimated that over one hundred thousand nationals of El Salvador and Guatemala have fled from their countries and entered the U.S. since January, 1980, and the U.S. Government is currently detaining these nationals for the purpose of deporting or otherwise returning them to their countries. These nationals, if provided with extended voluntary departure status, could remain in the U.S. until it is safe to return home. We are asking for an active advocacy campaign to call upon the United States Government to grant to El Salvadoran and Guatemalan nationals seeking refuge in our country the privilege of "extended voluntary departure status" until they can return home with a reasonable degree of safety.

WHEREAS, our faith is grounded in God who demands justice, and

WHEREAS, we are commanded to show love for our neighbors, and

WHEREAS, the ongoing fighting between the military forces of the Government of El Salvador and opposition forces is creating potentially life-threatening situations for innocent nationals of El Salvador, and

WHEREAS, it has been conservatively estimated that over one hundred thousand nationals of El Salvador and Guatemala have fled from their countries and entered the U.S. since January, 1980, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Government is currently detaining many of these nationals of El Salvador and Guatemala for the purpose of deporting or otherwise returning them to their countries, and

WHEREAS, deportation of these nationals could be temporarily suspended until it becomes safe to return to El Salvador and Guatemala if they are provided with extended voluntary departure status, and

WHEREAS, such extended voluntary departure status has been granted in recent history in cases of nationals who fled Ethiopia, Vietnam, Laos, Iran and Nicaragua, and

WHEREAS, over 45 Roman Catholic, Jewish and Protestant congregations have provided sanctuary sites for these nationals, aided by over 600 "co-conspiring" congregations and religious organizations:

THEREFORE the Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, through the Office of the President, issues an immediate call to all pastors and congregations urging an active advocacy campaign to call upon the United States Government to grant to El Salvadoran and Guatemalan nationals seeking refuge in our country the privilege of "extended voluntary departure status" until they can return home with a reasonable degree of safety.

The Fourteenth General Synod applauds those congregations granting sanctuary to El Salvadorans and Guatemalans, and encourages all our congregations to consider providing sanctuary until such time as extended voluntary departure status is granted.

*"Extended Voluntary Departure is a legal category in the Immigration and Naturalization Act granting temporary asylum to Foreign nationals caught outside their country during times of strife. The State Department suspends this status as soon as these nationals can return home safely."

11. RESOLUTION ON OPPOSITION TO SIMPSON-MAZZOLI IMMIGRATION BILL (SENATE BILL 529, HOUSE RESOLUTION 1510)

Mr. Albert continued the report of Section I, moved the adoption of the Resolution on Opposition to the Simpson-Mazzoli Immigration Bill, and requested that voice be granted to the Rev. Alfonso Roman, Chairperson of the UCC Immigration Refugee Task Force, so that he might speak to the motion. Voice was granted to Mr. Roman who spoke to the motion. He indicated that the Task Force was organized at the 13th General Synod and brings together Instrumentality Staff persons working on immigration and refugee issues to coordinate their work as well as to monitor legislation. He urged the adoption of the resolution. There was discussion. A motion to terminate debate was adopted. It was

83 GS 55 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Opposition to the Simpson-Mazzoli Immigration Bill (Senate Bill 529, House Resolution 1510)

RESOLUTION ON OPPOSITION TO THE SIMPSON-MAZZOLI IMMIGRATION BILL

WHEREAS, The Immigration Reform and Control Act, (HR 1510, S529) sponsored by Sen. Alan Simpson (R-WY) and Rep. Romano Mazzoli (D-KY) is once again before the Congress;

WHEREAS, This controversial bill was allowed to die in the "lame duck" session of the 1982 Congress after facing opposition from minority communities, churches and civil libertarians;

WHEREAS, The Simpson-Mazzoli bill is the first major attempt to restructure immigration policy in 30 years; the bill has been at the center of controversy, revealing deep-seated antagonisms over the desirability of new immigration by people of color; and the main thrust of the bill is

actually aimed at "controlling our borders," that is, capping the flow of immigrants from Asia and Latin America;

WHEREAS, The new immigration bill is being proposed at a time of economic recession and record unemployment and the bill's supporters promise to create jobs for Americans with stricter border controls and by deporting aliens ineligible under a proposed legalization of amnesty plan;

WHEREAS, There are questionable features of the Simpson-Mazzoli bill; including:

1. Elimination of the fifth preference, the immigration category for brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens, would severely cripple family reunification efforts by Asian Americans and other nationalities whose families were artificially separated by past exclusionary legislation.
2. Legislation or amnesty, as structured by this bill, would make a mockery of the original humanitarian intent of this provision. The two-tier system would find ineligible all undocumented workers who have entered the U.S. since 1980. As many undocumented workers are employed under assumed names, most could not actually prove continuous residency since 1977 or 1980 and would be subjected to deportation. Voluntary agencies (VOGAGs) certified by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) would process the paperwork while leaving the determination of eligibility to the INS. In effect, social service agencies would assist the INS in preparing deportation cases.
3. Employer sanctions, designed to prevent employment of undocumented workers, would be unfairly enforced with fines of \$5,000 and deportation for employees and only minimum punitive action against employers. The unforeseen results of such sanctions may include hiring discrimination against minorities and a larger "illegal" economy based on forged I.D. papers, employer-INS intimidation of workers, sub-minimum wages and unsafe working conditions.
4. The guest worker program proposed by the Reagan Administration would create a large mobile temporary workforce without social benefits and labor or civil rights. An increased H-2 program would benefit agribusiness at the expense of the wages and working conditions of farmworkers.
5. The verification proposal would require every person in America to carry a national identification card at all times. Personal information on employment record and social service would be recorded by a central computer controlled by the Presidency. This would be an unprecedented invasion of privacy by the government.
6. This bill would deny aliens in exclusion and deportation cases rights of due process guaranteed under existing immigration law. In the Senate version, refugees would be summarily excluded without a hearing, denied notice of their right to counsel and asylum, and banned from going to court if they are denied procedural rights.

WHEREAS, if passed, the Simpson-Mazzoli bill would open the way to intensify discrimination against minority communities, renewed INS terror against immigrants,