

1979

RESOLUTION: SUPPORT OF SALT II AND REVERSAL OF THE ARMS RACE

WHEREAS it is God's will that human beings should live together as a family in mutual goodwill and support, but Human Ignorance and sin often issue in national self-seeking instead of mutual aid, in antagonism instead of friendship, in war or threats of war, instead of peace, and

WHEREAS the present spiraling arms race is a negation of deepest human aspirations and a defiance of the will of God. We, as Christians, are called on not to acquiesce in this race, but to try to reverse it, and

WHEREAS a treaty aimed at limitation of some weapons systems is now being considered by the Senate of the United States (Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty, SALT II), and

WHEREAS we must not, by our silence, give assent to the present trend toward armed aggression among the nations, which is a threat to human survival, as well as clear defiance of God.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut Conference through its Department of Church and Society commends our successive Presidents and the national leaders of both major political parties for the nuclear arms limitation achieved by their efforts, beginning with the Test Ban Treaty of 1963 and for their persistent efforts in the past decade to bring strategic arms limitation talks to success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ

1. Calls upon the Minister of the Conference and the Board of Directors to publicize the issues of military spending, disarmament and economic conversion through CONNtact and other Conference publications, oral presentations and personal contact;
2. Calls upon the Department of Church and Society to make known relevant legislation to the people of our churches so that they may take informed, constructive action to support our legislative representatives, local, state and national, in any moves in the direction of reversing the arms race and converting military industries to civilian production;
3. Calls upon the local churches of the Conference and the Associations to study the ongoing impact of military spending in their communities, and to affirm their responsibility and power to question national priorities;
4. Calls upon the Department of Christian Education to continue its work of compiling and making available resources to the Christian education programs of the local churches; and the Department of Church and Society continue compiling and distributing resource materials on disarmament to local churches; and

5. Calls upon each individual in the Conference to become personally committed through prayer to reversing the arms race, and through study and citizen action, and continuing tirelessly with courage and clarity in the incomparably important, many sided work of peace-making, for Jesus Christ was, and still is, in search of peacemakers.