

8128:9/84

AMERICAN BAPTIST RESOLUTION ON THE UNITED NATIONS

WHEREAS, the establishment of peace with justice for all humankind is one of the basic ideals of the Christian Church; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations is the world organization dedicated to this search for a just peace; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations has made steady progress toward this goal by furnishing a world forum for full and open discussion of political differences between the nations, and has provided the machinery for fair and peaceful solution of these differences, and has accomplished a vast program of relief and technical assistance to needy areas of the world; and

WHEREAS, the basic charter of the United Nations opens memberships to all nations having a stable government and willing to accept the principles of the charter; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we reaffirm our belief in the United Nations and its specialized agencies responsible for preserving and extending human rights and fundamental freedoms; Furthermore be it

RESOLVED, that we urge the responsible officials of our government to work with and through the United Nations at every opportunity, avoiding unilateral and independent action, to the end that it may continue to grow in strength and service to humankind.

Adopted by the American Baptist Convention - 1951

Affirmed by the Executive Committee of the General Board - September 1984

(General Board Reference # - 8128:9/94)

POLICY BASE

American Baptist Policy Statement on Military and Foreign Policy

Christians are called to be peacemakers and this call includes the responsibility to work for peace among nations.

Powerful and wealthy nations must be held accountable to recognize that they have received their power from many sources and they have an obligation to use and restrain that power for the common good.

Nonmilitary means to resolve international conflict must be sought and practiced on an intentional and continual basis.

Global understanding and cooperation are essential to the pursuit of peace. Our welfare is fundamentally linked to that of all people. National actions and priorities continually need to be reassessed in light of this global interdependence. The needs and rights of all peoples must be respected if there is to be a solid foundation for peace.

Social and economic justice, as well as concern for human welfare and potential, are essential elements in national security. Social, economic and political structures that do not respond constructively to the needs of people contribute to the causes of war and global instability.

International economic systems must transcend narrow national self-interests and provide a framework for global justice and peace.

The United States should lend its efforts and influence to bringing about reforms in the United Nations that will strengthen it to meet present needs. Global enforcement systems such as police courts will be necessary to assure compliance with international agreements. Collective judgment and common action must be utilized to solve world problems.
