WHEREAS, the "Cold War" is largely concluded between the United States and its allies and the former Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, a peace process is underway in El Salvador, Angola, Korea and the Philippines itself; and

WHEREAS, the armed conflict continues in the Philippines at a great cost in human life and suffering; and

WHEREAS, the conflict has its roots in the issues of land reform, including the rights of tribal people to traditional lands; and

WHEREAS, the United States has provided much of the funding for the Philippine armed forces and its militia arms in this conflict, and continues that support now; and
THerefore, Be IT Resolved, that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, July 15-20, 1993;

1. Strongly affirms the peace negotiations between the Philippine government and the National Democratic Front and the other armed opposition groups towards a comprehensive settlement of the conflict; and

2. Affirms our continuing commitment to educate our church members about the peace process in the Philippines; and to campaign for an end to human rights violations in the Philippines and to the government's "total war" policy; and

3. Pledges continuing solidarity and collaboration to partner churches in the Philippines, as they assume a pivotal, but delicate role in the peace process; and

Be IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) respectfully requests that the governments of the United States and Canada:

1. Encourage the Philippine government to commit themselves fully to a peaceful resolution to the Philippine armed conflict; and

2. Use as criteria for United States and Canadian bilateral aid the government's implementation of genuine land reform and institutionalization of tribal people's rights to their traditional lands, thereby redirecting assistance to the Philippines from military to humanitarian and development aid; and

3. Strongly call for agreements on political, social and economic reforms which address the root causes of the war; and

4. Urge the Philippine government and the NDF to negotiate the issue of "venue of talks" and not make it a stumbling block to negotiations; and

5. Request the Secretary General of the United Nations to offer the service of his office for the mediation or facilitation in the peace negotiations between the Philippine government, the NDF and other parties in the dispute; and

6. Use all channels at the United Nations and in their bilateral relations with the Philippine government to persuade and urge it to respect the human rights of its citizens; and

7. Call on the Philippine government to halt the use of "disproportionate force" in the conduct of its war against the insurgency; specifically to stop all bombing and strafing operations and the forced evacuation and hamletting of civilian communities; and

8. Call on the Philippine government to desist from escalating the counter-insurgency activities of its military and paramilitary forces, as a sign of its serious intention to enter into peace negotiations with the armed opposition; and

9. Urge the Philippine government to repeal repressive laws, executive and administrative orders and Supreme Court rulings violative of human rights standards (e.g., presidential decrees 1866 on illegal possession of firearms in furtherance of rebellion, under which numerous political prisoners are detained); and

10. Urge the Philippine government to grant a general amnesty to all political prisoners and urge it to apply a consistent standard in determining and effecting the release of military and leftist political prisoners.