

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM
2006 Walnut Street, Philadelphia 3, Penna.

October 1962

EXCERPTS FROM STATEMENTS BY NATIONAL DENOMINATIONAL BODIES ON DISARMAMENT

AMERICAN BAPTIST CONVENTION - Rochester, New York, June, 1960.

International Affairs - 1. Disarmament and Cessation of Nuclear Tests.

... We, therefore, resolve to work for the following objectives as offering hope and being consistent with our Christian faith:

a. We urge our government to make increasing efforts to reach agreements among all nations, with adequate enforcement controls for the cessation of all kinds of nuclear testing, especially in view of the damaging effects of Strontium 90 as conveyed to the populace through milk and other foods.

b. We urge our government to make every effort to find a basis for agreements among all nations for control and reduction of conventional, biological, and radiological weapons as well as nuclear armaments.

AMERICAN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION - Annual Meeting, May 24, 1960 - DISARMAMENT RESOLUTION

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the American Unitarian Association urge the President and the Congress:

1. To support strongly the efforts of the United Nations to find ways of bringing about disarmament agreements among nations with inspection and enforcement provisions, with special emphasis on the banning of nuclear weapons;

2. To strengthen, support and work to increase the effectiveness of direct disarmament negotiations of the United States with other countries through which disarmament treaties with inspection and enforcement provisions might be developed;

3. To work toward the reorganizing, revitalizing and expansion of our own nation's machinery to handle more effectively all matters dealing with the control of nuclear weapons and general disarmament;

4. To formulate plans for the adjustment of the U.S. economy to one of peace.

GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH - Miami, Florida - Oct., 1958.

International Peace and Security Resolution

RESOLVED, That this General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church affirms the provisions of Resolution 106 of the Lambeth Conference of 1958:

1. That Christians "press through their governments, as a matter of the utmost urgency, for the abolition by international agreement of nuclear bombs and other weapons of similar indiscriminate destructive power, the use of which is repugnant to the Christian conscience. To this end governments should accept such limitations of their own sovereignty as effective control demands."

2. That Christians urge their governments "to devote their utmost efforts at once to framing a comprehensive international disarmament treaty which shall also provide for the progressive reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments."

3. That Christians support their governments in seeking to maintain peace and security in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

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REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA - June, 1960

BANNING OF NUCLEAR TESTS AND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION - Statement of Committee on Christian Action: "Recognizing the evil and futility of war as a policy, and out of a deep Christian concern for the life, health, welfare and goodwill of our Asian and African neighbors, we urge the Church to endorse the banning of all nuclear tests - for military purposes - atmospheric, space, underground - by international agreement, together with all chemical, biological, and radiological weapons of mass destruction."

Action of the General Synod: "A motion was made and supported that in the light of the fact that the question of weapons of mass destruction is probably the most important in world life today, we express our approval of all the efforts put forth by the President of the United States and his advisors in the search for adequate controls and the ultimate abandonment of such weapons of mass destruction."

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN - Des Moines, Iowa- June, 1958

FOREIGN POLICY ...To bring about a more constructive and peaceful United States foreign policy and a more brotherly world, we make the following recommendations:

1. that we work more effectively to influence public opinion, to guide our representatives in Congress, and to make our beliefs known to persons occupying important policy-making positions in our government;
2. that we unceasingly urge our government leaders to promote and use non-violent methods and institutions such as the United Nations which are available for settling international tensions;
3. that we urge government leaders to give greater attention to removing the causes of tension and conflict;
4. that we give greater support to the positive nonmilitary aspects of our foreign policy, such as technical assistance and economic aid to underdeveloped areas; and
5. that we as churches and churchmen also utilize these sharing techniques through church and nonchurch agencies in the name of Christ, the servant of all.

NUCLEAR TESTING - Annual Conference, 1959. In view of the disquieting uncertainty about the ultimate genetic effects of continued experiments with nuclear weapons, and the belief of responsible Christians that further experimentation will only take us closer to nuclear war, we express our earnest and unalterable opposition to further testing of nuclear weapons. We call upon the government of the United States to take the lead in permanent abandonment of such tests.

UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS - Board of Trustees Meeting - Nov. 7-10, 1958

WORLD PEACE WITH JUSTICE ...4. We reaffirm our position, in which we are associated with many other religious bodies, that our Government intensify every possible effort toward the achievement of universal, enforceable disarmament, and that the United States continue its efforts on a program for peace with the utmost urgency, resourcefulness, and flexibility. We call upon the Government of the United States to explore every possible means of ending nuclear tests as one of the many aids in the mobilization of the religious resources of the world.

GENERAL SYNOD OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - July 8, 1959

Call to Christian Action in Society.

THE WORLD OF NATIONS ...We therefore call upon our churches and their members to pray and work: ...

For the United Nations as a major resource for the settlement of disputes, for peaceful change, and for economic and social development; ...

For effective international control and reduction of all national armaments, including the testing of nuclear weapons;

For the use of our wealth, personal resources, and trade policies in a world-wide attack upon human misery;....

NATIONAL LUTHERAN COUNCIL, 1959

THEREFORE WE SUBMIT to our fellow Americans the following propositions for thoughtful study in the belief that they are in harmony with God's law expressed in love and justice and embody policies essential to the national interest:....

That our nation's conduct and policy should strive to develop in partnership with other nations increasingly adequate structures of international organization and law to achieve justice, order, peace, and disarmament.

METHODIST CHURCH - General Conference, Denver, Colorado - May, 1960

UNIVERSAL DISARMAMENT

From the Episcopal Address of the General Conference of 1960 we read:

"....We commend the international situation to the thoughtful, prayerful concern of the Church and urge that the General Conference take the leadership in mobilizing Christian opinion within our connection in behalf of mutual disarmament, the prohibition of nuclear testing, and the peaceful use of atomic energy."

To meet this high challenge must be nothing less than the abolition of the use of war by nations. Mere arms reductions or limitations are inadequate. Only complete disarmament, involving both nuclear and conventional weapons, down to the levels required for internal policing will deprive nations of the tools of war.

Such complete disarmament must be universal to be acceptable to all nations. It must be enforced by a competent international agency, preferably a strengthened United Nations. Complete, universal disarmament needs to be based upon confidence in the enforcement system.

Moreover, such disarmament requires international means for the peaceful settlement of disputes and controversies between nations. Extension of law and use of courts on the world level may well be a condition precedent to complete, enforceable disarmament....

We encourage a number of immediate steps in addition to our continuing efforts to achieve complete, universal disarmament.

a. Nuclear Tests: We urge permanent cessation of all nuclear tests by all nuclear powers, present and future, in order that present and future generations may be protected from the dangers of nuclear radiation.

d. Safeguards: We support all reasonable steps which reduce the chances of

METHODIST CHURCH (continued)

war by miscalculation, accident or inadvertent action such as: mutual aerial and ground inspection against surprise attack and the establishment of a United Nations permanent force.

e. Economic Benefits: We call upon the United States to offer to devote a substantial percentage of the savings which will result from complete disarmament to the development of underdeveloped countries, using the United Nations as far as feasible. We urge study and planning of measures needed to cope with the domestic economic adjustments, largely localized, to industry and labor, resulting from elimination of huge expenditures for armaments.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) - St. Louis, Missouri - October 17-22, 1958

UNIVERSAL DISARMAMENT The immediate task is that of encouraging the process of universal disarmament... As a beginning Christians may call upon the governments of the world:

- A. To set up now at least the first stages of an international inspection system under the United Nations to guarantee that disarmament agreements made are being kept and thus to reduce the danger of surprise attacks...
- B. To forego, for at least a trial period, the testing of nuclear weapons of mass destruction;
- C. To proceed by negotiation if possible, or by the action of individual states if necessary, in the reduction of conventional arms and armies on a step by step basis;
- D. To support the establishment of a permanent unarmed United Nations peace agency for the reporting and inspection necessary under disarmament agreements as well as for the control of border incidents and irresponsible military adventuring;
- E. To seek with all haste minimum agreements outlawing production in quantity and storage of long distance missiles, and to work out a careful inspection program under the United Nations designed to assure that such agreements would be observed.
- F. To consider the possibility of developing "demilitarized zones" separating the major antagonists in the cold war, provided the consent of nations in these areas is received;
- G. To explore the possibilities of the production of nuclear materials for peaceful purposes only under a system of international inspection and control;
- H. To place under the United Nations further explorations of outer space so as to assure mankind that these scientific advancements will be used for peaceful purposes.

WORLD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ...Technical assistance programs which aid in lifting levels of technological skill may be of real help in improving the life of the people of the underdeveloped areas...Two things which seem certain - that economic assistance programs should be separated from military aid and development programs; and that assistance should be granted with only such stipulations attached as are designed to see to it that assistance reaches people who are actually in need...