

and correspondence privileges, frequent prison transfers, sexual harassment, sensory deprivation and other forms of isolation, physical assaults, denial of clergy visits, delayed medical treatment, and other discriminatory practices; and

WHEREAS, constitutional rights afforded to pre-trial detainees have been violated; and

WHEREAS, the press, television, and radio have not covered the unjust prison treatment these persons receive; and

WHEREAS, all of the above findings have been confirmed by the First Congregational Church of Chicago, staff of the Chicago Metropolitan Association of the UCC, and the Civic-Religious Committee (ecumenical).

THEREFORE, the Fifteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ through the instrumentalities and national bodies:

1. Develops a national network of pastoral care to ensure the humane treatment of prisoners of conscience such as Alejandrina Torres, Maria Torres, Ida Luz Rodriguez, Dylcia Pagan, Carmen Valentine, Maria Cueto, and others.
2. Works to improve the treatment of prisoners through changes in the policies and procedures of the Justice Department, the Bureau of Prisons, the Congress, and other appropriate agencies.
3. Identifies and promotes educational programs on the plight of prisoners in cooperation with UCC conferences, associations, and local churches.
4. Incorporates this concern into UCC and ecumenical advocacy networks.

Financial implications will be between \$5,000 and \$15,000 subject to the availability of funds.

After the vote, President Post rose to speak to some of the grave personal hardships endured by Ms. Alejandrina Torres in the Chicago prison, he reported on some of the recommendations made by an investigative group.

#### **8. RESPONDING TO DEVELOPMENT OF SPACE WEAPONRY**

The Moderator called on Rev. Penny Greer, (OHIO) and Chairperson of Committee #23, who clarified the changes noted or made by Committee #23 in the Advance Materials. Ms. Greer moved on behalf of the committee that the Fifteenth General Synod adopt, "Responding to Development of Space Weaponry."

Mr. Nyle Utterback a nuclear scientist and UCC member from Southern California was invited by Ms. Greer to speak to the Resolution. There was discussion, then

85-GS-72 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Responding to Development of Space Weaponry."

#### **RESPONDING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPACE WEAPONRY**

WHEREAS, our Christian faith leads us to believe that the biblical vision of "shalom," in which all people enjoy peace, security and well-being, is God's will for the world, and that we are called to be makers of "shalom" and agents of reconciliation, and

WHEREAS, the United States and USSR are proceeding with

production, testing and deployment of sophisticated weapons designed to destroy "enemy" satellites, and

WHEREAS, production, testing and deployment of such anti-satellite weapons (ASATs) would put satellites in jeopardy, thereby destabilizing relations by increasing anxiety about a first strike attack, and

WHEREAS, the new United States Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) threatens to exacerbate tensions at a time when U.S. - U.S.S.R negotiation and agreements on arms control are essential, and

WHEREAS, the SDI involves an unprecedented use of human, fiscal and scientific resources, estimated by a senior Defense Department spokesperson to be at least eight times that used by the Manhattan Project for the development of the atomic bomb, and would divert these resources from other domestic and military programs, and

WHEREAS, a large number of prominent scientists and other experts have expressed opposition to funding the SDI, claiming that space-based defense against nuclear weapons is technologically unworkable and economically unfeasible (\$30 billion for research and development over the next five years; estimates near \$1 trillion for total system deployment), and

WHEREAS, the United States and U.S.S.R., recognizing that a "defensive" weapons race would produce a corresponding "offensive" weapons race, negotiated the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty of 1972, which would be abrogated by proceeding with full-scale development of the "defensive" systems under the SDI, and

WHEREAS, the Fourteenth General Synod called upon "the United States administration to negotiate a ban on all weapons in space, meanwhile not funding production of defensive or offensive weapons."

THEREFORE, the Fifteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

1. Calls upon all nations to halt testing of anti-satellite weapons and to negotiate a permanent ban on these weapons.
2. Calls upon all nations to end research, development, testing, production and deployment of defensive and offensive space weapons systems (ground-, air-, sea-, or space-based) and to negotiate a comprehensive ban on testing, production and deployment of these weapons by any nation.
3. Calls upon the United States Congress to discontinue funding for the Strategic Defense Initiative.
4. Calls upon the United States Congress to reaffirm the necessity of strict adherence to the terms of the ABM Treaty, meanwhile not funding any program, which jeopardizes United States compliance with the Treaty.
5. Calls upon members and congregations of the United Church of Christ to work for policies opposed to space weapons.
6. Calls upon the President of the United Church of Christ to communicate this resolution to the President of the United States, the First Secretary of the Communist Party of the USSR, members of Congress, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.