

## SUNDAY EVENING

WHEREAS, Section 4 of the War Powers Resolution requires that "[i]n the absence of a declaration of war, in any case in which United States Armed Forces are introduced . . . the President shall submit within 48 hours" a report to Congress regarding the circumstances and authority for such introduction and the estimated scope and duration of involvement, and

WHEREAS, Section 5 of the War Powers Resolution requires the President to terminate the use of United States Armed Forces in hostilities unless the Congress authorizes the use of such forces within sixty days, and

WHEREAS, since enactment of the War Powers Resolution, United States Armed Forces have been introduced into hostilities on at least nineteen occasions but the President has never submitted a report "pursuant to section 4(a)(1)" of the War Powers Resolution, thus avoiding the intent of the War Powers Resolution to require congressional authority for the maintenance of United States Armed Forces in such situations after a period of sixty days, and

WHEREAS, United States military intervention into the affairs of other nations and peoples also occurs in a covert manner without the direct involvement of United States Armed Forces and thereby not subject to the provisions of the War Powers Resolution, and

WHEREAS, covert operations or "special activities" of the United States intelligence community are defined by the government in Executive Order 12333 as "activities conducted in support of national foreign policy objectives abroad which are planned and executed so that the role of the United States Government is not apparent or acknowledged publicly," and

WHEREAS, National Security Council Directive 10/2 stated that covert operations include ". . . propaganda; economic warfare; preventive direct action, including sabotage, anti-sabotage, demolition, and evacuation measures; subversion against hostile states, including assistance to underground resistance movements, guerrillas, and refugee liberation groups and support of indigenous anti-communist elements in threatened countries of the free world," and

WHEREAS, covert operations and covert war are conducted without declaration by proper authority, without regard to the rule of law, without international accountability, without any code of conduct, and without regard for principles of self-determination of peoples and nations, and

WHEREAS, covert operations and covert war subvert and violate the United States Constitution in that they allow violence and war to be waged without proper congressional authorization (as mandated by Article I), allow funding for such operations without appropriation or proper oversight by Congress (as stipulated in Article II), and, in some cases, undermine Article VI by violating treaties which are already established as "supreme Law of the Land," and

WHEREAS, covert operations and covert war include activities designed to avoid personal and governmental accountability, thus allowing parts of the government or their surrogates to deny responsibility for these actions and to operate outside of the law;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

1. supports the intent of the War Powers Resolution, Public Law 93-148, for proper United States governmental authorization and oversight in the event United States Armed Forces are introduced into a situation of war or possible involvement in hostilities;
2. urges the President of the United States to abide fully by the provisions of the War Powers Resolution;
3. urges the Congress to invoke the provisions of the War Powers Resolution if the President fails to abide by this law;
4. urges the Congress to carry out the full authority given to it by the War Powers Resolution and the Constitution, to support revisions which would protect these constitutional powers and strengthen congressional oversight of the use of United States Armed Forces in hostilities, and to oppose changes which would in any way diminish this authority or function;
5. urges the United States government and other governments of the world to terminate all covert operations and covert war;
6. urges the President of the United States to cease all covert operations or covert war conducted by any agent or surrogate of the United States government, unless Congress has declared war or is physically unable to meet as a result of an armed attack upon the United States;
7. urges the Congress to prohibit any United States governmental department or agency from engaging in covert operations or covert war and to limit the activities of the intelligence community to the gathering of information, unless Congress has declared war or is physically unable to meet as a result of an armed attack upon the United States. Such departments and agencies include but are not limited to: the Central Intelligence Agency; the National Security Agency; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the Department of State; the Defense Intelligence Agency; the intelligence elements of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps; the staff element of the Director of Central Intelligence; the National Reconnaissance Office of the Department of Defense; other offices within the Departments of Defense, State, Treasury, and Energy for the collection of intelligence; the Drug Enforcement Agency, and the National Security Council;
8. calls upon the President of the United Church of Christ, the Office for Church in Society, and the United Church Board for World Ministries to: communicate this resolution to the President of the United States, the United States Congress, the General Secretary of the Soviet Union, and the Secretary General of the United Nations; inform and educate the United Church of Christ regarding the principles contained in this resolution, and advocate public policy positions commensurate with this resolution.

Financial Implications: Subject to the availability of funds.

### **10. RESOLUTION "A CALL TO THE GENERAL SYNOD TO WORK TOWARD THE GOAL OF ELIMINATING SHORT-RANGE NUCLEAR FORCES IN EUROPE"**

Mr. Kear reported the work of Committee 18 on the Resolution "A Call to the General Synod to Work Toward the Goal of Eliminating Short-Range Nuclear Forces in Europe." The last paragraph was deleted and the call stated in the last sentence was changed to be upon the President of the United Church of Christ.

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During discussion Mr. Zoltan Szucs (CA.SY) proposed an amendment to "add - after to the President of the United States - to General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev." During further discussion, a friendly amendment offered by Mr. Mike Patterson (ILL) to insert the name of President George Bush was accepted by the Assistant Moderator.

Discussion was closed and the adoption of the amendment was moved. It was

89-GS-43 VOTED: The 17th General Synod amends the Resolution by adding the phrase and "to General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev" following "to President George Bush."

After a brief continued discussion, the main motion was acted upon.

89-GS-44 VOTED: The 17th General Synod adopts the Resolution "A Call to the General Synod to Work Toward the Goal of Eliminating Short-Range Nuclear Forces in Europe."

### **A CALL TO THE GENERAL SYNOD TO WORK TOWARD THE GOAL OF ELIMINATING SHORT-RANGE NUCLEAR FORCES IN EUROPE**

Our Peace Partner, Uwe Dittmer, from the German Democratic Republic has alerted members of the Northern Association of Penn Central Conference to the increasing fear of our brothers and sisters in East and West Germany and West Berlin about the announced intention of the United States to increase short-range missile capability. Therefore, we urge adoption of this resolution, which is based on Biblical teachings, the United Church of Christ's stand as a Just Peace Church, and its full communion with the Evangelical Church of the Union in East and West Germany. It is given special timeliness by the opening of the Conventional Forces in Europe Talks.

WHEREAS, we live in a world which for forty years has known a kind of peace through fear, among nations which could destroy each other at any time;

We live in a world which continues to refine, test, and deploy nuclear weapons daily, and they now number approximately 50,000;

AND WHEREAS, as Christians we proclaim the way of peace that does not depend on fear. We pray for peace that nourishes trust and is nourished by trust;

We affirm dialogue and negotiation, not threat and confrontation, as the way of peacemaking and the building of understanding;

We affirm the reduction of all types of armaments, both nuclear and conventional, as a way of achieving peace and reducing tension;

BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod of the United Church of Christ supports serious, responsible negotiation as the way to approach specific areas of international concern and, in particular, supports immediate negotiation toward the goal of eliminating short-range nuclear missiles and tactical nuclear weapons and achieving a balance of conventional forces in Europe, and

FURTHER, the 17th General Synod directs the President of the United Church of Christ to deliver this resolution to President George Bush of the United States and members of Congress and to General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union in an appropriate and effective manner and to bring it for affirmation to the National Council of Churches, thus giving a unified voice to the church's widely shared vision of a way to peace.

### **11. RESOLUTION "DE-ESCALATION OF FIRST STRIKE ARMS RACE"**

On behalf of Committee 18, Mr. Kear moved the adoption of the Resolution "De-Escalation of First Strike Arms Race." Without any discussion on the motion, it was

89-GS-45 VOTED: The 17th General Synod adopts the Resolution "De-Escalation of First Strike Arms Race."

### **DE-ESCALATION OF FIRST STRIKE ARMS RACE**

#### Background

Since 1945 the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. have been locked in an escalating nuclear arms race. This arms race has seen the development of: the A-Bomb, the H-Bomb, Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs), Multiple Independent Re-entry Vehicles (MIRVs) for missiles, Submarine Launch Ballistic Missiles (SLBMs), Maneuverable Re-entry Vehicles (MARV) for missiles, and ever-increasing quantities of strategic nuclear weapons.

Today the nuclear arms race continues with the development and deployment of highly accurate ICBMs to destroy target-hardened missile silos, underwater killer submarines, earth-penetrating nuclear warheads, anti-satellite weapons, anti-missile missiles, and hardened communications systems.

These last developments portend a greatly increased risk for the human race in the near future. Taken together they add up to "unanswerable, disarming, first-strike capabilities."

Ron Aldridge, a former missile engineer at Lockheed Missile and Space Corporation, who quit his job working on the Trident Missile after it became apparent to him that it could be used for a disarming first-strike, has stated that there are five elements necessary for a disarming first-strike. These are:

1. Accurate ICBMs or SLBMs such as the MX Missile and the Trident Missile. These would destroy land-based ICBMs. Part of these systems would be the new NAVSTAR Navigation Satellites.
2. Killer submarines such as the Los Angeles Class subs and the new Seawolf.
3. Anti-satellite weapons. These would eliminate the target countries' ability to detect a first-strike.
4. Anti-missile weapons. These would destroy the ICBMs that escape the first-strike.
5. A Communications, Command, Control, and Intelligence (C3I) system that would co-ordinate the above and send the "fire" signal to the four elements above.

The U.S. Military-Industrial Complex is either deploying or developing all five elements of a disarming first-strike capability. Sometime in the 1990's the U.S.A. will have deployed all five elements achieving a true disarming first-strike posture.