

Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 provide an agreed upon formula to achieve security and peace for all states in the area in exchange for withdrawal from territories occupied in the 1967 war.

THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION, including the right to choose their own independent leadership, is equally essential to peace. Evidence that Palestinians are willing to exercise their right of self-determination in the West Bank and Gaza, alongside Israel, encourages prospects for peace.

THE NEED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR PEACE: the complexity of the conflict and the important interests of many countries in the Middle East require an international conference, involving all parties in the conflict as well as the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

Jerusalem is of vital significance to Israelis and Palestinians, to Jews, Christians and Muslims. We believe negotiations, rather than unilateral action, can help assure that Jerusalem will be a city of peace.

PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS POSSIBLE. NOW IS THE TIME FOR PEACE! SHALOM - PEACE - SALAAM.

20. RESOLUTION "PEACE IN AFGHANISTAN"

Rev. Ruth Powell continued with the report of Committee 25, saying that in light of the morning confession in our worship, we cannot keep silent in a world of injustice. She moved the adoption of the Resolution "Peace in Afghanistan." Discussion and debate defeated one proposed amendment which was to add "5) urges a cessation of distribution of armaments to Afghanistan from the USCIA."

An amendment was moved by Ms. Michelle Prentice (ILL) and it was carried.

87-GS-87 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod adds 5) "recommends sending this Resolution to the leadership of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics."

An amendment was moved by Mr. David McFadden (CAL.N) as follows: "4) Recommends also sending the Resolution to the United States government." It carried.

87-GS-88 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod adds "4) Recommends also sending the Resolution to the United States Government."

The main motion was then acted upon.

87-GS-89 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Peace in Afghanistan" as amended.

Peace in Afghanistan

WHEREAS, the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan by the military forces of the Soviet Union are now in their eighth year and the life and existence of the Afghan people continue to be jeopardized by the war; and

WHEREAS, over a third of the population (nearly five million people) have fled the country to escape the intolerable conditions producing the world's largest refugee population; and

WHEREAS, bombings, strafings, and acts of terrorism and brutality are victimizing the children, women, and men in Afghanistan;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod in concern for peace and justice in Afghanistan:

1. supports the right of the Afghan people to self-determination;
2. affirms the continuing efforts of the United Nations to se-

- cure a negotiated settlement of the conflict and the early withdrawal of all foreign military forces;
3. urges a continued ministry to the suffering Afghan people through the United Church Board for World Ministries and Church World Service;
4. recommends also sending the Resolution to the United States government;
5. recommends communication of this Resolution to the Secretary General of the United Nations;
6. recommends sending this Resolution to the leadership of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

21. SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Ms. Jana Rich, of the Youth and Young Adult Task Force, extended thanks from the Youth and Young Adult Forum to those who talked with them: the Biblical Witness Fellowship, Mr. Doug Hatfield, Rev. Robert Noble, Rev. C. Shelby Rooks, and many others. She read the list of qualified nominees for the new Youth and Young Adult Council and thanked the regional youth representatives, the at-large members and the special interest group representatives. She felt this will be a quality Council. There was enthusiastic applause.

22. RESOLUTION "THE CHURCH AND GENETIC ENGINEERING"

Mr. David Avison (CPC), Chairperson of Committee 12, described the materials used and the input of committee members. He then moved and spoke in support of the Resolution. After discussion and the reception of a friendly amendment to remove the comma after U.S.A. in the 4th Whereas, it was 87-GS-90 VOTED: The Sixteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "The Church and Genetic Engineering" as amended.

The Church and Genetic Engineering

WHEREAS, scientific knowledge and technology in the fields of plant, animal, and human genetic engineering and in genetic therapies are continuing to develop more rapidly than the general understanding of this constantly expanding subject and its ethical, moral and societal implications; and

WHEREAS, genetic engineering and therapies can affect all living things for good or for harm, recognizing the potential of those fields to enhance the quality of life; and

WHEREAS, all Christians need knowledge and guidance in responding to this issue, especially those Christians in position to influence the direction of genetic engineering; and

WHEREAS, the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and the World Council of Churches have both studied and published their findings and positions on the biblical, theological, ethical, religious and societal perspectives of genetic engineering and on the implications of the scientific knowledge and technology in genetic engineering; and

WHEREAS, the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and Office for Church In Society held a Consultation on genetic Engineering as recommended by the Fourteenth General Synod, and reported to the Fifteenth General Synod;

WHEREAS, the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries related to the United Church of Christ, through its Public Policy Committee, held a significant workshop on the church and genetic engineering;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sixteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ: