

3. APPRECIATION FOR THE WORK OF COMMITTEE 11 AND THE GENERAL SYNOD

Rev. Martha Baumer (IS) commended and thanked the Committee and the General Synod for their work on this sensitive issue.

4. PRESENTATION OF THE WORK OF THE PENSION BOARDS

The Moderator introduced Mr. John Ordway of the Pension Boards who coordinated the Pension Board's presentation of its work. The presentation included an audio visual with narration by Mr. Donald Yaeke, a retired pastor from Ohio.

5. PRESENTATION OF WORK OF THE COORDINATING CENTER FOR WOMEN IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Ms. Marilyn Breitling of the Coordinating Center for Women introduced a dramatic presentation explaining the work of the Center. A "guest visitor" was Rev. Antoinette Brown, who asked about and commented on the work of the Coordinating Center.

6. RESOLUTION "EXPANDED CRITERIA FOR DIVESTMENT AND ADVOCACY RELATED TO SOUTH AFRICA"

The Moderator called on Ms. Carol Fujita, Chairperson of Committee 9, who recommended that the Sixteenth General Synod adopt the expanded criteria for divestment and advocacy related to South Africa. She referred the delegates to Advance Materials II, and the committee report. She explained the following changes made by the Committee: No. 2 (a) delete "licensing, or management agreements" and add "licensing, distribution, technology, or trademark agreements"; No. 3, last sentence, delete after the words "expanded criteria" and add "with the goal of complete divestment by General Synod Seventeen. A full report of progress is to be made to General Synod Seventeen and all subsequent synods"; add a new paragraph 8 which reads: "Calls upon all instrumentalities, agencies, national bodies, conferences, associations, congregations, and members of the United Church of Christ to urge the United States Government to support with economic assistance Southern African Governments which are suffering from South African military and/or economic sabotage."; former No. 8 becomes No. 9.

Rev. Robert H. Tucker (SC) made the following friendly amendment which was accepted by the Chairperson: "Add a new No. 9 to read: Calls upon the President of the United Church of Christ on behalf of General Synod Sixteen to express its solidarity with the South Africa Council of Churches, to extend its appreciation to the Rev. Dr. Beyers Naude for his leadership as the Past General Secretary, to congratulate the Rev. Frank Chikane, the newly elected General Secretary, and to affirm its ongoing support of him in his new office." Former No. 9 now becomes No. 10.

Mr. John Thursby (CONN) moved the following amendment which was approved after discussion.

87-GS-71 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod amends the Resolution "Expanded Criteria for Divestment and Advocacy Related to South Africa" to add a new "9." which shall read:

"9. Calls upon the United Church Board for World Ministries working with the implementation committee to encourage churches and ecumenical groups in Britain, Germany, Netherlands, and Switzerland to vigorously pursue economic pressure strategies, full divestment and the adoption of comprehensive economic sanctions by their re-

spective governments."

After the vote,

87-GS-72 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts "Expanded Criteria for Divestment and Advocacy Related to South Africa" as amended.

Expanded Criteria for Divestment and Advocacy Related to South Africa

The Sixteenth General Synod

1. Reaffirms the commitment to full divestment and other economic pressure strategies contained in the Proposal for Action accompanying the Pronouncement "United Church of Christ Full Divestment of All Financial Resources from All Corporations Doing Business with South Africa" to bring about the termination of all corporate and governmental economic ties to South Africa.
2. Redefines as corporations to be divested those which:
 - a. have direct investments in South Africa or Namibia, have employees in either of these countries, or have entered into franchise, licensing, distribution, technology, or trademark agreements with or for any entity in those countries;
 - b. are financial institutions that have engaged in or not prohibited new investments, loans, credits or related services, or the renewal of existing financial agreements, including those for the purposes of trade with any entity in those countries. (A company with operations in South Africa or Namibia for the sole purpose of reporting the news shall not be considered doing business in those countries.)
3. Calls upon all instrumentalities, agencies, national bodies, conferences, associations, congregations, and members of the United Church of Christ to continue moving toward the goal of full divestment established by General Synod Fifteen, utilizing policies and criteria developed by that Synod, the Executive Council, and these expanded criteria, with the goal of complete divestment by General Synod Seventeen. A full report of progress is to be made to General Synod Seventeen.
4. Calls upon agencies, instrumentalities, national bodies, conferences, associations, congregations, and members of the United Church of Christ to engage in economic pressure strategies to maximize our effectiveness as instruments of change by mobilizing the church to:
 - a. engage in acts of public witness directed at corporations supportive of the apartheid system, such as prayer vigils, demonstrations, and letter writing, and postcard campaigns;
 - b. whenever possible abstain from the purchase of products or the use of services of corporations designated as key supporters of the apartheid system by the Implementation Committee.
5. Calls upon agencies, instrumentalities, national bodies, conferences, associations, congregations, and members of the United Church of Christ to work for the passage of comprehensive economic sanctions by the United States government which will terminate economic relations between the United States and South Africa and require the withdrawal of all United States investment from South Africa.
6. Calls on the United Church of Christ to respond to the issues of sanctuary and asylum in the United States, including an active advocacy campaign to urge the United States to grant asylum to South African refugees.
7. Calls on members of the United Church of Christ churches,

conferences, and agencies to pray for people and churches in the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa, which include South Africa's neighboring nations, and to establish sister church relations, utilize visitors from Southern Africa, and in other ways to educate themselves to the problems of nations neighboring South Africa, plagued with economic sabotage and guerrilla warfare instigated and funded by South Africa.

8. Calls upon all instrumentalities, agencies, national bodies, conferences, associations, congregations, and members of the United Church of Christ to urge the United States Government to support with economic assistance Southern African Governments which are suffering from South African military and/or economic sabotage.
9. Calls upon the United Church Board for World Ministries working with the Implementation Committee to encourage churches and ecumenical groups in Great Britain, Germany, The Netherlands, and Switzerland vigorously to pursue economic pressure strategies, full divestment and the adoption of comprehensive economic sanctions by their respective governments.
10. Calls upon the President of the United Church of Christ on behalf of General Synod Sixteen to express its solidarity with the South African Council of Churches, to extend its appreciation to Rev. Beyers Naude for his leadership as its past General Secretary, to congratulate Rev. Frank Chikane, the newly elected General Secretary, and to affirm its ongoing support of him in his new office.
11. Mandates the United Church Board for World Ministries and the Commission for Racial Justice and its Committee on the Implementation of the Pronouncement on United Church of Christ Full Divestment of All Financial Resources from All Corporations Doing Business with South Africa (Implementation Committee) to continue to provide leadership and coordination within the life of the whole church toward the fulfillment of the goals of the Pronouncement and the advocacy contained in this action and to make a comprehensive report on the progress of the United Church of Christ to the Seventeenth General Synod and to all future General Synods until the apartheid system is abolished.

7. RESOLUTION "U.S. INTERVENTION IN THE PHILIPPINES"

The Moderator called on Mr. Eugene Walther, Chairperson of Committee 13, who moved the Sixteenth General Synod adopt the Resolution "U.S. Intervention in the Philippines." A request was granted for voice without vote for this issue only to Ms. Young-Mi-Pak and Rev. Ching-fen Hsiao.

Following discussion Mr. Donald A. Ostwald moved an amendment on Page 31 of the Committee Report by striking the words in Paragraph 1: And the continued presence of the U.S. Military base.

The Business Committee suggested that the session be extended by thirty minutes, which was agreed by the delegation.

Following discussion on the amendment, the motion was defeated.

After additional discussion on the Resolution, the question was called and it was

87-GS-73 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "U.S. Intervention in the Philippines."

U.S. Intervention in the Philippines

Theological Premise:

Habakkuk 2:6-14

"Will not all of them taunt that person with ridicule and scorn

saying, Woe to the person who piles up stolen goods and makes himself wealthy by extortion! How long must this go on? Will not your debtors suddenly arise? Will they not wake up and make you tremble? Then you will become their victim. Because you have plundered many nations, the peoples who are left will plunder you. For you have shed people's blood; you have destroyed lands and cities and everyone in them.

"Woe to the person who builds their realm by unjust gain to set his nest on high, to escape the clutches of ruin! You have plotted the ruin of many peoples, shaming your own house and forfeiting your life. The stones of the wall will cry out, and the beams of the woodwork will echo it.

"Woe to the person who builds a city with bloodshed and establishes a town by crime! Has not the Lord Almighty determined that the people's labor is only fuel for the fire, that the nations exhaust themselves for nothing? For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.' "

The Lord Almighty is indeed a God of justice! Nothing in the Biblical lore seems to anger God more than the violations of justice that the Old Testament prophets, such as Habakkuk, identify. Yet, violations of justice, the creation of injustice, continue to torment our world and mandate the prophetic role of today's church.

The Philippine Islands have been violated historically by Western imperialism, beginning with 350 years of Spanish colonialism, continuing through 48 years of direct American colonialism, and leading up to the present economic and military dependence upon foreign nations. The American role (both directly and indirectly) in creating the present situation of poverty and military oppression in a resource-rich, democratic-based country must be acknowledged.

A closer look at the context of the Philippines, its history and its present crisis, in light of the Habakkuk passage points directly at the basis for the church's prophetic role in the Philippines:

"Will your debtors suddenly arise? You have plundered many nations." Given the imperialist history of the U.S.-Philippines relationship and the present economic debt crises which the republic faces, this passage burns true to the heart. The U.S. (as the major 20th century foreign economic interest in the Philippines) has been a major contributor to the creation of the export, crop oriented economy that has repressed Filipino industrialization, economic independence, and the standard of living. Consequently, it has fueled the continuation of the feudal land-ownership system that has prevailed in this country for 400 years.

"You have shed people's blood; you have destroyed lands and cities and everyone in them." Documentation of human rights violations occurring in the Philippines has lifted up the loss of life, property, and dignity that the U.S. - supported Armed Forces "salvagin" (extra-judicial executions or murders), "Hamletting" (removal of entire villages for national security reasons), and political detention remain in the country despite the new democratic reforms (such as the ouster of former President Ferdinand Marcos). Bi-lateral military aid from the U.S. directly translates into these violations, in seeming disregard of the church-related documentation that exists (including World Council of Churches and Roman Catholic sources.)

"... the people's labor is only fuel for the fire, that the nations exhaust themselves for nothing!" Again, the implication is that the Philippines, in its economically dependent role, is a windfall for the U.S. while at the same time being a moral liability. When the minimum wage set in the Philippines for