



CANADIAN
UNITARIAN
COUNCIL

CONSEIL
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DU CANADA

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

1. WHEREAS the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is a very significant neutral medium on which the Canadian people depend for information and for the expression of all views and opinions on important political, moral, religious, and cultural issues; and
2. WHEREAS the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is a significant force for national unity and understanding; and
3. WHEREAS the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has, on occasion been subjected to political pressure and interference:
4. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Unitarian Council 1965 Annual meeting encourages the Canadian Government to continue its efforts to protect the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation from political interference and to resist every attempt to prevent the free expression of opinion through the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

People's Republic of China

1. WHEREAS one of the most dangerous threats to peace in the world today is the lack of communication between many countries and the People's Republic of China, leading to misunderstandings and tensions on both sides, and this is especially true since China had developed atomic weapons; and
2. WHEREAS the present exclusion of the People's Republic of China from the United Nations isolates approximately one-quarter of the world's population; and
3. WHEREAS in 1955 Canada played a major role in breaking the deadlock on admitting emergent nations to membership in the United Nations, and Canada can be equally effective today in breaking the Chinese deadlock;
4. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Unitarian Council 1965 Annual Meeting urges the Government of Canada to:
 1. Establish regular diplomatic relations and an exchange of ambassadors with the People's Republic of China;
 2. Support, and urge other nations to support, the efforts of those countries working for the seating of the representatives of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations, to replace the present representatives from

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“China” in the U.N.

3. Recommend a U.N. sponsored examination of the issue of self-determination for Formosans; and
5. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Canadian Unitarian Council 1965 Annual Meeting urges the Canadian Government to increase trade and cultural exchanges between Canada and the People’s Republic of China.

Divorce Reform

1. WHEREAS the grounds for divorce in Canada, which reflect the social needs and mores of an earlier era and which differ from Province to Province, require that individuals fit their situation to the grounds (i.e. adultery), rather than the grounds being adaptable to the individual situation; and
2. WHEREAS marriage is the legal contract developed historically as a means of protection for woman and child; and
3. WHEREAS, in the context of modern Canadian society, the protection of woman and child no longer requires that a man and woman continue in a personal relationship they wish to end; and
4. WHEREAS the nurture of the child, while best accomplished under the conditions of wholesome family life, can seldom be well provided for under the circumstances of undue tension or hostility between the parents; and
5. WHEREAS society had no interest other than the well being of the persons involved in forcing two persons who no longer care to co-habitate as man and wife to continue legally in this relationship:
 - a. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Unitarian Council 1965 Annual Meeting requests the governments concerned to amend their divorce laws along the following lines:
 1. That in cases where both parties desire a divorce and there are no children, the divorce be granted upon the second application, after a six-months’ waiting period following an initial joint application, subject to the following provisions concerning support:
 - a. If the parties agree upon support for either spouse, or agree to dispense with support, the provisions of such agreement should become part of the



decree of divorce.

b. If the parties do not agree upon the question of support, this issue should be heard by and ruled upon by a domestic relations judge, such ruling to become part of the decree.

c. Such hearing should be in camera, unless an open hearing is requested by one of the parties.

d. During the six-months' waiting period counselling services should be made available to the parties but not be obligatory.

2. That in cases where one party only desires a divorce and there are no children, the divorce be granted upon the second application after a one-year waiting period following an initial application subject to the same provision that no penalty under item 1 above, and the further provision that no penalty or financial burden be placed upon the applying party because of the initiative taken by such party. Counselling services should be made obligatory during the one-year waiting period.

3. That, to protect the interest of the children, an Authority be established and competently staffed to confer with all parents applying for divorce concerning plans for custody and support of minor or dependent children.

4. That, in cases involving minor or dependent children, divorce be granted upon the second application of either or both parties after a one-year waiting period following an initial application subject to the following provisions concerning custody and support of children and support of spouse:

a. Where both parties and the Authority referred to under item 3 above agree upon proposals for the custody and support of children as serving the best interests of the children, these proposals should become part of the decree of divorce.

b. Where, in the view of either parent or the Authority, proposals for custody and/or support are not the best possible provision for the children, the issue of such provision should be heard by and ruled upon by a domestic relations judge, such ruling to become part of the decree of divorce.

i. In such hearing, the Authority and/or either parent may call upon any source of information – including social agency, welfare or other organization, or police report – which may aid in determining the best provision for the children; and

ii. Such hearing should be in camera, unless an open hearing is requested by



one of the parents and approved by the Authority; and
c. Provision for the support of either spouse, or for dispensing with such support, should be established as under item 1 above and become part of the decree of divorce.

The War in Vietnam

1. WHEREAS the United States Government has for ten years been increasingly involved in a military way in South Vietnam; and
2. WHEREAS there is increasing evidence that the United States Government has been escalating the war to the point where the peace of Southeast Asia and of all the world is endangered:
3. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Unitarian Council 1965 Annual Meeting supports the proposal of Prime Minister Pearson that a halt be called to the bombing of North Vietnam and urges that the Canadian Government use all of its influence in order that:
 1. An immediate ceasefire on both sides be achieved; and
 2. That the United States halt its military build-up in South Vietnam; and
 3. The negotiations be initiated between the Government of South Vietnam and the national Liberation Front, so that the People of South Vietnam can attain self-determination as soon as possible;
4. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Canadian Unitarian Council 1965 Annual Meeting earnestly petitions the Fourth General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association to consider and adopt a General Resolution consistent with the principles outline above.

Family Planning

1. WHEREAS the principle of family planning is increasingly recognized by leaders of the major religious faiths of Canada as an essential element of responsible parenthood; and
2. WHEREAS Section 150 of the Criminal Code of Canada makes it a criminal offence to advertise, sell, or have available for sale or disposal, any instructions or article intended to prevent contraception; and



3. WHEREAS contraception is approved and practiced by many informed Canadians with moral and religious approval;
4. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Unitarian Council 1965 Annual Meeting urges the Government of Canada to legalize the supplying of information about and articles of contraception.

**Passed by delegates at the Annual General Meeting, 1965
Canadian Unitarian Council**