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WSCF

4 MAY 1977

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, ACTING ON  
BEHALF OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WORLD STUDENT CHRISTIAN  
FEDERATION

Colombo, Sri Lanka, February 12-15, 1977

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## I. On Christians in Latin America

WHEREAS in Latin America, there are increasing and persistent attacks against individuals and sectors of our churches and Christian communities launched by military regimes;

WHEREAS Christians of every denomination, laypersons, pastors and priests, are being threatened daily, arrested, kidnapped, tortured and assassinated--this being particularly critical in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay;

WHEREAS Churches and their leadership have also been subjected to harrassment and degradation in their efforts to practice the Word of the Gospel in the service of the oppressed;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee, acting on behalf of the General Assembly, of the World Student Christian Federation:

1. AFFIPMS its solidarity with every Christian community which strives to effectively practice the Word of the Gospel in the service of the oppressed;

2. STRONGLY CONDEMNS those who, disguised in an "occidental Christian world-outlook," carry out aggression against involved Christians in Latin America.

## II. On Chile

WHEREAS since the September 11, 1973 coup which overthrew the constitutional government of Salvador Allende, the Chilean people, particularly the workers, have been subjected to oppression and captivity;

WHEREAS the military dictatorship which was imposed on Chile is an instrument of the most reactionary sectors of the Chilean ruling class, allied with the interests of U.S. imperialism and transnational corporations;

WHEREAS this situation creates as its necessary consequence extreme hunger, repression and missery for the masses, and sometimes produces enormous profits for the monopolistic minorities and transnational capital;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee, acting on behalf of the General Assembly, of the World Student Christian Federation:

1. AFFIPMS its solidarity with and support to the resistance which workers and the Chilean people and developing;

2. DENOUNCES AND CONDEMNS the origin and increasing permanence of the Chilean dictatorship in its effort to consolidate its project and rule;



3. STRONGLY DENOUNCES AND ENERGETICALLY PROTESTS the total and systematic violation of every human and civil rights of the Chilean people being undertaken by the Chilean dictatorship;

4. REJECTS any proposed justification of such violations of human and civil rights in terms of the concept of national security;

5. SUPPORTS the Chilean resistance expressed in its various organizations, emphasizing the necessary unity that needs to be achieved in their struggle against the dictatorship.

6. CONDEMNS the increasing aggression which the dictatorship directs against Christian communities and sectors of the Chilean churches which are increasingly understanding our Lord's Gospel in solidarity with those who are oppressed;

7. DENOUNCES AND CONDEMNS the current national and international activities of DINA, National Bureau of Intelligence, proven to be US-CIA supported and trained, and expresses support to the Chilean Churches which have demanded its dissolution.

### III. On Reed Paper Company

WHEREAS a contract given to the Reed Paper Company from the Ontario Government will break Treaty No. 9 which gave that land to the Canadian Native People;

WHEREAS Grand Council Treaty No. 9 people have petitioned the government on numerous occasions opposing the expansion of Reed Paper Company in this area and are requesting support;

WHEREAS Peed owns Dryden Paper Mill which has poured mercury into the English-Wabagoon River System, causing an outbreak of mercury poisoning (Minimata disease);

WHEREAS, the area concerned is the last stretch of untouched Douglas Fir, and inadequate studies as to the effect on the ecology have been made, especially since the area is close to the tree line and rooted predominantly muskeg, making re-planting particularly difficult;

WHEREAS, the Native people are already logging in the area in ways that do not disturb the ecological balance, as opposed to Reed's plans to use "clear-cutting" methods, clearing 1,000 square yards at a time;

WHEREAS Peed's intrusion will destroy the Native people's economy, both by destroying their food resources (fishing, hunting, etc.) and possible benefit from the tourist industry;



BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee, acting on behalf of the General Assembly, of the World Student Christian Federation:

1. RESOLVES that a letter be sent on behalf of the General Assembly opposing the proposed contract with Reed Paper Company, and supporting the rights of the Native peoples and their treaty agreements, and in particular, supporting the claims of Grand Council No. 9, to the Ontario government;

2. RESOLVES further that Reed Limited of London, England receive a similar letter, and that copies of both letters be sent to Grand Council Treaty No. 9.

#### IV. On Puerto Rico

WHEREAS Puerto Rico is a Latin American nation which was invaded militarily by the United States in 1898;

WHEREAS the self-determination of the people of Puerto Rico, as laid down in United Nations Resolutions 1514, has been prevented by imperialist domination;

WHEREAS the United States government controls all important aspects of the life of Puerto Rico, e.g., trade, immigration, defense, currency, foreign policy, transport, communications, and industrial relations;

WHEREAS together with U.S. bases in the Panama Canal the numerous military bases equipped with nuclear devices which are found in Puerto Rico constitute a central focus of continual aggression and a threat to the peace and democratic development in the Caribbean and Latin America;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee, acting on behalf of the General Assembly, of the World Student Christian Federation:

1. CONDEMNS the unilateral and imperialist move to make Puerto Rico a state of the United States as expressed in a proposal submitted to the Congress of the United States by former President Gerald Ford in January, 1977:

2. DEMANDS a halt to the repression and isolation of the civil rights of Christians, who, like Nelson Colon, are involved in the struggle for independence;

3. DEMANDS an end to the mass sterilization of Puerto Rico women, affecting 35% of the female population of child-bearing age;



4. REQUESTS the Committee for Decolonization of the United Nations to implement Resolution 1514 without further delay, taking special measures to insure the removal of military forces from Puerto Rico, and to assist in the self-determination of the people concerning their political future;

5. URGES all Churches and ecumenical organizations (particularly the Churches and the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA) to show solidarity with the people of Puerto Rico, and to call for a change in the structures of colonial domination which prevail in this Latin American country;

6. ASKS President Jimmy Carter of the United States to immediately release the five nationalist patriots who have been imprisoned since 1951 (currently serving the longest sentences imposed on any Latin American political prisoners): Lolita Lebron, Oscar Lattazo, Irving Flores, Andres Figueron and Rafael Canicel;

7. INSTRUCTS the staff of the Federation to publish this resolution and disseminate it widely among Student Christian Movements, Churches and the various channels of communication of the Ecumenical Movement.

V. On South Africa and the African National Congress

AWARE of the strategic and economic role of South Africa;

CONSCIOUS of the historic struggles of the oppressed masses of South Africa;

RECOGNIZING the urgent need for the intensification of solidarity at all levels in support of these struggles;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee, acting on behalf of the General Assembly, of the World Student Christian Federation:

1. CONDEMNNS the increasing repression of the working people and students in South Africa by the racist, fascist regime;

2. CALLS on all WSCF member-movements and other ecumenical organizations to initiate the process of expressing concrete solidarity through material, financial and other forms of support to the people of South Africa under the leadership of the African National Congress.



VI. On Women in the WSCF

CONSIDERING that women constitute an important part of the oppressed;

CONSIDERING, further, that the Christian Churches have facilitated the oppression of which women are part of the victims;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee, acting on behalf of the General Assembly, of the World Student Christian Federation:

1. RECOGNIZES unequivocally that the struggle of women is an autonomous struggle which is part of the struggle for human liberation;

2. MANIFESTS its "critical solidarity" with the Churches in struggling against the sexism which the Churches show in their practice, theology and language, and adopts the same attitude in its political engagements and educational work;

3. RESOLVES to support fully the work being undertaken for women's liberation, at the regional and inter-regional levels, and to insure that women may be present in all levels of leadership in the WSCF.

VII. On Namibia and Southwest Africa Peoples' Organization (SWAPO)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee, acting on behalf of the General Assembly, of the World Student Christian Federation:

1. AFFIRMS its solidarity with the people of Namibia in their struggle for liberation under the vanguard leadership of SWAPO, the only authentic voice of the people of Namibia;

2. CONDEMNS the attempts of South Africa to direct attention from the real problem by its organization of the Turnhalle Conference, where only puppets of imperialism represent themselves;

3. CONDEMNS, further, United States attempts to legitimize the Turnhalle Conference.

VIII. On the "Wilmington 10"

WHEREAS evidence of prosecutorial misconduct in this case is widespread;

WHEREAS there exists a recantation statement by Alan Hall (the only prosecution witness at the trial of the Wilmington 10 to testify that any of the defendants were involved in illegal activities) that his perjured testimony at trial was coerced and orchestrated by the local prosecutor and agents of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division of the U.S. Treasury Department.



WHEREAS, there is evidence that the jury selection process was racially tainted and designed to prevent the Wilmington 10 from receiving a fair and impartial trial;

WHEREAS the Wilmington 10 were placed under excessive bails totalling \$750,000 while awaiting trial and \$400,000 following their convictions.

WHEREAS even though none of the defendants had prior criminal records they were sentenced to terms of 25 to 34 years for conspiracy to assault emergency personnel and burning with an incendiary device (in the past the average sentences meted out have been 5 to 10 years).

WHEREAS the kind of illegal and unconstitutional activities involved here has a "chilling effect" on the will of others to organize powerless people to achieve political and economic parity;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee, acting on behalf of the General Assembly, of the World Student Christian Federation instructs WSCF staff and its member movements:

1. TO WRITE letters of support to the members of the Wilmington 10;
2. TO SEND letters or telegrams of protest and concern to Governor James Holhauser and Attorney General Rufus Edmisten at the North Carolina State Capital, Raleigh, N.C. 27602;
3. TO WRITE directly to Judges Howell and Dupree, the Federal Magistrates who are now considering petitions for habeas corpus submitted by attorneys in this case: The Federal District Court Building, Raleigh, N.C. 27602;
4. TO ENCOURAGE its movements to hold workshops, seminars or other educational forums in their communities to discuss the implications of this case;

IX. On Lebanese Christians for an Arab Lebanon

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee, acting on behalf of the General Assembly, of the World Student Christian Federation:

1. IDENTIFIES with the struggle of progressive Lebanese Christians for an Arab Lebanon, secular and democratic;



2. SUPPORTS the patriotic and progressive Lebanese forces against the fascists, the isolationists, and the Arab reaction;

3. EXPRESSES its solidarity with the Palestinian Revolution while plots multiply for its liquidation and domestication;

4. REAFFIRMS that no just solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict is possible unless rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination are fulfilled.

X. On Zimbabwe

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee, acting on behalf of the General Assembly, of the World Student Christian Federation:

1. CONDEMNS the intransigence of the white minority racist regime in Zimbabwe towards majority rule;

2. NOTES the failure of the Kissinger peace policy;

3. CONDEMNS the collusion between the illegal regime and Western imperialist forces in the perpetuation of the status quo in Zimbabwe;

4. CONDEMNS the attempts by these forces to divide progressive forces in Zimbabwe in their effort to neutralize the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe;

5. AFFIRMS its solidarity with the people's struggle in Zimbabwe;

6. INSTRUCTS the General Secretariat of the Federation to communicate with all the constituency of the Federation, Churches and other ecumenical organizations asking that they identify in concrete terms with the people's struggle for liberation and self-determination.