

8146:9/85

AMERICAN BAPTIST RESOLUTION ON WORLD ORDER

Recognizing that no society, domestic or international, can live in peace and order without those basic institutions through which justice and security are made possible, we urge our government to work for an international system of laws, courts and police power on which all nations can rely for protection. We recommend two immediate and practical steps to this end:

- a. Repeal by the United States Senate of the Self-judging Amendment which gives the United States the right to determine whether the International Court of Justice shall hear a case to which the United States is a party.
- b. Support of the United Nations and its agencies to the fullest possible extent, not as a substitute for national policy, but as an instrument for settlement of international differences.

Further, recognizing the value of inter-visitation and cooperation in lessening tensions, we urge our government to work for the increase of educational, scientific and cultural relations between nations.

Further, recognizing that the security of our nation requires military strength, but beyond this it requires spiritual and moral courage and leadership, we urge our government to renounce war as a means of settling disputes, urging all nations to adopt a similar course, emphasizing peaceful negotiations at all levels.

Adopted by the American Baptist Convention - 1960
Affirmed by the Executive Committee of the General Board - September 1985
Modified by the Executive Committee of the General Board - March 1998
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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 and courts will be necessary to assure compliance with international agreements.
