

farmworkers (a large segment of the population) is only equivalent to \$1.50 per day, questions naturally arise concerning the global economic structure.

The analysis of this situation to this point has been arrived at by many people in and out of the Philippines. Many in the church, however, have observed that this relatively recent history of indirect U.S. imperialism has been most clearly manifested in the continued presence of the U.S. military bases. It is widely felt among the community-based organizations and churches that U.S. intervention—economically, politically, and militarily—is being fueled by the U.S. interest in maintaining its global strategic military supremacy through the presence of Clark Air Force and Subic Naval Bases.

The United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), our partner church for 40 years, has been one of the church bodies to make this analysis and to move towards fulfilling its prophetic role. A letter from the UCCP bishops states clearly the UCCP's stand against continued U.S. intervention and the continued presence of the U.S. bases.

The United Church of Christ must also fulfill its prophetic role here in the United States to stand in solidarity with its partner churches on issues of global justice and peace, so that, "The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14)."

Resolution

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), our partner church for 40 years, has taken a stand against U.S. and foreign intervention in their sovereign nation's economic and political affairs; and

WHEREAS, we, the United Church of Christ, are partners in faith and in direct relationship with the UCCP; and

WHEREAS, the present problems of the Philippines have a history that can be attributed in major part to its history as a Spanish and U.S. colony; and

WHEREAS, this history continues through Filipino dependence on the U.S., economically and militarily; and

WHEREAS, the whole church of God, the United Church of Christ being part, is called to be a prophetic witness and especially in contexts where its voice can be heard;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod calls upon the United Church of Christ, through its appropriate agencies - the United Church Board for World Ministries and the Office for Church in Society, to pursue the following measures:

1. Stand with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, our partner church for 40 years, in its position against further U.S. intervention and the continued presence of the U.S. military bases, as expressed through its bishops' letter.
2. Communicate both the United Church of Christ and United Church of Christ in the Philippines stands on the issue of U.S. intervention to the U.S. government and to the American public.
3. Educate the United Church of Christ constituency about the Philippine issue and the subsequent prophetic stands that the church must take.
4. Support the development of an economic plan by the Filipinos in the Philippines for any economic foreign aid to be channeled through that plan.

8. REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH KOREA

Mr. Eugene Walther moved the recommendation of Commit-

tee 13 that the Sixteenth General Synod adopt the Resolution "Human Rights in Korea."

Following discussion it was

87-GS-74 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Human Rights in Korea."

Human Rights in Korea

WHEREAS, the present oppressive economic conditions and repressive political structure in South Korea have increased the depth of suffering among its people, especially young people who are imprisoned and tortured, at times, to the extent of death, and

WHEREAS, the government of Chun Doo Hwan continues to use violent repression to maintain its power despite opposition from many levels of the South Korean citizenry, and

WHEREAS, the United States government continues to support and aid the dictatorship of Chun Doo Hwan, which intensifies the anti-Americanism among South Koreans, and

WHEREAS, the National Assembly election is scheduled for the Fall of 1987, and the presidential election for February 1988, and

WHEREAS, the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea is resolved to work for the restoration and extension of human rights, for protection of freedom of the press, for more direct participation of the citizenry in the decision making of the government and for a revision of the Constitution of South Korea to allow a direct election of the President, and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ entered into partnership with the Presbyterian church in the Republic of Korea, and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ seeks to advance the cause of basic human rights;

THEREFORE, the Sixteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ expresses and pledges its support to and partnership with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea in its efforts to work for human rights and a more democratic government; and

FURTHER, the Sixteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and the Office for Church in Society to find ways to demonstrate our support of and partnership with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea and call upon the United Church Board for World Ministries, the Office for Church in Society, and the Office of Communication to provide timely news to our local churches, conferences, and youth and young adult task force about human rights efforts in South Korea and resources for local churches and conferences about how to work in partnership with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea and how to take actions to advance the cause of basic human rights in South Korea; and

FURTHER, the Sixteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon President Reagan and Congress to urge President Chun to step down at the end of his term and to hold a direct popular presidential election in South Korea, and

FURTHER, the Sixteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls upon the government of the United States of America to make termination of human rights violations a clear condition for any continuation of our military and economic aid.

FURTHER, the Sixteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests that President Post and appropriate officials

visit South Korea at the earliest possible date to show support for the struggles of the South Korean people.

9. RESOLUTION "PEACE AND THE REUNIFICATION OF KOREA"

Mr. Walther moved the recommendation of Committee 13 that the Sixteenth General Synod adopt the Resolution "Peace and the Reunification of Korea."

Mr. Richard Guhl made the following motion to amend - Delete the heading "United States Responsibility"; and add a paragraph before THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, "Of course, the division of the Korean peninsula is not solely due to the action or fault of our nation. The Soviet Union, for instance, blocked United Nations - supervised free elections in the North in the years immediately following the Second World War. In addition, the D.P.R.K. launched an unprovoked, unjustified attack on the essentially defenseless, newly-formed nation of the Republic of Korea in 1950. These wounds to the peace of the world have also created fear and mistrust. Nevertheless, we believe that when mustard seeds of new life blossom, we should nurture these opportunities;" and substitute in paragraph THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED "and forgiveness" for "turning around"; and "all parties" for "we."

Following discussion the amendment was defeated.

87-GS-75 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Peace and the Reunification of Korea."

Peace and the Reunification of Korea

Background

The desire of the Korean people, whether they live in South Korea (Republic of Korea/R.O.K.) or North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea/D.P.R.K.), is to restore the unity that was theirs for more than a thousand years before the end of World War II. In 1945 the nation was divided, its people separated into two increasingly hostile and heavily armed states, their enmity sparked and sustained by the global confrontation of the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The churches and the government of the United States must hear the plea of the Korean people for reunification, and help to revise attitudes and policies which may free them to pursue their national unity without external impediment.

We believe that by the grace of God this division need not be permanent, that this people can have its unity restored. This will require the sustained love, concern, and dedicated work of people in many parts of the world in support of the efforts of the Korean people themselves in both North and South.

Since early 1984, there have been some encouraging new openings. There have been renewed official contacts between North and South Korea, the provision and acceptance of emergency assistance by the North to flood victims in the South, followed by official conversations regarding economic and humanitarian issues, culminating in the first exchange of visits between separated family members in North and South since the Korean War.

We see signs of hope for Korea which we, as Christians, believe are the work of the Holy Spirit. This is a moment, we believe, of kairos, a welcome, propitious, critical time to support our sisters and brothers in the whole of Korea as they seek to take their destiny in hand. This is a time for decisive commitment by the churches to help build a climate in North East Asia which would be conducive to pursuing those new opportunities.

New initiatives have also been taken among the churches.

South Korean churches identified reunification as a priority concern in early 1984, asserting their right and responsibility, as well as that of the people at large, to participate in the national discussion on reunification. A Unification Study Committee has been created by the National Council of Churches in Korea to this end. The Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches convened a consultation in the Fall of 1984 at Tozanso, Japan, on "Peace and Justice in North East Asia: Prospects for Peaceful Resolution of Conflict," which focused on Korean reunification with full knowledge of the two Korean governments. While recognizing that reunification is to be achieved by Koreans themselves, a major international ecumenical endeavour is seeking to mobilize support and establish favorable conditions for the Korean effort.

The Korean people, subjects of their own history, are responsible for and capable of reunifying their nation. There is a deep will among Christians in both North and South Korea to contribute jointly to finding ways to achieve national reconciliation, justice, independence, and peace in reunification. History shows that for unification to be achieved peacefully and with justice for all Koreans, and for it to be lasting, a climate must be created in the region and in the world which will allow Koreans to approach their responsibility without external pressures or constraints.

Christians in the various countries involved directly with Korea—Japan, China, the U.S.S.R., and the U.S.A. chief among them—must each play a supportive and nurturing role if Koreans are to succeed in achieving their common aspirations.

United States Responsibility

The situation of Korea is a sharp reminder to Christians in the U.S.A. of our own brokenness and division. We are deeply conscious of the role our nation has played in creating the division of Korea and in maintaining and deepening it. Our government, military, and economic interests each bear a share of the responsibility. But the churches too have much to confess.

We confess that as churches of this nation, we have often allowed ourselves to be motivated more by fear of societies different from our own than by our vocation to be reconcilers. We confess our unwillingness or incapacity to understand the role of the Christian faith in a society like North Korea, or to comprehend sufficiently the witness to the Gospel of the South Korean churches in their society.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sixteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, in a spirit of repentance, turning around, seeking to avoid the repetition of the sins of the past, and to heal the brokenness to which we have contributed, in support of the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, our partner church, joins with the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America to offer the following recommendations:

- (1) We pledge to work for healing and reconciliation in Korea by
 - A. Recognizing that to contribute to the reunification of Korea, we must work to eliminate from our own nation the fear which is fed by the misuses and misunderstandings of national security, and the enmity which blurs our vision of the humanity of the other; all of which make it difficult for us to learn from the mistakes of the past and to play a positive international role.
 - B. Studying and seeking to understand the tragedy of a divided Korea and how U.S. Christians might better