

MONDAY AFTERNOON

The Philippines has never tackled the scope of pollution caused by toxic waste and environmental damage left by the U.S. military. U.S. cooperation is needed in training, technical assistance and technology transfer to ensure that proper cleanup takes place.

Urgent Action Needed Now!

A letter writing campaign, networking with environmental groups, and community involvement strategies, supporting the initiatives of Senators Lugar and Inouye, and suggestions outlined by the UUSC to Congress and Senate members and to President Clinton are urgently needed.

¹ United States General Accounting Office, *Military Base Closures: U.S. Financial Obligations in the Philippines*, January 1992 (GAO/NSIAD-92-51); single copies may be obtained free of charge by calling (202) 275-6241. Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, *UUSC Backgrounder: "The Philippines: Toxic and Hazardous Waste at Former U.S. Military Bases,"* December 1993. This summary, together with the subsequent UPDATE, was compiled by Church Network On the Philippines (CNOP) of the San Francisco Bay Area, c/o Graduate Theological Union, 2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley, CA 94709. Tel. (510) 649-0652. Paragraph numbers are for quick reference only. The UPDATE is in a diary format, so that diary entries of an earlier date (such as initial conclusions, plans or expectations) are subject to change or correction in subsequent diary entries as events evolve and unfold. Sources of the UPDATE entries are cited in an attempt to be as accurate as possible and also for verification. LG/NAS, Editors.

Text of Resolution

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ (USA) has declared itself to be a church committed to "Integrity of Creation, Justice and Peace;"

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ (USA) has played a pioneering role in the emergence of a multiracial movement for environmental justice in the United States;

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ (USA) has supported the sovereignty of the Filipino people and withdrawal of U.S. bases in that country;

WHEREAS the withdrawal of the U.S. military has left a legacy of life-threatening and economically devastating toxic wastes that make the former bases, especially Clark Air Force and Subic Naval Bases, largely uninhabitable and unusable;

WHEREAS this is a blatant example of environmental racism;

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, a partner church of the United Church of Christ (USA) has resolved to demand the removal of toxic wastes and calls on the United Church of Christ (USA) to demonstrate its solidarity with them in this particular struggle;

WHEREAS our North American ecumenical partners, through the church coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines, has taken on this issue; and

WHEREAS the Filipino-American community, including Filipino-American United Church of Christ churches, have shown grave concern over this issue;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twentieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ stands in solidarity with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twentieth General Synod requests:

The Office for Church in Society, the United Church Board for World Ministries, and the Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ to demonstrate this solidarity through education, advocacy, and direct action to demand that the U.S. Government remove military hazardous waste and toxic contamination in the Philippines;

The United Church of Christ, in all its settings, demonstrate this solidarity through prayer, education, advocacy and direct action to demand that the U.S. Government remove military hazardous waste and toxic contamination in the Philippines; and

The President of the United Church of Christ communicate this decision to the appropriate U.S. Government agencies, the United Church of Christ in the Philippines and other ecumenical organizations.

Subject to the availability of funds.

10. RESOLUTION OF WITNESS ON "EXPRESSION OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN"

Assistant Moderator Taylor asked that the report of Committee Eleven continue. Mr. Sandman spoke of the work of the Committee on this issue and moved the adoption of the Resolution of Witness "Expression of Solidarity with the People of Taiwan." Mr. Sandman spoke to the resolution and yielded his remaining time to Clint Cannon (WASH). Mr. Cannon also spoke in support of the resolution. There was no further discussion.

95-GS-46 VOTED: The Twentieth General Synod adopts the Resolution of Witness "Expression of Solidarity With the People of Taiwan."

MONDAY AFTERNOON

RESOLUTION OF WITNESS ON “EXPRESSION OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN”

WHEREAS the Corporate Board of the United Church Board for World Ministries at its 185th Annual Meeting on Friday, July 1, 1994, in West Lafayette, Indiana voted to adopt a resolution entitled Expressing Solidarity with the People of Taiwan;

WHEREAS the United Church of Christ is committed to seeking peace and justice throughout the world;

WHEREAS the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan has been a strong partner of the United Church Board for World Ministries for over forty years and an active participant in the global community of churches especially through its active membership in the World Council of Churches, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, and the Christian Conference of Asia;

WHEREAS the 21 million people of Taiwan possess a unique history, government, territory, and political reality, and are struggling to create democracy in their land;

WHEREAS Taiwan desires to be an active, responsible, and positive participant in the global community but is not currently represented in the international community through the organization of the United Nations;

WHEREAS the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan has, often at great risk, out of its faith commitment, been an advocate for justice and the right to self-determination for the people of Taiwan and have, as an expression of partnership, called on UCBWM to support the self-determination, integrity, and well-being of the people of Taiwan;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twentieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ expresses its solidarity with the people of Taiwan and the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan during this time of struggle for self-determination;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twentieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ supports the United Church Board for World Ministries in its efforts to raise, through local churches, conferences, and instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ the concerns of the people of Taiwan;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twentieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ supports the United Church Board for World Ministries in its efforts to urge, through advocacy, that the U.S. Government hear the concerns of the people of Taiwan and use its influence to create a fair solution which will provide true representation in the international community for the people of Taiwan;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twentieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ supports the United Church Board for World Ministries in its efforts to raise this issue of justice in its communications with other partner churches around the world and within the ecumenical community of the United States;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twentieth General Synod urges all local churches in the United Church of Christ to commit themselves to fervent prayer on behalf of the people of Taiwan and in support of their desire for peace and justice;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twentieth General Synod of the United Church of Christ calls on local churches, conferences and instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ, to study and respond to the concerns of the people of Taiwan;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twentieth General Synod calls on the United Church Board for World Ministries to raise this issue of justice in its communication with other partner churches around the world and within the ecumenical community of the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Synod and the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ refers this resolution to the appropriate instrumentalities for further implementation.

Subject to the availability of funds.

**11. RESOLUTION OF WITNESS ON
“AFFIRMING AND SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA”**

Mr. Sandman continued with the final recommendation of Committee Eleven. He moved that the Twentieth General Synod adopt the Resolution of Witness “Affirming and Supporting Human Rights in the People’s Republic of China.” Mr. Sandman spoke to the resolution and pointed out the changes made by the Committee. There was no discussion.

95-GS-47 VOTED: The Twentieth General Synod adopts the Resolution of Witness “Affirming and Supporting Human Rights in the People’s Republic of China.”

RESOLUTION OF WITNESS ON “AFFIRMING AND SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA”

Statement of Theology

“You shall have no other gods before me.”