



CANADIAN
UNITARIAN
COUNCIL

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Human Rights

1. WHEREAS it is now 25 years since the adoption by the United Nations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and
2. WHEREAS Canada has not yet ratified some of the Covenants of the Declaration;
3. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 13th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council urges the relevant Governments of Canada to take prompt action to bring about the ratification of these Covenants by Canada.

Penal Reform

1. WHEREAS Canadian penitentiaries, although supposedly correctional in nature, are in fact dehumanizing and a breeding ground for further crime;
2. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 13th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council makes the strongest representation to the Solicitor General and Federal Minister of Justice to provide with a vigorous programme of prison reform where the preservation of human dignity is a prerequisite.

James Bay Development

1. WHEREAS the James Bay Development will affect the geography of approximately one quarter of the area of Quebec province and the ecology of a much larger area; and
2. WHEREAS economic demand for the resources of the north has suddenly placed great pressure on the land and its people; and
3. WHEREAS the consequences of this pressure for the thousands of native people and creatures who live in this area have become a major ecological and ethical problem; and
4. WHEREAS the possible impact on the natural environment of this proposed development and its inhabitants has been either insufficiently researched or incalculable; and
5. WHEREAS many experts as well as ordinary citizens are not satisfied with the information provided by the Quebec Government to date, particularly with regard to the ecological consequences, the ultimate use of the power so generated, the cost both in human and economic terms to the citizens of Quebec, and the feasible alternatives to this development; and
6. WHEREAS the fundamental priority is to find a just solution in the confrontation between economic expansion and the rights of people and creatures likely to become the victims of such expansion; and



7. WHEREAS decisions regarding fundamental priorities are being made without sufficient consultation between the government and the governed:
8. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 13th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council urges the Quebec Government to cease further development until the native peoples' rights and wishes have been established, and until the positions of the recognized ecological experts have been clarified and evaluated, and until the citizens of Quebec and other provinces to be affected are in possession of all the facts and variables which the James Bay Development would entail.

Peace

1. WHEREAS the concept of Peace goes beyond the absence of war or the cessation of hostilities; and
2. WHEREAS Peace includes the broader concept of mental, physical and spiritual well being of people:
3. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 13th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council endorses the need to work for the absence of poverty and of economic insecurity; for a healthier environment, and for equal opportunity for the development of the human potential.

Political Prisoners South Vietnam

1. WHEREAS there are hundreds of thousands of political prisoners still being held under inhuman conditions by the Thieu regime of South Vietnam; and
2. WHEREAS there has been both international and national concern regarding these prisoners; and
3. WHEREAS the International Committee to Free South Vietnam Political Prisoners from Detention, Torture and Death has the support of Committees across Canada and among many of our Members of Parliament:
4. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 13th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council endorses, and urges Unitarians and Universalists to support both morally and financially, the work of the International Committee to Free South Vietnam Political Prisoners.

South Africa



1. WHEREAS apartheid is an official policy of the South African Government; and
2. WHEREAS there is international recognition of the inhuman conditions and maltreatment of black South Africans as a result of this policy; and
3. WHEREAS a boycott of South African goods has been recognized as an effective sanction against this white supremacist government;
4. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 13th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council urges Unitarians and Universalists to boycott all South African goods as our effort to aid the cause of black South Africans.

Abortion

BE IT RESOLVED that the 13th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council recommends that the members of our societies give moral and monetary support to Doctor Morgentaler of Montreal and others like him who are challenging our abortion laws.

Drugs

1. WHEREAS much of the increasing violence in our larger cities stems from the efforts of those addicted to drugs to obtain money for drug purchase; and
2. WHEREAS the high cost of addictive drugs is largely the result of their illegality and artificial scarcity; and
3. WHEREAS so long as addictive drugs are illegal and expensive it will be in the best interest of drug dealers to create new drug addicts; and
4. WHEREAS the British system of maintenance of addicts has succeeded in keeping drug related crime and violence at a very low level in British society;
5. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 13th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council urges Federal and Provincial Governments to consider such a program for Canada, with the level of violence in society considered an equally valid measure of success of a program as the rate of cure of addiction.

Canadian Citizens of U.S. Origin

1. WHEREAS increasing numbers of landed immigrants from the United States are becoming Canadian citizens; and
2. WHEREAS many of these are under indictment in the U.S. as a result of their



opposition to the war in Vietnam, and are still subject to arrest in the U.S. since no statute of limitations operates in these cases:

3. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 13th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council urges the Government of Canada to bring all possible influence to bear on the Government of the U.S. to withdraw indictments against individuals now Canadian citizens for offences related to their opposition to the war in Vietnam and their subsequent immigration to Canada.

Mental Illness

1. WHEREAS in many provinces care and treatment of the mentally ill has occurred in large centralized centres, treatment of which carries a social stigma; and
2. WHEREAS in many provinces transition from such centres to society at large has been a sudden one which may involve return to the very situation which contributed to the initial difficulty; and
3. WHEREAS there is often reluctance to employ those who have received treatment for mental illness;
4. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 13th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council encourages provincial governments in efforts to provide care and treatment of the mentally ill in as decentralized a manner as possible, and in establishing half-way houses providing supportive services and help in locating employment.

Refugees of Conscience

1. WHEREAS Canada offers refugee status and travel documents to refugees from totalitarian governments of the left; and
2. WHEREAS such status and travel documents are not available to other refugees of conscience subject to equally severe sanctions;
3. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 13th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council urges the Government of Canada to grant refugee status and travel documents, taking into account the sanctions to which the refugee of conscience is subject rather than the political system from which he is fleeing; and further that the absence of a valid passport not be used as grounds for deportation, as it has been used with South Vietnamese objecting to the war in Vietnam and seeking refuge in Canada.



Native People

1. WHEREAS increasing numbers of native people are migrating from rural to urban areas; and
2. WHEREAS they then encounter problems of housing, finances, education, skills and employment, in addition to confusions due to the fragmentations of social services; and
3. WHEREAS some measure of success in dealing with these problems has been attained by the establishment of migration centres (such as the one in Thompson, Manitoba):
4. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 13th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council urges the Federal Government and provincial governments to fund the establishment of migration centres for native people as speedily as possible to deal with problems that arise.

New Climate of Peace

1. WHEREAS International Peace is the most urgent need for the world in what is left of this century:
2. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Unitarian Council 1974 urges that the Government of Canada adopt a vigorous and unequivocal policy for peace, and refuse on principle to promote or engage in the sale of any and all war material to any other country, but instead trade only in the goods that promote human life and well being; and
3. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government of Canada be urges to provide truly impartial medical aid and relief, either bilaterally or through international channels, to the victims of war and other disasters, with need rather than political alignment as the criterion for help.

**Passed by delegates at the Annual General Meeting, 1974
Canadian Unitarian Council**