

No. 77

CONCERNING THE UNITED NATIONS' PEACEKEEPING ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

APPROVED by the General Assembly as an emergency resolution.

WHEREAS the Christian faith is rooted in the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace; and WHEREAS the fourth Middle East War in a quarter of a century commenced on October 6, 1973 between Israel and her Arab neighbors; and

WHEREAS the United Nations Security Council in Resolution No. 338 of October 22, 1973 urged a cease-fire in the area; and

WHEREAS the United States proposed and the Soviet Union and other members of the Security Council authorized a U.N. Peace Force made up of non-permanent members of the Council to police cease-fire arrangements in the Middle East; and

WHEREAS a cease-fire is an essential first step, the search for a just and lasting peace will not be meaningful unless the parties concerned and their big power sponsors are willing to seriously persist in a negotiating process that seeks to accommodate the views of the contending parties in the Middle East dispute; and

WHEREAS the United States and the Soviet Union are the major arms suppliers of the respective parties in the Middle East and the prevention of any new outbreak of large-scale hostilities will depend on their agreement to participate in an arms control and disarmament arrangement for the area monitored by neutral U.N. Observers; and

WHEREAS the latest war in the Middle East has resulted in social disorders and needs that call us to prayer and that require generous contributions of public and private agencies throughout the world.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting at Cincinnati, Ohio, October 26-31, 1973 commends the United Nations Security Council for its decision to deploy a peacekeeping force to police the cease-fire arrangements in the Middle East; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we approve the principle of a U.N. Peace Force made up of non-permanent members of the Security Council so as to avoid the introduction of Cold War tensions into the area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the United States and the Soviet Union to continue to work toward the reduction of the tensions in the area and contribute to a serious negotiating process by entering into a U.N.-monitored arms control and disarmament arrangement so that neither side to the dispute will be under the illusion that the aggravating issues that divide them can be resolved by the use of military force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the members of the United Nations to adequately finance the peacekeeping arrangement, provide relief and reconstruction assistance in the war-torn area, and that we as members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) agree to contribute through the Week of Compassion along with other private agencies to humanitarian relief in the area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as Christians living in Canada and the United States we urge our congregations to establish Middle East study groups so that, as citizens, we can thoughtfully participate in the decision-making process of our governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we request the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to inform the following of our action: the President of the United States and the U.S. Secretary of State; the Prime Minister of Canada and the Canadian foreign minister; and the U.N. Representatives serving on the Security Council of the United Nations; therefore we urge the members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to write to members of Congress to consider actions suggested in this resolution.