

No. 9712

(Sense-of-the-Assembly)

HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR THE PEOPLE OF CUBA

ADOPTED by the General Assembly

WHEREAS, we remember Jesus' teachings to "love God with all your heart...and your neighbor as yourselves." (Mark 12:29-31);

WHEREAS, the government of the United States steadfastly maintains the thirty-seven year old economic embargo against Cuba, thereby denying opportunity for both normal diplomatic and commercial relations to effect peaceful change, democratic reform, and economic development;

WHEREAS, the Helms-Burton law signed by President Clinton on March 13, 1996, further tightens the economic embargo, seeking to deny the rights of commercial companies and investors of foreign nations access to Cuban markets, thus increasing the shortages of food and products used in food processing, fuel, and especially medicines, medical supplies and equipment;

WHEREAS, the economic embargo now violates, not only the humanitarian and democratic traditions of the United States, but the legal principles of the United Nations, the Organization of American States, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, and other international laws to which the U.S. government is a signature; and

WHEREAS, two previous General Assembly resolutions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada (Resolutions 7355 and 9333) call for the ending of the U.S. embargo against Cuba; and similar statements have been approved by the World Council of Churches, the Cuban Council of Churches, the Caribbean Conference of Churches, the Latin American Council of Churches, the Canadian Council of Churches, and the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, meeting in Denver, Colorado, July 25-29, 1997, encourages its voting representatives to communicate to their congregations and regions the urgent need of the Cuban people for food, medicines and other life-sustaining supplies, and to educate using information and action suggestions from the Division of Overseas Ministries and other coalitions of people of faith;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly reaffirms its previous calls to the U.S. government for the ending of the embargo against Cuba and the reestablishment of U.S.-Cuban diplomatic relations, this time expressing deep concern for the Helms-Burton law's attempt to

further isolate the people of Cuba and increase the economic crisis in that country;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly encourages congregations, regions, and institutions of higher education to participate in projects and programs to help strengthen the solidarity links with Disciples' partner churches and ecumenical institutions in Cuba, in consultation with the Division of Overseas Ministries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the General Minister and President, the Division of Homeland Ministries, and the Division of Overseas Ministries be requested to communicate with all members of the U.S. Congress, President Clinton, the Canadian government, and the General Secretary of the United Nations support for legislation making provision for monitoring: (1) the humanitarian needs of the people of Cuba, (2) the violations of human rights of Cuban citizens resulting from the U.S. embargo and other reasons, and (3) future prosecutions of those violations under international law.