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Resolutions – 1968 – 1976 – Legal Control of Narcotics, A Summary

Between 1968 and 1976, the Canadian Unitarian Council adopted four resolutions on issues related to drug use.

Two of these related specifically to marijuana, which was determined not to be a narcotic in the accepted medical definition of the word. The resolutions expressed concern that enforcement of the Narcotics Control Act in relation to marijuana was “creating a new class of criminals among otherwise law-abiding people,” and suggested that the widespread disregard of an unreasonable law “can only induce a growing disrespect for law in general.” They recommended that the federal government:

1. remove marijuana from the provisions of the Narcotics Control Act and provide for its control under the Food and Drug Regulations;
2. encourage research into the question of marijuana with a view to establishing reasonable and just laws, and
3. build constructively on the findings of the Royal Commission on the Non-medical Use of Drugs.

The later resolutions deal specifically with issues of addictive drugs and their contribution to increased violence and crime. They recommend that the federal and provincial governments deal with addiction through the registration of addicts and the administration of controlled dosages, as is the case in Britain.

These resolutions could permit the CUC to lobby for more enlightened treatment of drug use and addicts than the current “war on drugs.” However, without any discussion of this issue since 1976, such a position might be somewhat weak.

This summary is based on resolutions adopted in 1968, 1970, 1974, 1976.