

Reformed Church in America Resolution

(June 21, 2002)

The Reformed Church in America passed the following two resolutions about U.S. policy toward Israel-Arab peacemaking and U.S. policy toward Iraq at their recent General Synod meeting held in Orange City, Iowa, from June 7-12, 2002. Rev. Dr. Riad Jarjour of the Middle East Council of Churches addressed the General Synod.

R-97a (amendment)

To instruct the general secretary, on behalf of the Reformed Church in America, to petition the pertinent governing authorities of the United States of America and Canada to exercise their political influence with the governments of Arab nations to bring pressure on Palestinians to cease hostile actions toward Israel, especially terrorist activities and suicide bombings; and further, to exercise their political influence with the government of Israel:

- To withdraw its military forces from all territories occupied during the war of 1967 in accordance with repeated United Nations resolutions.
- To take immediate steps to dismantle the network of settlements Israel has created, maintained, and expanded in Palestinian territories since 1967.
- To facilitate all responsible international inquiries into the impact of the recent Israeli incursion into the West Bank upon civilian populations, into the present status of the conflict, and into required humanitarian relief measures.
- To accept the presence in both Israel and Palestine of an effectively mandated international peace-keeping force (including a substantial American component) that will separate combatants, facilitate rebuilding destroyed infrastructures, and ensure an environment for peaceful dialogue and negotiation.
- To establish the conditions for founding of a sovereign and self-sufficient Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza that also recognizes Israel with safe borders.
- To take all necessary steps, in the context of the overture addressed to Israel by the Beirut summit of Arab states on March 28, 2002, to normalize its relationships both with the new Palestinian state and with all states in the region.

R-97b

To instruct the general secretary on behalf of the Reformed Church in America to petition the pertinent governing authorities in the United States of America to take action to bring an end to the devastating embargo against Iraq; recognizing that the embargo has not achieved its stated purpose but has instead led to the unnecessary and enormous suffering of ordinary people, and to use all possible political and diplomatic means to achieve U.S. policy goals rather than using violence, which will only lead to further destruction and death of innocents and foment ill will throughout the region.