A.F.A. BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

SUNDAY, MARCH 18 **2:00 P.M.**

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. David Judson
McClure Circle, Charlotte, N. C.

NINTH ANNUAL SOUTHEASTERN WORLD AFFAIRS INSTITUTE

JULY 27, 28, 29 **Blue Ridge Assembly**

BLACK MOUNTAIN, N. C.

(Please reserve these dates on your calendar, NOW!)

H. S. World Peace Study and Speaking Program

Annual Chartered Bus Trip to N.Y.C., the United Nations, Washington, D. C.

APRIL 29 THROUGH MAY 2
Depart 9:00 A.M., Carolina Trailways Bus Station
Greensboro, N. C.

(Make your reservations immediately—only a few seats left)

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For Education on the Relation of World Law to Religion, Peace and Freedom

141 East Corriher Avenue
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North Carolina Council Of Churches

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL AND WORLD AFFAIRS

The Threat of War

The Committee on National and World Affairs is deeply concerned over the threat to our people, our nation, and the people of the world as posed by the continued armament buildup among the major powers. This threat of world disaster is of greater magnitude than the threat posed by the existence of divergent economic and political philosophies among nations. There is inherent in the current struggle for armament supremacy the delusion that armaments are a substitute for the orderly processes of law and government. Further, there is a conspicious lack of emphasis on the need for the development of a program for peace—open to all nations—a program to rest on a foundation of law and justice rather than a balance of terror. It is the proper province and duty of Christian men and women to seek the interposition of law and order to supplant armaments as the ultimate arbiter in international conflicts. To place our reliance for peace in stockpiles of weapons offers no final solution to the problem of survival but rather sows the seed of man's annihilation.

We are witnessing a bomb shelter hysteria spreading throughout our nation. The Committee is concerned with the hundreds of millions of the world's people who are unsheltered and is disturbed about the false feeling of security generated in those who have shelters. Christians should concentrate on providing the only practical shelter for all men, i.e. democratic institutions of government at the world level. The fallacy of relying on armaments for security and freedom should be made clear to our citizens. In addition to the continuing loss of national security in the face of tremendous armament expenditures, we stand to lose our moral differentiation from those we oppose as we make our principal concern the construction of devices for human destruction.

World Law

We recognize the distinct possibility that nuclear war might occur through inadvertence or mistake. Because of this, the urgency of Christian dedication to practical and peaceful methods of combating the arms race is apparent. There must be immediate beginnings toward the creation of an international entity to adjudicate and legislate for all men. If the "parliament of man" envisioned by Tennyson cannot be realized, the alternative is catastrophe for all. As Christians we must exert our influence toward the construction of an international framework of law within which spiritual values can flourish in a context of human liberty. This effort is imperative.

The virtual obliteration of mankind is now within the capacity of the major powers. Thus, the refusal by an individual to participate directly in the present dash to disaster may be erroneously labelled as pacifism. There is now a moral alternative: an individual may believe in the use of force to promote world law and order while not consenting to engage in unbridled military conflict between competing national entities.

We take note of the role of the United States in the Cuban invasion. This military action is rightly condemned not because it failed but because it was morally wrong and in violation of international law. The loss of moral statue for the United States which resulted from this military action illustrates the folly of seeking political change by military might instead of through institutions capable of administering law and justice.

In this regard, it is hoped that the Connerly Reservation to our nation's participation in the International Court of Justice will be repealed by the Congress during the coming year. The continuing need for support of the efforts to realize a world rule of law is manifest in the numerous violations of national independence which have occurred during the past few years.

The United Nations

We believe in the United Nations. The diversified ministry of this organization is sometimes forgotten in times of political reversal, but its preponderant work continues through multiple agencies to be the assistance of man in his quest for freedom and dignity. The need for strengthening the U.N. so that it may, more effectively, administer these services to humanity constitutes one of the great challenges of our time. Moral support and structural improvement—not abandonment—is in the best interest of us all.

At a time when the major powers are preoccupied with the manufacture of armaments, the majority of the earth's people are preoccupied with finding enough food to eat. It is tragic, then, in the face of this human suffering, that we must encourage our farmers not to produce food. A method of sharing our surplus foods must be devised. Our nation could initiate through the U.N., the establishment of a world food bank for this disbursement. We are appalled by the plight of millions of Chinese and nationals of other lands who are in various stages of starvation. Food should be made available to these hungry people regardless of their location or political philosophy.

We greet the independence of the new nations that have emerged into the family of nations during the past year. The present chaos in the Congo in no way typifies this emergence. Forty-three nations have gained their independence since the birth of the United Nations. The role of the U.N. in the attainment of national independence for people over the earth marks it as the principal political institution for human liberty in the world today.

Other Concerns

We are deeply concerned over the fact that sixteen million elder citizens of this country lack proper medical care. We trust that the 87th Congress will meet this problem with careful consideration and effective legislation.

Higher education continues to be denied to many able young people because of the overcrowded facilities and inadequate financial resources of a large number of our educational institutions. Education should be available to those who desire it and who are able to learn. We are heartened by the appeal for quality education within our state and by the attempt of many denominations to widen the base of educational opportunity.

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