

1985

RESOLUTION: KAMPUCHEAN (CAMBODIAN) REFUGEE AND IMMIGRATION POLICY

WHEREAS, We are called as Christians to house the homeless and to care for the widow and orphan, the stranger and sojourner in our land (Deuteronomy 10:18-19) and

WHEREAS, Events during the 1970s which resulted in the deaths of 1 1/2 million Cambodians and the fleeing of 700,000 refugees to camps in Thailand, and

WHEREAS, The country of Kampuchea (Cambodia) continues to be occupied by the Vietnamese army which has increased its attacks on the refugee camps this year, driving thousands from their homes and creating a dangerous situation for both refugees and relief workers and

WHEREAS, The majority of these refugees have immediate family in the United States who are anxious and ready to help them resettle here; and

WHEREAS, United States relief agencies and churches (including many local congregations in the United Church of Christ) have already been involved in the ministry of refugee resettlement and have first-hand experience of the extraordinary achievement and self-sufficiency of the Kampuchean they have helped resettle; and

WHEREAS, The U. S. State Department is planning to end all processing of Khmer refugees and the Immigration and Naturalization Service has already rejected 20,000 for being "non-political;"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference calls upon the United States Congress, State Department, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service to:

1. Continue the processing of refugees in the Thai camps;
2. Accept the political status of the refugees with parents, children and siblings already settled and waiting in the United States
3. Consider refugee status for some part of the refugees left in Thailand who refuse to return to Kampuchea and who face certain death if they do and
4. Develop overall a more compassionate policy of refugee resettlement and immigration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Church and Society and the Department of Mission and Stewardship encourage local congregations to consider sponsoring refugee families, providing foster care for Kampuchean orphans, and/or advocating with their senators and representatives on behalf of a more compassionate refugee and immigration policy.