

Resolution on Middle East/Middle East arms race

1983 Fourteenth General Synod

10. Resolution on Middle East

VOTED 83 6 EC 18a: The Executive Council, acting ad interim for the Fourteenth General Synod, refers the Resolution on "Middle East" to the United Church Board for World Ministries for appropriate action.

4. Resolution on The Middle East arms race

VOTED 83 6 EC 12a: The Executive Council, acting ad interim for the Fourteenth General Synod, receives and adopts the Resolution "The Middle East Arms Race" with the changes proposed by Section 1 and amended:

WHEREAS The Middle East Arms race constitutes a major threat to regional and world peace; and

WHEREAS this arms race has made The Middle East, arguably the most volatile region of the world, now the most heavily militarized region of the world, with the highest per capita expenditure for arms; and

WHEREAS the United States and the Soviet Union are the major suppliers of destructive and sophisticated arms to Middle Eastern nations; and

WHEREAS we are called to be in solidarity with Christians of The Middle East who seek to carry out the ministry of reconciliation;

The Executive Council, acting ad interim for the Fourteenth General Synod:

1. Calls upon the President of the United Church of Christ to communicate to the leadership of the Russian Orthodox Church our concern about the threat The Middle East arms race poses to world peace and to propose that our churches join in a joint witness to our governments on this issue; and
2. Urges the U.S. Government to work toward a multi-lateral agreement among all arms supplying nations to limit or freeze arms transfers and/or military aid to Middle Eastern countries; and
3. Encourages those nations in conflict to seek diplomatic solutions to Mid-East problems and that other interested nations seek to mediate diplomatic solutions to the problems which divide the contending countries; and
4. Recommends that the President of the United Church of Christ convey this message to our

State Department and the Administration of the U.S. and to the U.S.S.R.; and

5. Requests the President of the United Church of Christ to convey to the Presidents of The Middle East Council of Churches deep sadness over the grievous loss of life caused by armed conflicts in the area and our resolve to move our government toward a more positive role in the region.