

TUESDAY MORNING

Recognized Group requested a point of personal privilege, in which she expressed that she was very happy to see this moment. She called attention to the fact that members of the Pacific Asian and American Ministries Recognized Group had gathered to express their support of the Proposed Pronouncement and Proposal for Action and joined her in expressing appreciation. She also wanted to assure the Synod that a committee had been appointed that would provide a report to Executive Council in the fall.

17. RESOLUTION "REAFFIRMING SOLIDARITY WITH OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE PHILIPPINES"

Mr. Cope moved the adoption of the Resolution "Reaffirming Solidarity with our Brothers and Sisters in the United Church of Christ in the Philippines." There was no discussion and

89-GS-85 VOTED: The 17th General Synod adopts the Resolution "Reaffirming Solidarity with Our Brothers and Sisters in the United Church of Christ in the Philippines."

REAFFIRMING SOLIDARITY WITH OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, many members and leaders of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines have courageously and consistently spoken out on issues of peace, justice and human rights in the Philippines, basing their works and actions on their understanding of the Christian faith;

WHEREAS, because those words and actions, on behalf of all Filipinos, by some members of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, have resulted in the Church being labeled as a "communist front" organization and many members as "communist" by some within the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and although that accusation was denied by then Armed Forces Chief of Staff, General Fidel Ramos (himself a member of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines);

WHEREAS, the prophetic statements and activities of some members of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, as well as those of other Protestant and Roman Catholic Church members have led many to become targets of arrest, torture and assassination;

WHEREAS, within the past few months, at least eight pastors and lay leaders of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines have been killed (including the Rev. Vizminda Gran and her husband Lovino on May 1, 1989) by persons identified or suspected to be with the military or paramilitary forces of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, a recent press statement from the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) reports that on Sunday, June 25, 1989, in the village of Rano in Mindanao, 39 church members were massacred while worshipping. A Washington Post article reporting on the same incident includes in the carnage a one-year-old baby and describes three of the victims as having been beheaded, including the lay pastor who had been conducting the service;

WHEREAS, concern continues to be expressed for the safety of other religious workers in the Philippines who continue to speakout on issues of peace, justice and human rights in their country, and

WHEREAS, General Synod XVI of the United Church of Christ/USA reaffirmed its solidarity and partnership with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines and to the Filipino people in their continuing efforts toward peace and justice in the Philippines.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod of the United Church of Christ, meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, June 28, 1989 to July 4, 1989, declares its deep distress and indignation at the escalating violence against the peoples of the Philippines who witness for justice and human rights, and declare again our solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the United Church of Christ in the Philippines;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod requests that this Resolution be sent to President Corazon Aquino, Minister of Defense General Fidel Ramos, the Philippines Ambassador to the United States, and the Secretary General of the United Nations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod requests that this Resolution be sent to President George Bush, Secretary of State James Baker, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, expressing our deep concern over the ever-increasing level of U.S. military support for the Philippine Government;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod requests the Office for Church in Society to monitor the levels of military support of the Philippine government and report regularly through United Church of Christ publications;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod urges the National Council of Churches USA and partner denominations in the National Council of Churches to join us in this Resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod requests that this Resolution of Solidarity be sent to Bishop Erme Camba, General Secretary of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, and through him to all Filipinos struggling for justice and peace in the Philippines, pledging our continued support in ways possible and helpful.

Financial Implications: Subject to the availability of funds.

18. APPRECIATION EXPRESSED ON BEHALF OF THE PERSECUTED

The Rev. Rosalina Villalba, the mother of a persecuted man, stood up to thank the church for this vote, on behalf of her son.

19. RESOLUTION "HAWAII HOME LANDS"

Mr. Cope then moved the adoption of the Resolution "Hawaii Home Lands." He spoke to this resolution and

89-GS-86 VOTED: The 17th General Synod adopts the Resolution "Hawaii Home Lands."

HAWAII HOME LANDS

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ seeks to be faithful to the Biblical vision of the Kingdom of God;

WHEREAS, the Kingdom of God is about justice and peace and wholeness and harmony for all persons and all creation;