

Special Alert for
PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA, GEORGIA,
FLORIDA, MINNESOTA, IOWA, KANSAS

July 19, 1989

IMMEDIATE CONTACT WITH SENATORS NEEDED FOR CRUCIAL VOTE ON SDI

Next Wednesday or Thursday, July 26 or 27, the U.S. Senate will vote on an amendment offered by Senator J. Bennett Johnston of Louisiana to lower funding to the Department of Defense for the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). This amendment offers the best opportunity in this session to curtail SDI in the Senate. It has a good chance of passage. Contact is needed immediately with the following senators, who are considered swing votes:

<u>Senator</u> <u>(202)</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Suite (zip:20510)</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
John Heinz	Pennsylvania	Russell Bldg. 277	224-6324
Arlen Specter	Pennsylvania	Hart Bldg. 303	224-4254
Charles Robb	Virginia	Hart Bldg. 517	224-4024
Wyche Fowler, Jr.	Georgia	Russell Bldg. 204	224-3643
Bob Graham	Florida	Dirksen Bldg.241	224-3041
Dave Durenberger	Minnesota	Russell Bldg. 154	224-3244
Charles E. Grassley	Iowa	Hart Bldg. 135	224-3744
Nancy Kassebaum	Kansas	Russell Bldg. 302	224-4774

ACTION: Get off a quick letter. Better yet, call the senator's office in Washington, ask to speak to the "defense aide", and state your views. Or call the senator's office in your state. Ask the aide to give you feedback on how the senator intends to vote (that person may have to call Washington to find out).

Get others to write and make calls. Time is short, so please act immediately.

Background

This year we have an excellent chance to cut back on SDI, a program questioned by the United Methodist bishops in *In Defense of Creation*. Current funding is \$4.0 billion. The Bush Administration asked for \$4.9 billion. The House Armed Service Committee is recommending \$3.8 billion, but an amendment initiated by Congressmen Bennett and Ridge to lower that amount to \$3.1 billion has an excellent chance of passage on the House floor.

The Senate Armed Services Committee is recommending \$4.4 billion, including \$4.2 billion for

the Department of Defense and \$200 million for the Department of Energy. Senator Johnston's amendment would lower Department of Defense SDI funding to \$3.6 billion. If that amendment carries, the House-Senate conference committee will yield a figure that will be the first reduction of SDI funding since President Reagan announced the Strategic Defense Initiative in 1983.

This is a result advocated by Methodists United for Peace with Justice. Therefore, we ask you to contact your senator(s) now. Thanks for your effort.

CONGRESS WILL VOTE SOON ON DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Congress will soon be voting on the Defense Authorization Bill for the 1990 Fiscal Year. The bill authorizes specific weapon systems and other military programs and sets the maximum funding level. A number of amendments are expected to the versions of the bill reported from the House and Senate Armed Services Committees.

ACTION TO TAKE: *Write or call members of Congress in Washington or at their district or state office to express your views. (U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515; U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510.)*

House of Representatives

Floor debate and votes are scheduled in the House of Representatives for the week of July 24. Methodists United for Peace with Justice offers the following views on some key amendments which are likely come up for vote.

Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). *The House Armed Services Committee has set SDI funding at \$3.8 billion, a reduction from the \$4.9 billion requested by the Bush Administration. We believe that it should be much lower because SDI is a wasteful program which cannot protect the country and which makes arms reduction negotiations more difficult. We favor an amendment to be offered by Representatives Ronald Dellums (D-CA) and Barbara Boxer ((D-CA) to reduce SDI funding to \$1.3 billion, enough only for basic research with no engineering development. If that fails to pass, we support an amendment proposed by Representatives Charles Bennett (D-FL) and Thomas Ridge (R-PA) to set SDI funding at \$3.1 billion.*

MX and Midgetman missiles. *The House Armed Services committee approved the Administration's request for funds to place 50 MX missiles on railways, to buy 12 more of the 10-warhead MX for spares, and to start development of the single-warhead Midgetman, which would be placed on trucks. We believe that the United States does not need any more ICBMs, especially with favorable prospects for a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) with the Soviet Union. We favor an amendment to be offered by Representatives Barney Frank (D-MA) and Roy Rowland (D-GA) to delete funds for the Midgetman missile. We support an amendment which Representative Dennis Hertel (D-MI) may offer to delete or scale back funds for the MX missile rail garrison program.*

B-2 Stealth bomber. *Even though \$22.4 billion has already been obligated for this new bomber*

whose mission is to penetrate deep into the Soviet Union, the plane has never been flown. Ultimate cost could be as high as \$750 million or more for each of the 132 planned bombers. Many military experts doubt that it is worth the cost. The House Armed Services Committee reduced research and development funding by \$300 million but kept the program alive. We believe that the Stealth bomber should be terminated. Therefore, we support an amendment which Representatives Dellums, John Kasich (R-OH) and Rowland may offer to strike some or all Stealth procurement funds.

Anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons. The Pentagon is pushing the development of anti-satellite weapons. The House Armed Services Committee approved funds to upgrade the MIRACL laser to perform as an ASAT weapon but included language to bar any tests against objects in space without prior approval from Congress. This language should be retained. Any other amendments restricting ASAT testing deserve support. We also favor a sense-of-Congress resolution which Representative George Brown (D-CA) may offer, calling upon the president to begin ASAT arms control negotiations with the Soviet Union. Because the United States is dependent on satellites for civilian and military communications and for arms control treaty verification, bilateral restrictions on ASATs is within U.S. national interest.

Senate

The Senate Armed Services Committee is still working on the Defense Authorization bill at this writing. The bill will reach the Senate floor the week of July 24 or July 31. At this stage possible floor amendments are not as well defined as in the House.

SDI. It is thought that the Senate Armed Services Committee will cut some funds from the Administration's SDI request. Senators Bennett Johnston (D-LA), Dale Bumpers (D-AR), and Tom Harkin (D-IA) may offer a floor amendment to hold SDI authorization to last year's level with an inflation adjustment, or \$4.1 billion. Possibly they will go somewhat lower. Senator Johnston may also offer an amendment to bar full scale engineering development of any SDI component without prior Congressional approval. We favor such an amendment and the lowest possible funding level.

MX, Midgetman. Senator Carl Levin (D-MI) may offer one or more amendments to reduce or restrict the MX rail garrison system. Senator Pete Wilson (R-CA) may offer an amendment to eliminate funding for the Midgetman missile. We support both efforts.

B-2 Stealth bomber. Senator John Glenn (D-OH) may offer an amendment to slow the B-2 program until the flight testing program is completed. Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA) may offer an amendment to reduce the total number of authorized B-2 bombers. We favor all measures that scale back this program.

ASATs. Senator Kerry (D-MA) is expected to offer as an amendment his Satellite Survivability Act, which we support. This bill would bar funding for testing ASAT systems against objects in space unless (1) the Soviet Union conducts its own tests, (2) the Soviet Union refuses to establish cooperative monitoring arrangements at any suspect laser sites, and (3) the Soviets refuse to negotiate in good faith.

METHODISTS UNITED
for Peace with Justice
421 Seward Square, SE
Washington, DC 20003

PEACE/JUSTICE ALERT
No. 5, July 1989

INFLUENCE FY 1991 FEDERAL BUDGET PRIORITIES

Even as Congress is struggling to complete its work on the federal budget for the 1990 Fiscal Year (which began on October 1), attention should be given to the FY 1991 budget. This is being done by the Citizens' Budget Campaign, a new coalition. Methodists United for Peace with Justice is a founding member.

ACTION TO TAKE NOW. Sign the enclosed postcard entitled "The Buck Starts Here..." Put a 25 cent stamp on it and mail it to Budget Negotiators (as indicated) prior to November 7, 1989.

Later Actions Will Follow

This postcard campaign is the first initiative of the Citizens' Budget Campaign. It is done in anticipation that Congressional leaders and representatives of the Bush Administration will soon be beginning negotiations on the level and priorities of the FY 1991 federal budget. This will occur before President Bush offers his budget proposal in late January. Therefore, we want the voices of citizens heard during this early stage of negotiations.

At the same time the Citizens' Budget Campaign is targeting grassroots organizing in districts and states of the Congressional leaders who may be involved in these negotiations. This will be followed by organizing grassroots activities in districts and states of members of the House and Senate Budget Committees. If you live in such a district or state, we will be getting in touch with you. We will offer suggestions for direct contact with representatives and senators and will also provide sample "op ed" pieces and letters to the editor.

By the time the 1991 budget is ready for the whole Congress to consider in March and April, we will be in touch with grassroots activists throughout the United States.

Recommended Budget Priorities

As the postcard indicates, the Citizens' Budget Campaign is seeking four major goals in the federal budget:

- o Increase spending on housing, health care, and nutrition; child care, education and job training; drug abuse programs; the environment; and other community needs.
- o Cut military spending significantly and support the transition from military to civilian production.
- o Reduce the federal deficit.

- o Generate additional revenues fairly by increasing corporate and upper income taxes.*

IT'S BUDGET TIME AGAIN

On January 29, 1990 President George Bush submitted his proposed federal budget for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1991 (known as FY 1991). Immediately thereafter a debate started about budget priorities. It is an important debate because the outcome will determine how the United States will be headed in the 1990s.

You can enter this debate by sharing your views with your U.S. senators and representatives. We urge you to contact them during the first half of February. Congress will be in recess from February 9 to 20, and many members will be in their home districts. Go to meetings where they are speaking. Organize delegations to meet with them. Or write to them: U.S. Senate, Washington D.C 20100; U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20150

Three Propositions

Our own perspective in this debate is based upon "A Call for Shift in Budget Priorities from Military to Human Needs", which we issued last April. This Call was signed by 32 of the 49 United Methodist resident bishops and by peace and justice leaders in 60 out of the 72 United Methodist conferences. The three main points of the Call offer an excellent framework for judging President Bush's FY '91 budget.

(1) **Cut excessive military spending.** For many years half the military budget (\$150 billion a year) has been directed toward the defense of Western Europe, perceived as threatened by the Warsaw Pact. But now all six East

European nations allied with the Soviet Union in the Warsaw Pact are changing to multi-party configurations rather than being communist-dominated. The Soviet Union itself is undergoing rapid and tumultuous social and economic change. In this situation there is no possibility that the Warsaw Pact would invade Western Europe. Nevertheless, President Bush wants a \$7 billion more in the overall military budget.

As United Methodists, whose bishops said "No" to nuclear deterrence in their pastoral letter, *In Defense of Creation*, we are astounded that President Bush wants to spend \$18 billion for more nuclear weapons directed at the Soviet Union and for strategic defense (sometimes called Star Wars). Thus, the president's FY91 budget has \$4.7 billion for the Star Wars program and \$280 million for anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons; \$5.5 billion for the B-2 bomber; \$2.8 billion to buy more MX missiles and to put them on trains to ride around the country; \$202 to develop a new Midgetman missile; \$1.5 billion for another Trident submarine; and \$1.7 billion for more Trident II missiles; and \$1.6 billion for other new nuclear missiles. All of this at a time when the Soviet Union is ready to negotiate arms reduction treaties eliminating a large portion of the nuclear arsenal.

We believe that the military budget should be cut by at least 10 percent (\$30 billion) by halting the production of all new nuclear weapons and their delivery systems; cutting back on new conventional weapons; achieving troop reductions, particularly bringing forces back from Europe; and carrying out procurement reforms.

(over)

(2) Savings from reductions in military spending should be reassigned to programs meeting urgent human needs. President Bush's budget calls for an expansion of Head Start and for increased spending for a few education programs, environmental protection, fighting drugs, transportation, space programs, and veterans assistance. This is a positive development, but many of the discretionary programs serving low-income people are kept at the low level established by the Reagan administration.

As we stated in the Call, the U.S. government should be more responsive to those in greatest need. They include the hungry, the homeless, families struggling to find affordable housing, the unemployed, persons whose jobs are threatened by industrial and agricultural change, children in poor families and their parents, school dropouts, unemployed youth, persons lacking financial means for adequate health care, victims of AIDS, individuals addicted to drugs, whole neighborhoods ravaged by drugs and other destructive forces. **The Bush budget does not respond sufficiently to those needs.**

(3) Achieve meaningful deficit reduction, even if this means raising taxes. President Bush's budget claims to reduce the federal deficit by \$36 billion to meet the Gramm-Rudman deficit reduction target for FY 1991. However, several nonpartisan analysts indicate that the president projects a higher rate of national economic growth and a lower interest rate than the majority of leading, "blue chip" economists. If the latter are correct, there will be less revenue and higher federal expenditures than President Bush projects. This will make the deficit larger. Moreover, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan has recently driven home the point that the social security trust fund, which was supposed to be putting aside a nest egg for the future retirement needs of the baby boom generation, has been used to help finance the huge federal debt accumulated during the Reagan era.

Although none of us likes to pay taxes, we taxpayers of the present generation need to act more responsibly so that we will not mortgage the future

of our children and our grandchildren. The fairest way to do this is (1) to raise the tax rate of the progressive income tax for upper-income persons and corporations who have the greatest ability to pay and (2) to close tax loopholes that give preferences to a few.

What You Can Do

These are our views on the budget. As you formulate your own views and offer them to members of Congress, we suggest that you might want make these points:

- o First, emphasize some particular domestic issue that concerns you most, such as homelessness, child care, drugs, education, environment, and others. Explain why you have this concern. Ask that the budget give greater priority to dealing with this problem.
- o Then indicate that as the Cold War draws to an end, significant cutbacks can take place in the military budget. For instance, stop building any more nuclear missiles, bombers, and submarines; cancel questionable weapons systems; achieve troop reduction. The savings can be used to finance the programs of your concern.
- o Third, you might also want to offer your views on how best to reduce the federal deficit: through spending cuts (state where), through tax increases (indicate what kind), or a combination.

It is important that members of Congress hear from you during February while they are still making up their minds on budget issues.

Number 8 March 1990

CONGRESS WILL DECIDE BUDGET PRIORITIES IN APRIL

Congress will make crucial decisions on the federal budget in the second half of April. This will occur through votes on the Budget Resolution offered by the House and Senate Budget Committees. Just before that happens Congress will take a ten day spring recess -- between April 6 and 17. We suggest two activities for you to undertake.

(1) Make personal contact when members of Congress come back home.

Many representatives will be in their home districts during the spring recess, and many senators will be in their home states. That is a good time to contact them personally to talk about budget priorities.

As soon as you receive this Alert, you may want to contact the district office of your representative and find out his/her schedule for the recess. You might want to assemble a small delegation and call on the representative. Or, invite your representative to a special meeting, such as after church. Or, if the representative has scheduled a series of "town meetings" around the district, find out the time and place, then go, raise your questions, offer your viewpoint.

You can do the same with your two senators. But because they cover the entire state, they will likely be in your area less than your representative. Find out where they will be. You may want to set up an appointment with a statewide delegation.

(2) Get many people to participate in National Call-in Day on April 16.

April 16 is tax day -- the date federal income tax returns are due. The Citizens' Budget Campaign, to which Methodists United belongs, and other national coalitions are sponsoring a National Call-in Day on April 16. Therefore, we ask you to get people to call the U.S. representative's district office and the two U.S. senators' office's within your state to register views on budget priorities. On the reverse is a flyer you can use for this purpose. You can cut and paste to reformat by eliminating the mailing address section and adding the name of local contacts and local sponsors of the Call-in.

The Message

We suggest a threefold message:

- (1) Cut excessive military spending.** *We believe that at least 10 percent could be cut from the military budget because of the significantly lessened threat from the Soviet Union.*

- (2) *Increase spending on programs meeting urgent human and community needs. You can offer examples from your own community.*
- (3) *Achieve meaningful deficit reduction, even it means raising taxes. Any increase should be progressive, that is, based upon ability to pay. Tax loopholes, which benefit mainly wealth individuals and corporations, should be closed.*

METHODISTS UNITED
for Peace with Justice
421 Seward Square, SE
Washington, D.C. 20003

Peace/Justice Alert
No. 8 March 1990

BUDGET SUMMIT TO DETERMINE FEDERAL BUDGET PRIORITIES

Crucial decisions on federal budget priorities are now being made by participants in a **Budget Summit**. This is a group composed of President Bush and three of his chief aides and 21 top Democratic and Republican leaders in Congress. They have been meeting together since early May to work out an agreement on spending, revenue, and deficit reduction. They have now reached the decision-making stage. Their decisions will strongly affect national priorities on spending and revenue and the health of the economy for the next several years.

Issues of both peace and justice come to focus in decisions being made by the **Budget Summit**. Therefore, we urge you to express your views on military spending, domestic priorities, and revenue measures to the **Budget Summit** participants.

Suggested Message

We suggest the same message that we laid out in *Peace/Justice Alert* No. 8:

- (1) **Cut excessive military spending.** Especially in light of the greatly reduced Soviet threat.
- (2) **Increase spending on programs meeting urgent human and community needs.** Offer examples from your own community.
- (3) **Because more revenue is needed to deal with the enormous federal deficit, focus on rate increases in the upper brackets of the progressive income tax.** The progressive income tax has these merits: (a) is fair (based upon the ability to pay); (b) takes into account family size; and (c) is levied on income from all sources, including employment, investment, and gifts. It is already in place so that rate changes fit into the existing system.

If your representative or senator is part of the **Budget Summit** (see below), write to him. If not and you have time to write only one letter, send it to Representative Richard A. Gephardt, House Majority Leader, who is presiding over **Budget Summit** working sessions. If you want to write two additional letters, send them to Senator George J. Mitchell, Senate Majority Leader, and Richard Darman, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

Budget Summit Participants (and their zip code in Washington, D.C.).

Representing the Administration are President George W. Bush (The White House, 20500);

Richard Darman, Director, Office of Management and Budget (20503); John Sununu, White House Chief of Staff (20500); and Nicholas F. Brady, Secretary of the Treasury (20220)....Representing the House of Representatives (20515) are Democrats Thomas S. Foley (WA), Richard A. Gephardt (MO), William H. Gray III (PA), Jamie L. Whitten (MS), Dan Rostenkowski (IL), and Leon E. Panetta (CA) and Republicans Robert H. Michel (IL), Newt Gingrich (GA), Silvio Conte (MA), Bill Archer (TX), and Bill Frenzel (MN)....Representing the Senate (20510) are Democrats George J. Mitchell (ME), Wyche Fowler, Jr. (GA), Robert C. Byrd (WV), Lloyd M. Bentsen (TX), and Jim Sasser (TN), and Republicans Robert Dole (KS), Phil Gramm (TX), Mark O. Hatfield (OR), Bob Packwood (OR), and Pete V. Domenici (NM).

Make and Hand Out a Flyer

See reverse for two make-your-own flyers to hand out. One is for locales represented in the Budget Summit. You fill in the blank. The second is for other locales. You can paste two photocopies of your choice side-by-side for a master copy. Then photocopy more and cut in half to make 5 1/2" x 8 1/2" flyers.

SEND A MESSAGE ON FEDERAL BUDGET PRIORITIES

In Washington these days 25 top public officials are engaged in a **Budget Summit**. This is a series of meetings between leaders of the Bush Administration and Congress to work out an agreement on federal budget priorities. Their decisions will strongly affect spending and taxation patterns and the health of the economy for the next several years. The priorities they select represent choices on important peace and justice issues.

Among the participants in the Budget Summit is

[Insert name of your senator or representative]

[U.S. Senate/House of Representatives]

[Washington, D.C. 20510/20515]

We urge you to contact him and offer your views on budget priorities. Among the points you might make are the following:

- (1) **Cut excessive military spending.** Especially in the light of greatly reduce Soviet threat.
- (2) **Allocate sufficient funds to meet urgent human and community needs.** Offer examples of significant unmet needs from our own community.
- (3) **If more revenue is required to cut the enormous deficit, emphasis should be on rate increases in the upper brackets of the progressive income tax.** The progressive income tax has these merits:
 - (a) is fair (based upon the ability to pay);
 - (b) takes into account family size; and
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This leaflet is distributed by

[local group]

It is based upon information provided by Methodists United for Peace with Justice, 421 Seward Square, SE, Washington, DC 20003.

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We urge you to write the leading negotiators to offer your views on budget priorities. They are:

Representative Richard A. Gephardt, House Majority Leader, U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator George J. Mitchell, Senate Majority Leader, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC 20510

Mr. Richard Darman, Director, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503

Among the points you might make are the following:

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- (2) **Allocate sufficient funds to meet urgent human and community needs.** Offer examples of significant unmet needs from our own community.
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U.S. SENATE GETTING READY TO VOTE ON DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

During the week of July 23, 1990 the U.S. Senate is schedule to take up the Defense Authorization bill. This will be the first vote in this session of Congress related to specific weapons systems and other details of military spending. It will be the first vote on such matters since the opening of the Berlin wall and other events in Eastern Europe that signaled the ending of the Cold War. Therefore, we urge you to remind your two senators that world conditions have drastically changed and that military spending should be significantly reduced to reflect the distinctly lesser threat to U.S. security.

Specifically, we suggest that you ask them support floor amendments that would eliminated or reduce spending on two unneeded programs.

(1) *Terminate the B-2 bomber program.* At an astonishing \$815,000,000 each, the B-2 bomber would be the most expensive warplane ever built! That's enough to provide three meals a day to 500,000 malnourished children for one year. Even if there were a nuclear war -- a quite unlikely prospect in the post-Cold War era -- many independent scientists have grave doubts that the B-2 bomber could fulfill its basic mission of penetrating Soviet defenses and hunting down not-yet-launched mobile missiles carried on trucks and trains. Conceived in the 1970s and secretly developed in the 1980s, the B-2 bomber is already obsolete before it has been thoroughly flight tested. Senators should be encouraged to vote for ending the program immediately in order to waste no more money on it.

(2) *Cut back spending on the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI).* As the United Methodist Council of Bishops stated in 1986, halting the development and deployment of space-based "defenses" would "forestall their offensive and even first-strike implications, reinforce the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, facilitate negotiations on offensive force reductions, and avert what could become the most costly and most illusory weapons system ever produced." It is illusory because there is widespread agreement that a sure defense against ballistic missile attack is unachievable for scientific and technical reasons. To continue to spend \$4 billion a year on an unworkable fantasy is extremely wasteful. Senators should be urged to support the lowest level of SDI funding that is offered in a floor amendment to the Defense Authorization bill.

Budget Update

The 25 Budget Summit negotiators continue to meet. President Bush's statement that a "tax revenue increase" is needed has opened new possibilities for dealing with the huge federal deficit. These negotiators will be meeting throughout July and probably into the fall. Congress will not be able to

complete its work on defense authorization and appropriations, other spending bills, and revenue measures until the Budget Summit reaches an agreement. Therefore, it remains timely to write to them, as suggested in our Peace/Justice Alert #9, asking them to (a) cut excessive military spending, (b) maintain and in some cases increase spending on programs meeting urgent human and community needs, and (c) look to rate increases in the upper brackets of the progressive income tax for the additional revenue necessary for deficit reduction.

WRITE YOUR U.S. SENATORS ON DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

During the week of July 23, 1990 the U.S. Senate is schedule to take up the Defense Authorization bill. We urge you to remind your two senators that world conditions have drastically changed and that military spending should be significantly reduced to reflect the distinctly lesser threat to U.S. security. Specifically, we suggest that you ask them support floor amendments dealing with two unneeded programs.

(1) **Terminate the B-2 bomber program.** At an astonishing \$815,000,000 each, the B-2 bomber would be the most expensive warplane every built! That's enough to provide three meals a day to 500,000 malnourished children for one year. Even if there were a nuclear war (a quite unlikely prospect in the post-Cold War era), many independent scientists have grave doubts that the B-2 bomber could fulfill its basic mission of penetrating Soviet defenses and hunting down not-yet-launched mobile missiles carried on trucks and trains. The B-2 bomber is already obsolete before it has been thoroughly flight tested. **Senators should be encouraged to vote for ending the program immediately.**

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Write to: [add names of your two senators]

Washington, DC 20510

Distributed by [name of local group]

*Based upon information provided by Methodists United
for Peace with Justice.*

Make Your Own Leaflet

To make your own leaflet, fill in the blanks for the two U.S. senators from your state and the name of your local organization. Make two photocopies of the leaflet and paste them side-by-side for a master copy. Photocopy the master and cut in half to make your leaflets. This size is easy to hand out.

METHODISTS UNITED
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421 Seward Square, SE
Washington, DC 20003

PEACE/JUSTICE ALERT

Number 10 July 1990

HOUSE VOTE ON DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION EXPECTED AFTER LABOR DAY

The week of September 10, 1990 the U.S. House of Representatives will take up the 1991 Defense Authorization Bill. Congress will be in recess until September 4. Many representatives will be in their home districts until that time. Therefore, this is an excellent time to make direct contact with them to discuss this bill.

The Defense Authorization Bill, as reported out of the House Armed Services Committee, has a number of desirable features, which we can count as a victory.

- o It terminates the B-2 ("stealth") bomber program because of (a) its high cost (\$860 million dollars per plane) and (b) its dubious mission (to look for mobile missiles and other undamaged targets *after* the initial phase of an all-out nuclear war between the United States and the Soviet Union).
- o It eliminates construction money to put the MX intercontinental ballistic missile on rails, another unnecessary deployment in the changed world situation.
- o It cuts the Strategic Defensive Initiative (SDI), or Star Wars, to \$2.9 billion, compared to the \$4.7 billion proposed by the Bush Administration.

We suggest that you ask your representative to:

- (a) Support the Armed Service Committee in terminating the B-2 program and oppose any amendment to restore funding.
- (b) Support the Committee bill to halt construction of MX rail garrison. There may be an amendment to further curtail the MX missile by deleting \$673 million for 12 MX test missiles. This deserves support.
- (c) Support a prospective amendment which Representative Frank may offer to prohibit expenditure of funds for the truck-based Midgetman missile.
- (d) Support amendments to further curtail SDI. We favor one that Representatives Dellums and Boxer are expected to offer to cut SDI funding to \$1.5 billion and dismantle the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization. If that fails to pass, we then favor an amendment which Representatives Bennett and Ridge are expected to offer to reduce SDI funding to \$2.3 billion.

You can point out that the B-2 bomber, the MX and Midgetman missiles, and SDI are all irrelevant for use in regional crises, such as the current Iraqi war.

Senate Action, Budget Summit

When the U.S. Senate considered the Defense Authorization Bill in July, it rejected the Air Force

request for MX rail garrison production and military construction. It placed SDI funding at \$3.8 billion and defeated an amendment, which we supported, to reduce the amount to \$3.0 billion. The Senate also voted to continue funding the B-2 bomber program. These will be issues in the House/Senate Conference Committee in late September.

Budget Summit meetings are recessed until after Labor Day. Two key issues to be resolved are tax increases and level of defense spending. We favor reliance on the progressive income tax, emphasizing rate increases for the upper brackets. This is the fairest tax available. Other taxes have heavier impact upon low- and middle-income persons. We believe that defense expenditures should be steadily lowered and not locked in at the present high level. The Iraqi war should not be an excuse to increase defense spending because the cost of the planes and ground personnel being sent to Saudi Arabia are already in the budget, earmarked for such contingencies.

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PEACE/JUSTICE ALERT

Number 11 August 1990

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE ON DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

During the week of September 10, 1990 the U.S. House of Representatives is scheduled to take up the 1991 Defense Authorization bill. We urge you to get in touch with your representative and point out that the Soviet threat has been significantly reduced and that U.S. military spending should therefore be substantially lowered.

Specifically we suggest support for the following measures:

(1) **Terminate the B-2 ("stealth") bomber program.** The House Armed Services Committee has voted to terminate this program because of (a) its high cost (\$860 million dollars per plane) and (b) its dubious mission (to look for mobile missiles and other undamaged targets after the initial phase of an all-out nuclear war between the United States and the Soviet Union). **Any amendment to restore B-2 funding should be opposed.**

(2) **Cut back spending on the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI).** The Committee bill cuts SDI spending to \$2.9 billion. It should go even lower. There will be a Dellums-Boxer amendment to lower SDI funding to \$1.5 billion, which is worthy of support. If that fails, a Bennett-Ridge amendment to set SDI funding at \$2.3 billion deserves support.

Neither the B-2 bomber nor SDI has any utility in regional crises, such as the current Iraqi war.

Write: [insert name of your representative]
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Or call the district office: [insert telephone #]

Distributed by [name of local group]

*Based upon information provided by Methodists United
for Peace with Justice, 421 Seward Square, SE, Washington, DC.
20003*

METHODISTS UNITED FOR PEACE WITH JUSTICE

421 Seward Square, SE

Washington, DC 20003

(202) 546-5551

As a supplement to our Peace/Justice Alert #11 on the House Defense Authorization Bill, we share with you some observations from the Council for a Livable World on the relevance of the current Middle East Crisis.

Number 12

November 1990

OPPOSE OFFENSIVE MILITARY ACTION IN PERSIAN GULF REGION

The situation in the Middle East has reached a dangerous crisis. It started on August 2, 1990 when Iraq invaded Kuwait -- a wrongful act of aggression. The United Nations Security Council responded correctly by adopting a series of resolutions condemning Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and instituting an economic boycott to pressure Iraq to withdraw. Whether the huge U.S. military buildup in Saudi Arabia and in the Persian Gulf was necessary is debatable, but at least the stated reason emphasized defense of Saudi Arabia and enforcement of the UN boycott.

Now, though, warning signs are appearing that the United States might initiate offensive military action. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney has announced an intent to dispatch 100,000 additional U.S. troops to the region. This would add to the more than 200,000 U.S. military personnel already there. Their equipment includes aircraft and other weapons whose primary purpose is offensive action, such as strategic attacks on the enemy's homeland. This combined force far exceeds the number appropriate for U.S. participation in the international boycott and defense of Saudi Arabia.

Therefore, we urge you to take the following actions:

Write President George Bush (The White House, Washington, DC 20500) to oppose sending additional U.S. forces to the Persian Gulf region. State your opposition to offensive military action. Urge him to work through the

United Nations for a peaceable settlement of the dispute through boycott pressures combined with diplomacy and negotiations. Ask him have all U.S. forces placed under UN command at the earliest possible date. [You can also call the White House public comment number: (202) 456-7639.]

Contact your U.S. representatives and your two U.S. Senators. Encourage them to go on record in opposition to offensive military action. Ask them to appeal to President Bush to support United Nations negotiations as the primary means of resolving the Persian Gulf crisis.

Relevant Policies of the United Methodist Church

"Believing that international justice requires the participation of all peoples, we endorse the United Nations and its related bodies and the International Court of Justice as the best instruments now in existence to achieve a world of justice and law." (from "Social Principles" of the United Methodist Church)

"The United Methodist Church categorically opposes interventions by more powerful nations against weaker ones. Such actions violate our Social Principles, and are contrary to the United Nations Charter and international law and treaties." (from "In Support of Self-Determination and Non-Intervention," a resolution adopted by the 1988 General Conference)

Comment: The latter would apply both to Iraq for its military invasion of Kuwait and

Position of Methodists United for Peace with Justice

For your letters to President Bush and members of Congress, you may get some ideas from the following set of conclusions on the Middle East crisis, adopted by the Board of Directors of Methodists United for Peace with Justice on October 20, 1990.

1. We condemn the Iraqi attack and subsequent annexation of Kuwait and call for the immediate withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait.

2. The United Nations offers the best hope for developing and carrying out a peaceable solution to the conflict. Emphasis should be upon diplomacy and negotiations. The United States and other nations should work through and as part of the United Nations and should avoid unilateral actions.

3. The U.S. military build-up should be halted and the U.S. military presence should be reduced so that it is no larger than 25 percent of the combined forces assembled to deal with Iraq.

4. Military forces mobilized to oppose Iraq should at the earliest possible date come under full UN authority and control.

5. It is wrong in all situations of conflict to use civilians as pawns, shields, and hostages. International humanitarian principles must be upheld. Therefore, Iraq should immediately free all civilians held as hostages, and food and medicine should be exempt from the U.N.-sanctioned economic blockade. The international community, including the United States, should provide increased emergency assistance to meet the needs of refugees fleeing Kuwait and Iraq.

6. The current crisis must not be used as a rationale for increased arms sales and transfers to an already over-militarized region.

7. A strenuous effort should be made to deal with a wider range of issues in the Middle East, including achievement of self-determination for Palestinians residing in presently occupied territories, security for Israel, peace agreements between Israel and Arab states, and justice for the poor and dispossessed in the region.

8. Care must be taken to avoid demagoguery, manipulation, and image-making which labels Arabs and Muslims in a negative way and to refrain from stereotypical and bigoted statements against Muslims and Islam, Arabs and Arabic culture.

9. U.S. dependence upon oil imports should be substantially reduced through energy conservation policies and development of renewable sources of energy.

METHODISTS UNITED
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PEACE/JUSTICE ALERT

Number 12 November 1990

Number 13 December 1990

PREVENT WAR IN PERSIAN GULF

President Bush seems intent on launching a military offense against Iraq soon after January 15, 1990. This is the deadline set by a resolution of the United Nations Security Council that authorizes "necessary means" to gain Iraqi compliance with previous UN resolutions. For the moment the President is willing to have talks between U.S. and Iraqi representatives, but he has stated that only full Iraqi compliance by January 15 will prevent a U.S. military attack.

Unacceptable Cost of War

A recent Interreligious Statement from 18 Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish national offices states that "U.S. military action in the Gulf would not be likely to achieve any of the five policy objectives set by President Bush. In fact, offensive military action

- would most probably kill more Americans than are now hostages;
- would destroy Kuwait in order to save it;
- would likely turn oil fields into oil burners for months to come;
- would spread the conflict horizontally across the entire region, including Israel; and
- the post Cold War promise of a new world order would go up in smoke.

Almost certainly, more civilians would be killed than combatants."

Give Economic Boycott Enough Time to Work

Two former chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (the highest military office in the United States) told a U.S. Senate hearing that they would be

willing to wait more than a year to allow the trade embargo to force Iraq to leave Kuwait. Retired Admiral William J. Crowe, Jr. (a United Methodist) stated:

"If, in fact, the sanctions will work in 12 to 18 months instead of six months, the trade-off of avoiding war with its attendant sacrifices and uncertainties would in my estimate be worth it."

And retired Air Force General David C. Jones expressed a concern that the deployment of an additional 200,000 troops in the Persian Gulf "might cause us to fight, perhaps prematurely and perhaps unnecessarily." Hearing this and other testimony, Senator Sam Nunn (also an United Methodist) observed that the embargo will work if we have sufficient patience.

Act Now to Stop the War

Write or telegraph President George Bush (The White House, Washington, DC 20500) or call the White House public comment number: (202) 456-7639. Urge patience. Support economic sanctions and ask that they be given more time to work. Oppose offensive military action. (Use above arguments.) Support negotiations that involve the United Nations and the Arab League.

Contact your two U.S. senators and your representative (or your representative-elect or senator-elect if the position is changing). Ask them to communicate their opposition to offensive action to President Bush. If Congress has an opportunity to vote on the issue, ask them to oppose a declaration of war or authorization of military force at this time. Urge them to support reliance upon economic boycott and negotiations to resolve the Persian Gulf crisis.

OTHER ACTIONS TO OPPOSE WAR IN THE PERSIAN GULF

- 1. Make copies of this flyer. Hand them out at church. Give copies to friends. Mail them to persons who are concerned about the danger of war.*
- 2. Write letters to the editor of your local paper, stating your opposition to offensive military action in the Persian Gulf.*
- 3. Be alert to radio call-in programs that are discussing this issue. Call-in to offer your views.*
- 4. Organize a discussion group in your church to consider the issues of the Middle East. Write or call us if you need background information.*
- 5. Organize a teach-in at a local college or high school. Find local experts on the Middle East to do the teaching.*
- 6. Prepare a petition against offensive military action in the Persian Gulf. Obtain signatures at church, at other meetings, at shopping centers, on street corners. Send the signed petitions to President Bush. Make copies for your senators and representative.*
- 7. Organize and participate in vigils, marches, and other nonviolent demonstrations against war in the Middle East.*
- 8. Ask local and state elected officials (mayor, county executive, state representatives and senators) to come out publicly against war in the Middle East.*
- 9. Support persons wrestling with conscientious objection to war and military service. Help them locate a trained counselor on this issue.*
- 10. Be alert to derogatory remarks against Arabs, Muslims, and Jews as*

the Middle East crisis continues and seek reconciliation and understanding with persons of these different cultures and religions.

In the 1960s President Johnson and the Pentagon eased the United States into an escalating war in Vietnam before strong political opposition emerged. We must not allow this to happen again. We can stop U.S. engagement in a Persian Gulf war if enough of us insist to President Bush that economic sanctions and negotiations deserve much more time to bring about a peaceful resolution of the crisis.

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PEACE/JUSTICE ALERT

Number 13 December 1990

ACTION STILL NEEDED TO PREVENT WAR IN PERSIAN GULF

Congress reconvenes on January 3, 1991. There is a strong possibility that President Bush will ask Congress to give approval of offensive military force in the Persian Gulf. This is unlikely to be an outright declaration of war against Iraq. Rather it may take the form of a resolution conveying support for United Nation resolutions, including #678 that authorizes "necessary means" to force Iraq out of Kuwait if Iraq doesn't leave by January 15.

President Bush is likely to tell Congress that he needs this support in order to show solidarity in dealing with Saddam Hussein. He will argue that the American military buildup with offensive capability and the imminent threat to attack Iraqi forces after January 15 will cause Iraq to capitulate without armed resistance.

This line of reasoning is flawed. It treats the situation like a poker game in which one player piles on more and more chips with each round of betting, trying to bluff the other player to fold. However, in the Persian Gulf it is human lives, not blue chips, that are being placed on the table. Lives of young Americans, young Arabs, thousands of civilians. If Bush's bluff fails, tens of thousands will die.

There is a better way: the international economic boycott, applied with patience for a year or longer, accompanied by diplomacy and negotiations. Prominent retired military leaders have endorsed this approach, including two former chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral William J. Crowe, Jr. and General David C. Jones. So have several former secretaries of defense and national security advisers.

Quick Response Required

Congress may take up this matter on January 3, or shortly thereafter. There may be pressure from President Bush for passage of a resolution in a few days, or at least by January 15. Here are things you can do.

***National Call-in Day to Congress: January 3.** A number of national organizations are urging local people to call members of Congress on January 3, 1991. The message: **oppose any form of authorization of offensive military action in the Persian Gulf.** If you do not know the phone number of your representative and senators, you can reach their offices through the U.S. Capitol switchboard: (202) 224-3121. Or call their district office. If this Alert reaches you a few days after January 3, it will probably still be timely to call.*

Make follow-up calls on specific resolutions. We will not know the precise wording of a prospective resolution and amendments offered until Congress reconvenes. Then a quick response will be necessary, probably before we can get out another *Alert* to you by mail. Watch television news and read your newspaper for reports on what is happening. You can also call (202) 547-4343 for a recorded update provided by the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

Get others to call. Make copies of this *Alert*. Send them to others in your network. Hand them out at church on December 30 and January 6.

GET READY FOR ANOTHER ROUND ON BUDGET PRIORITIES

Even as we deal with the Persian Gulf crisis, we need to prepare for another round of action on federal budget priorities. In spite of the budget agreement between Congress and the Bush Administration in the last session of Congress, the issues remain the same:

- Cut military spending.
- Increase funding of domestic programs dealing with urgent human needs and environmental problems.
- Make further efforts to cut the federal deficit, which remains far too high.
- If tax increases are required, insist on fairness -- based on ability to pay.

We urge you to plan ahead. We offer the following schedule.

January 1991. Expand your outreach network. Develop a mailing and telephone list of persons with whom you can share our *Alert* messages. Get other people to receive our *Peace/Justice Alerts* directly by becoming members of Methodists United for Peace with Justice. Write to us for copies of our membership brochure and sample *Alerts* for distribution.

National Call-In Day on the Federal Budget: February 5, 1991. President Bush is scheduled to release his 1992 budget on February 4. On Tuesday, February 5 join thousands in telling Congress and the White House where they should invest your tax dollars. Capitol Switchboard is (202) 224-3121. White House Comment Line is (202) 456-1111 (9 a.m.-5 p.m. EST). Write or call us to for a flyer you can hand out.

District Lobbying: February 8-18. Congress will be in recess in mid-February. This is a good time to visit representatives and senators to talk about budget priorities. Perhaps you can get other organizations to join with you in organizing community forums and invite members of Congress to appear. Start your organizing in January to be ready. After the president's budget is released, we will send out a *Peace/Justice Alert* dealing with specific issues. This can serve as background for district lobbying.

March. Attention will focus on the House and Senate Budget Committees. We will send out an *Alert* in early March on key issues.

Tax Day events on April 15. A number of national organizations are working on plans for local events on April 15, the day income tax returns are due. We will provide you suggestions on activities you might undertake.

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PEACE/JUSTICE ALERT

Number 14 January 1991

WHAT TO DO NEXT ON THE PERSIAN GULF

Writing the afternoon on January 16, it is difficult to offer advice on what peace activists should do next about the Persian Gulf. By the time this *Alert* reaches readers, war may have started. But it is possible that the contest of nerves will still be underway, though tottering on the brink of war. So, this *Alert* provides suggestions for both contingencies.

Congressional Contacts

The U.S. Senate voted 52-47 to authorize President Bush to take military action to force Iraq out of Kuwait, and the U.S. House of Representatives approved 250-183. Methodists United supported losing measures, the Mitchell-Nunn resolution in the Senate and the Hamilton-Gephardt resolution in the House, to continue sanctions and diplomacy and not authorize offensive action at this time. Please write thank you letters to members of Congress who supported sanctions and opposed military action, especially members from conservative and hawkish districts. Ask your representative, regardless how he or she voted, to hold regular town meetings in the district on the Persian Gulf crisis, both before and after war breaks out.

If War Hasn't Started

(1) There may still be time to stop a war. One line of diplomacy has not been fully explored: calling a comprehensive Middle East peace conference. Prior to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the United States supported this idea, especially to deal with Israeli-Palestinian issues. However, now that Saddam Hussein has advocated a Middle East peace conference, the United States has backed away, claiming that the U.S. will not accept "linkage" between Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and Israeli leaving the occupied territories. This is *moral relativism*. A peace conference is valid in its own right and should not be opposed merely because our adversary favors it.

Write to President George Bush (The White House, Washington, DC 20500) and express support for a comprehensive Middle East peace conference, to be instituted as soon as possible. Suggest that this one last diplomatic initiative, tied with Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, might prevent war in the Persian Gulf.

(2) The Congressional resolution authorizing use of military force states that before using this authority "the president shall make available to the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate his determination that 1) the United States has used all

appropriate diplomatic and other peaceful means to obtain compliance by Iraq with the United Nations Security Council resolutions...; and 2) that those efforts have not been and would not be successful in obtaining such compliance."

Write to Speaker of the House Thomas Foley (U.S. Capitol, H-204, Washington, DC 20515) and Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (176 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510). Ask them to insist to President Bush that seeking a Middle East conference should be considered one of the appropriate diplomatic means that should be fully pursued before military force can be used.

(3) People in many communities are making plans to assemble immediately after the outbreak of war. The purpose might vary: prayer, protest demonstration, and for some, civil disobedience. They are establishing predetermined sites and times (such as 12 noon, 5:00 p.m., 7:30 p.m.) the day or day after war starts. You might find out if this is being done in your community. If not, you might want to take the initiative.

(4) Continue to pray that war will be avoided. Pray particularly for George Bush and Saddam Hussein. Pray for persons who may be able to mediate the dispute, especially leaders of the Arab nation and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

If War Breaks Out

(1) If the war starts, immediately assemble for prayer or protest. It can be pre-planned, as suggested above, or called on the spot.

(2) Continue to pray for peace. Pray for a speedy end to the conflict. Pray for the men and women on both sides who are fighting. Pray for civilians who may be the war's victims. Pray for decision makers on both sides.

(3) Both clergy and laity can be available in a pastoral manner to persons called to fight in the war, to conscientious objectors, to families of both, and to children, who may be fearful and greatly anxious for a world gone berserk. Some churches may want to serve as sanctuary for service men and women who are refusing to go to war.

(4) Counter prejudice against Arabs and Jews, for each group might be blamed as for the war.

(5) Write and call President Bush and your U.S. senators and representative, asking them to take initiatives to end hostilities. Insist that weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, chemical, biological) not be used.

(6) Organize regular vigils, marches, and rallies to protest the war. Some may be called to nonviolent civil disobedience.

(7) Don't make our children pay for the war. Oppose cutting domestic programs to pay for the war. Don't allow President Bush and Congress to use deficit financing, which the next generation must repay. Favor a progressive surtax. Ask that the Pentagon finance the war partly by cancelling weapon systems intended for a land-and-air war against the Soviet Union in Europe and for strategic attacks on the Soviet Union. The Cold War is over and in spite of internal turmoil in the Soviet Union, Soviet military action in Europe will not occur. This can be part of your message for National Call-in Day to Congress on the federal budget on February 5, 1991.

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PEACE/JUSTICE ALERT
Number 15
January 16, 1990

Number 15
1991

January 17,

NOW THAT WAR HAS STARTED

Events are moving rapidly in the Middle East and changing fast. On January 16 we printed an *Alert* that suggested alternative actions (1) if war had not started or (2) if war was underway. We scrapped that *Alert* after the war began. This *Alert* assumes that the war will be continuing by the time it reaches the readers.

Church Coalition Calls for Immediate Ceasefire

Immediately after the war started, Churches for Middle East Peace -- an interreligious coalition (including United Methodist representatives) -- issued this call:

"We lament and deplore the outbreak of war in the Gulf. Churches for Middle East Peace calls for an immediate ceasefire and cessation of hostilities. We further appeal to all parties to negotiate immediately under United Nations auspices to seek a just, equitable, peaceful resolution of the conflict as rapidly as possible"

"From our deep commitment both to faith and to service, we express our pastoral concern for all those at risk -- both civilian and military from all nations and peoples involved -- and for the leaders of the governments as

well as the leadership of the United Nations.

"We urge every effort to limit the scope and the intensity of the war and ask prayers for an end to the killing, redress of the suffering, and a just settlement of the conflict."

Common Stance of Ecumenical Leaders

Heads of communions of member denominations of the National Council of Churches conferred in a conference call at midnight, January 14. They agreed to the following guidelines for common positions to be taken in the event of the outbreak of war. Churches for Middle East Peace drew upon these ideas, and you also might want to do so for local statements and action.

"If war begins in the Gulf we will together:

1. Call the people to prayer for a speedy end to the conflict.
2. Call for an immediate ceasefire and cessation of hostilities.
3. Appeal to all parties to return immediately to the negotiating tables under United Nations auspices to seek a just, equitable, peaceful solution as rapidly as possible.
4. Express our pastoral concern for all those at risk -- both civilian and military, both American and Middle Eastern -- and for the leaders of the nations involved, and the leadership of the United Nations.
5. Seek to limit both the scope and the intensity of the conflict.
6. Appeal to all the nations involved not to employ any weapon of mass

destruction or which jeopardizes civilian populations, whether chemical, biological, nuclear or conventional.

7. Urge all parties to abide strictly by international humanitarian law applicable in times of armed conflict, often referred to as the "Geneva Conventions," to guarantee the strict application of international standards for the protection of refugees.

8. Call upon neighboring countries to the conflict to open their borders to allow refugees to transit through their territories to safe haven, and call upon all nations, especially those of the industrialized world, to receive refugees and assist them in their time of need.

9. Seek to provide humanitarian aid to displaced persons and other victims, without distinction, in cooperation with the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC), the World Council of Churches (WCC), other church-related agencies, and relevant United Nations and other international non-governmental agencies."

What You Can Do

You can apply locally the ideas of the above guidelines. This can encompass prayer, pastoral care, appeals to President Bush and members of Congress, vigils, and rallies.

You can have your local, district, or conference group draw up and issue your own statement on the war.

You can write letters-to-the-editor and call-in to radio talk shows.

You can seek to counter prejudice against Arabs and Jews, for each group might be blamed as for the war.

Paying for the War

Don't make our children pay for the war. Oppose cutting domestic programs to pay for the war, for children will be adversely affected. Don't allow President Bush and Congress to use deficit financing, which the next generation must repay. It would be much fairer to use a combination of two methods.

- *A war surtax levied on individual and corporate income. It should be progressive so that higher income groups pay a greater surtax.*
- *Have the Pentagon finance the war partly by cancelling weapon systems intended for a land-and-air war against the Soviet Union in Europe and for strategic attacks on the Soviet Union. The Cold War is over and in spite of internal turmoil in the Soviet Union, Soviet military action in Europe will not occur.*

Use this theme as a major part of your message for National Call-in Day to Congress on the federal budget on February 5, 1991. Get other people to join this event that will take place the day after President Bush releases his 1992 budget. Place your calls to the district office of members, or call the U.S. Capitol: (202) 224-3121.

METHODISTS UNITED
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PEACE/JUSTICE ALERT
Number 15
January 17, 1991

Number 16
1991

February 8,

TALKING POINTS ON GULF WAR AND FEDERAL BUDGET

Even though it is hard to stop a war in its early stages, it is important for us to encourage President Bush and members of Congress to seek an immediate ceasefire that gives Iraq another opportunity to leave Kuwait and to support multi-lateral negotiations that deal with other pressing issues in the Middle East. Meanwhile, the federal budget is now before Congress. This annual event determines national priorities in the coming year, so we need to start making our views known on budgetary issues.

Congress is in recess from February 8 to 18. Try to talk to your representative and senators when they are at home during the recess, or on subsequent weekends. Call their district offices or their Washington office (202 224-3121) to make your views known or write to them in Washington (zip code is 20510 for representative, 20505 for senators). Write President Bush on the Persian Gulf War (The White House, Washington, DC 20500), or call the White House comment line: 202 456-1111 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m., EST).

Seeking an End to War in the Persian Gulf

1. **Ceasefire.** A serious effort should be made to achieve an immediate ceasefire. Already the war has killed hundreds of people, military and civilian. A ceasefire might be accomplished through a pause in the bombing for a few days to give Iraq an opportunity to start withdrawing from Kuwait. Or it might come about through an agreement for mutual ceasefire, worked out by a third party, such as an Arab or Muslim leader, a person from a nonaligned state, or a United Nations representative. The United States

should be continuously receptive to a diplomatic solution rather than reflexively rejecting all such initiatives.

2. **Avoid ground war** (assuming a ground war has not started). At each stage of war-preparations and war-fighting, there can be a firebreak that keeps hostilities from getting worse and killing more people. Many of us wanted to prevent offensive military action from commencing by giving economic sanctions and diplomacy much longer to work. This did not happen. With aerial bombardment now underway the next firebreak is to prevent a ground war. A ground war will result in huge number of dead and wounded fighting personnel: American, other nationalities in the coalition, Iraqi. When fighting enters urban areas and villages, many civilians will be killed and injured. It would be better to let the combined effects of economic boycott and aerial destruction have more time to exert pressure on Saddam Hussein to withdraw from Kuwait.

3. **Other Middle East issues.** We should not be afraid of so-called linkage of Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait with multilateral negotiations on other pressing Middle East issues. They include the need for Palestinian self-determination, recognition of Israel by Arab states, mutual security for all nations in the Middle East, and substantial arms reduction throughout the region. These objectives are valid in their own right and should not be opposed merely because Saddam Hussein connects withdrawal with an effort to deal with these broader issues.

4. **Weapons of mass destruction.** No use should be made of chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons. Even if Iraq uses such weapons, the United States should not retaliate in kind. It is particularly important for the United States to resist the temptation to use nuclear weapons. This is another firebreak we should rigorously observe.

Focusing on Federal Budget Priorities

On February 4 President Bush presented Congress his proposed federal budget for the 1992 Fiscal Year. His budget does not contain funds for the Persian Gulf War. This will be handled through a supplemental appropriation, which the president will soon propose.

1. **Gulf War costs.** At this writing the Gulf War costs beyond the current budget have not been revealed. Whatever the amount, we should be honest about paying for the war. In order of preference, payment should come from: (a) contributions from allied nations, (2) shifting money from other Pentagon accounts (such as unneeded Cold War weaponry), and (c) a graduated surtax. The war should not be paid through deficit financing because that forces our children and grandchildren to pay for our folly.

2. **Military budget.** The president has requested \$291 billion in defense budget authority, approximately the same amount Congress authorized for this year. This is too high because it maintains a huge amount of Cold War funding after the Cold War is over. In recent years about \$160 billion of the U.S. military budget has focused on the defense of Western Europe. This is not now necessary because the Soviet Union no longer is a viable threat in Europe. Considering that the Gulf War has separate funding, the rest of the 1992 military budget should be substantially reduced. All U.S. forces should be withdrawn from Europe and demobilized, saving billions of dollars. The strategic nuclear budget should be sharply curtailed, including elimination of funds for the B-2 bomber (\$4.8 billion), Midgetman missile research (\$549 million), Trident II (D-5) submarine-based missiles (\$1.3 billion), and increases in Star Wars funding (\$3.2 billion).

3. **Domestic budget.** Although the president's budget contains modest increases in some programs serving low-income persons (such as Head Start and WIC), other low-income programs are cut. This would result in a net reduction of \$760 million below FY 1991 levels for low-income, non-entitlement programs, after adjusting for inflation. For a nation that can find billions of dollars to fight a

war in the Persian Gulf and billions more for savings and loan bailout, this is a gross backturning on urgent human need. We should insist that human needs have top budget priority. You can offer examples from your own community.

4. **Taxes.** President Bush has again proposed reduction of the capital gains tax. In analyzing a similar proposal last year, the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation found that 83 percent of this tax break would go to households with incomes over \$100,000 and 66 percent to those with incomes over \$200,000. This is contrary to the precept of fairness in taxation, based upon ability to pay, and should be opposed.

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PEACE JUSTICE/ALERT
Number 16
February 6, 1991

Number 17
15, 1991

March

AFTER THE WAR IN THE PERSIAN GULF

We are grateful that the shooting has stopped in the Persian Gulf War. We are grateful that American combat deaths were limited to 115, but we grieve for those killed and for their families. We are grateful that all American prisoners of war have been released and have returned home.

At the same time we grieve for the thousands of Kuwaitis who died because of Iraqi acts between August 1990 and February 1991. We grieve for the 80,000 to 100,000 Iraqis who died between January 16 and February 28, 1991 because of bombing and shelling by coalition forces, primarily American. They are all God's children and as precious to God as Americans.

We regret that the United States embarked upon all-out combat rather than giving sanctions longer to work. As Representative Lee Hamilton has pointed out (see other side), just because President Bush's war strategy defeated Iraq does not mean that the alternative strategy of economic sanctions and diplomatic pressure would have failed. "Over time," he insists, "sanctions could have destroyed the Iraqi economy and armed forces from within." We would add that this course could have saved tens of thousands of lives, prevented the enormous destruction in Kuwait by fleeing Iraqi forces, and averted the costly destruction of property in Baghdad and other Iraqi cities that had nothing to do with war fighting.

Therefore, even as a majority of Americans are euphoric over victory in the Gulf, we who opposed going to war need not regret that we advocated a nonviolent solution to the crisis. In a forthcoming issue of *Peace Leaf* we will offer an analysis of the Persian Gulf War and the lessons that are applicable to future years in building a new world order.

BUDGET ACTION

The federal budget process is proceeding. Congress will be in recess from March 25 to April 8. This is another opportunity to talk to your congressional delegation when they are home. You can continue to stress the need to eliminate Cold War military spending, such as for the B-2 bomber, the Strategic Defensive Initiative (SDI), and maintenance of U.S. troops in Europe after the Warsaw Pact has formally dis-solved. You can also emphasize the need to give priority to human and community needs. You can draw examples from your own community.

Methodists United for Peace with Justice is joining with other national organizations through the Citizens Budget Campaign to sponsor a "National Phone-In Day on the Federal Budget" on April 15. The enclosed flyer provides more details. On the back is copy for a church bulletin insert which you can reproduce and hand out on Sunday, April 14. The back of the flyer also contains a fill-in form on "How To Figure YOur Military Tax Burden". You might want to make copies and give them to people for their own use.

Number 18
1991

May 10,

CONGRESS TO VOTE ON B-2 BOMBER AND STAR WARS

During the next six weeks Congress will have crucial votes on the B-2 bomber and the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), known as Star Wars. We favor termination of production of the B-2 bomber and curtailment of the Star Wars program.

Terminate the B-2 bomber because it is not needed. As originally conceived, its intended mission was to penetrate deeply into the Soviet heartland during the second stage of an all-out nuclear war to hunt down unlaunched mobile missiles. But the end of the Cold War has virtually eliminated the possibility of a nuclear war with the Soviet Union. In spite of what the Pentagon is now saying, the B-2 is not equipped to carry highly accurate conventional munitions for use in regional conflict, such as the Gulf War. Furthermore, **the B-2 is too costly.** The price tag is now \$865 million per plane. The Northrop Corporation, which is building the B-2, is notorious for its mismanagement and cost overruns, so the price is likely to be even higher. This money would be much better invested in Head Start, health and nutrition programs, education, and economic conversion.

Curtail SDI. The Strategic Defense Initiative was conceived as an effort to deploy a spaced-based defense against Soviet missile attack. However, experts outside the government agree that this is infeasible for scientific and technical reasons. Here, too, the increased unlikelihood of nuclear war with the Soviet Union makes SDI even more unnecessary. With the perception that the Patriot anti-missile defense was successful in the Gulf War (experts say that claim is overstated), the Pentagon is playing up theatre

missile defense. But this is not what SDI money has been going for. SDI is a Cold War relic that ought to be eliminated.

House of Representatives Voting the Week of May 20

In reporting out the 1992 Defense Authorization Bill, the House Armed Services Committee has terminated the B-2 bomber. A floor amendments will be offered to restore B-2 funding. Ask your representative to support the Armed Services Committee's decision to terminate the B-2. On SDI, the Committee cut \$1.6 billion from the Bush Administration's request of \$5.2 billion so as to keep the program at approximately the current funding level. Representatives Dellums and Boxer intend to offer a floor amendment to further reduce SDI to the \$1.2 to 1.5 billion range. Star Wars advocates may offer amendments to raise the funding level, or to make theatre missile defense (with popular Patriot-like missiles) part of SDI. Ask your representative to support the Dellums-Boxer amendment, and if that fails, to vote for the lowest possible funding level for SDI.

Senate Will Take Up the B-2 and SDI in June.

The Senate will vote on the Defense Authorization Bill in June. In anticipation we are joining with other organizations to have paper B-2s fly into Senate offices the weeks of June 3 and 10, urging termination of the B-2 bomber. A paper cutout is on the reverse page for this purpose. Make two photocopies of it. Attach the price tag with a string. Send it to your two senators. Urge your senators to terminate the B-2 and to support the lowest figure offered for SDI.

*METHODISTS UNITED
for Peace with Justice
421 Seward Square, SE
Washington, DC 20003*

PEACE/JUSTICE ALERT

Number 18 May 10, 1991

Number 19
1992

January 31,

FEDERAL BUDGET ISSUES NOW IN FOCUS

Once again the federal budget season has opened. It began formally on January 29 when President Bush sent his 1993 Fiscal Year Budget to Congress. Immediately Congress began hearings, looking toward adoption of a Budget Resolution by mid-April. In this *Peace/Justice Alert* we highlight some of the main budgetary issues. Future Alerts will provide more detailed information on specific matters as they arise.

It is now timely to start contacting members of Congress to express your views on the federal budget. You can write to them in Washington (U.S. House of Representatives, 20515; U.S. Senate, 20510). You can call their office in Washington (202 224-3121) or their district or state office. Congress will be in recess from February 7 to 18, so you may be able to make direct contact when members are home.

Need for Larger Defense Savings

With the Cold War over and the Soviet Union dissolved, the primary justification for high military spending has dissipated. Nevertheless, President Bush's budget calls for defense appropriations only 3.2 percent lower than the current year. At the same time spending for domestic nonentitlement programs would be frozen at present levels. But in actuality the president's budget cuts overall funding of low-income programs by \$1.5 billion below levels needed to keep pace with inflation. Head Start and a few other low-income programs will gain increased funding, but many others would be cut deeply.

The Citizens Budget Campaign, in which we participate, indicates that defense spending can be cut by 50 percent in next five years without appreciable risk to national security. As a starter, a net reduction of at least \$30 billion in budget authority for defense should occur in the FY 1993 budget. This can be accomplished by a halt in production of major weapons (such as the B-2 bomber, the Seawolf submarine, another aircraft carrier), elimination of nuclear weapons production and testing, a substantial reduction for the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), accelerating the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Europe, and starting the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Korea and Japan.

When you write or talk to members of Congress, remind them that the Cold War is over and Cold War military spending levels should be substantially reduced.

These reductions could yield a \$33 billion savings in defense budget authority for FY 1993. Of this amount \$3 billion should be assigned to a serious economic conversion program and to cleaning up toxic waste on military bases and nuclear weapons production facilities. We believe that the remaining \$30 billion should be used for meeting urgent human and community needs in the United States and abroad and for improving the nation's economy.

Unfortunately the Budget Agreement of 1990 prevents transferring defense savings to domestic programs and international assistance. This is outmoded and should be modified. We suggest that you ask members of Congress to "take down the wall" that separates defense and domestic spending. Ask them to authorize the shifting of money from military spending to domestic discretionary programs and to international,

nonmilitary assistance.

Taxation

President Bush has proposed a very large cut in the capital gains tax and an increase of \$500 personal exemption for each child under the federal income tax. The nonpartisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities cites data from Congress' Joint Tax Committee indicating that the president's proposal "would result in an average tax cut of nearly \$19,000 apiece for wealthy people with incomes over \$200,000 who have capital gains income. The people in this income bracket represent the wealthiest one percent of all households in the U.S., but would receive 67 percent of the benefits from the capital gains tax cut. The top three percent of all households would get 83 percent of the tax benefits. By contrast, the typical middle income family would not benefit from the capital gains tax cut and would, if it had two children, receive a tax cut from the increase in the personal exemption of \$150, or about \$3 per week. Most middle income families would not benefit from the other tax proposals in the budget."

Some leading Democrats want to provide a middle-income tax cut by using defense savings. Other Democrats favor raising income taxes on upper-income individuals to pay for middle-income tax reduction. Out of our concern for tax equity, we agree with the latter position. Furthermore, as the Coalition for Human Needs points out, "paying for middle class tax cut with defense savings would erode the federal government's revenue base and is likely to require cuts in domestic discretionary spending programs that serve low and moderate income Americans, and our society as a whole."

We suggest that you ask your members of Congress to work for fairness in taxation based upon ability to pay. If there are to be tax cuts, they should not come from the peace dividend (defense savings) but from increased rates on the wealthy, who have benefited enormously from tax reductions the past twelve years.

Nuclear Disarmament

Another part of President Bush's State of the Union address was an announcement of an intent to achieve further reductions in the strategic nuclear arsenal. We applaud and support his efforts as movement in the right direction. At the same time we wonder why we need to spend any more on the B-2 bomber, further nuclear testing, and other major weapons. We also ask why it is necessary for the United States and the Commonwealth of Independent States to continuing targeting one another with strategic weapons. Instead, we recommend that all strategic weapons be taken off alert and their warheads deactivated. We will have more to say on this issue in a future *Peace/Justice Alert*.

METHODISTS UNITED
for Peace with Justice
421 Seward Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Peace/Justice Alert #19
January 31, 1992

TAKE THE STRATEGIC NUCLEAR ARSENAL OFF ALERT

The Cold War is over. The Soviet Union has dissolved. The United States is now providing food and economic assistance to the successor republics. Yet the United States continues to aim strategic nuclear missiles at targets throughout the former Soviet Union. Likewise strategic missiles controlled by the Russian Federation remain on alert to launch an attack on the United States. This is outmoded policy. It is also dangerous because of the risk of accidental or unauthorized launching of strategic missiles.

The safest course would be for both sides to immediately take all strategic weapons off alert. This has already occurred for strategic bombers and a small portion of land-based, intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). Now is the time to take all remaining ICBMs off alert, including those possessed by the United States and those based in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan. Likewise all U.S. and Russian submarine-launched strategic missiles should be taken off alert.

We suggest that you write to President George Bush (The White House, Washington, DC 20500) advocating this course. Urge him to work out an arrangement with Russia and the other former Soviet republics possessing nuclear weapons to take all strategic weapons off alert on a mutual basis. This can occur by returning all U.S. and Russian strategic submarines to port and placing their missiles in safe storage. All ICBMs should be similarly deactivated and safely stored. To assure mutual confidence each side should send observation teams to the other nation's strategic missile sites. Or

United Nations teams could perform this function.

Some the reasons for this approach are stated in the first paragraph of this Alert.

You might also stress that Russia and the other former Soviet republics are now become democratic and are moving to a free-market economy. They are no longer a threat to Western Europe or any other nation. The United States has nothing to deter except Russian missiles attacking us. This danger would disappear if all strategic weapons are taken off alert. Then the two sides can proceed with actual dismantlement of these weapons and destruction of their nuclear warheads. This can be staged over a period of years. But in the meantime the weapons should be deactivated and placed in storage.

Methodists United for Peace with Justice and 32 other national organizations have written to President George Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin advocating this course. If you want to write to President Yeltsin as well, you can send your letter to The Kremlin, Moscow, Russia (50¢ stamp for up to ½ ounce). You can also urge Presidents Bush and Yeltsin to work with Great Britain, France, and China to take their smaller stockpile of strategic weapons off alert.

*The Board of Directors of Methodists United for Peace with Justice adopted this position last October as part of a policy statement on "Nuclear Disarmament: The Zero Option", printed in *Peace Leaf No. 11*. To go along with strategic disarmament, we also recommend the elimination of all tactical nuclear weapons globally, halting all further testing and production of nuclear weapons, a vigorous global nonproliferation regime, and stopping the development of strategic defense systems.*

CONGRESS CONTINUES COLD WAR DEFENSE FUNDING

The U.S. Congress is adopting a Budget Resolution for the 1993 fiscal year that continues defense funding at the Cold War level. At the same time Congress has refused to "take down the walls" that prevent transferring defense savings to domestic programs. This is the very disappointing outcome of the federal budget process through mid-April.

We urge you to contact your representative and your two senators and express your disappointment. Ask them to work for lower spending in the Defense Authorization bill. Request them to renew the effort to allow defense savings to go for programs meeting human and community needs.

President Bush proposed a budget that authorizes spending \$281 billion for defense for FY 1993. The Senate accepted that figure. The House of Representatives lowered that amount to \$274 billion. At this writing the two houses are working out a compromise between these two amounts. Instead of a mere \$7 billion reduction of the president's proposal, we supported a reduction of at least \$30 billion. We insist that this truly reflects the end of the Cold War and the opportunity to shift federal budget priorities. However, only a minority in Congress favor defense savings of this magnitude this year.

The biggest obstacle to greater reduction in defense spending is the concern of members of Congress for jobs and local economic stability. In the midst of a recession they don't want to cause further economic dislocation. So in effect the defense budget has become a jobs program rather than its primary purpose of national security in a military sense. Strangely, though, neither Congress nor the Bush administration has been willing to adopt a large-scale economic conversion program, as many of us have advocated for many years.

We suggest that you urge your representative and two senators to take initiative to enact an economic conversion program that retrains defense workers, helps local communities and defense contractors to develop alternative economic activities, and assists military personnel to make a successful return to civilian life.

*METHODISTS UNITED
for Peace with Justice
421 Seward Square, SE
Washington, DC 20003*

*PEACE/JUSTICE ALERT No. 20
April 1992*

NEXT STEPS FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

After a year in office President Bill Clinton has led the United States in a positive direction in reducing the global nuclear arsenal. Much more is needed. We suggest that you to write to President Clinton and to his new secretary of defense, William J. Perry, urging them to take further actions in working toward the goal of global nuclear disarmament.

We suggest that you address your first letter to:

President Bill Clinton
Attn: Dr. Anthony Lake
The White House
Washington, DC 200500

Dr. Lake is national security adviser to the president and handles these issues.

You may want to praise President Clinton for the accomplishments of his recent trip to Europe, including the agreement to remove all nuclear missiles from Ukraine and the agreement with Russia to cease actively targeting one another with strategic missiles. [The latter is useful as a symbol of good faith, but it is not verifiable and can be reversed in 15 minutes.] You might also praise the beginning of negotiations in Geneva for a comprehensive test ban treaty.

You might then ask President Clinton to take further initiatives, such as those spelled out in the resolution on "Nuclear Disarmament: The Zero Option", adopted by the General Conference of the United Methodist Church

(see pp.600-605 in *The Book of Resolutions*). Indeed, you could photocopy this resolution and send it to him.

We suggest that you especially emphasize the proposal to immediately deactivate the global strategic nuclear arsenal by (a) removing warheads from all intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and placing them in safe storage and (b) bringing all strategic submarines into port and removing their missiles. This should be accomplished with proper verification. This is a much safer step than merely detargeting the missiles while leaving them deployed. Then over a period of years the deactivated missiles can be dismantled and the nuclear weapons material can be disposed of.

The United States and Russia are already deactivating strategic missiles scheduled for dismantlement under the START I agreement. This task should be completed and the same approach applied to strategic missiles scheduled for dismantlement under START II. This could be accomplished by the end of 1994 if there was a willingness. After that the remaining strategic arsenal can be taken out of service by separating warheads from delivery vehicles. We propose that this be accomplished by August 6, 1995, the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima.

Nuclear Posture Review

The Department of Defense now has underway a Nuclear Posture Review to reexamine the role of nuclear weapons in U.S. policy. We urge you to offer your views to the new secretary of defense:

*The Honorable William J. Perry
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301*

You might send Dr. Perry a copy of the United Methodist resolution on "Nuclear Disarmament: The Zero Option" and request that these ideas be considered in the Nuclear Posture Review.

You can point out that the United Methodist Council of Bishops said "no" to nuclear deterrence in 1986 and that the 1988 General Conference affirmed this policy. This position was based primarily on religious and moral reasons. Now the end of the Cold War has made it a very practical policy, for there is nothing to deter except other nuclear weapons. This was recognized in the agreement between Russia and the United States to cease actively targeting one another.

Now the United States should go further by adopting a policy that looks toward global nuclear disarmament. The United Methodist resolution indicates steps that can be taken to achieve this objective. The next step could be complete deactivation of the global strategic arsenal (as outlined on the preceding page). This can be followed by dismantling all delivery vehicles and launchers and eliminating all nuclear weapons material. This should be accompanied by a vigorous effort of nuclear nonproliferation to keep other nations from acquiring nuclear weapons capability.

Send Us Copies

If it is handy, we would appreciate receiving copies of your letters to President Clinton and Secretary Perry. This will help us keep track of the kind of mail these officials are receiving from Methodists on nuclear disarmament. If you have any questions on this matter, please call Howard Hallman, our issues chair, at (301) 694-2859.

METHODISTS UNITED
for Peace with Justice
421 Seward Square, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Peace/Justice Alert #21
February 1994

Special Alert for Mississippi
15, 1991

April

CONTACT REPRESENTATIVE WHITTEN ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR LOW INCOME PROGRAMS

Congress is reaching the appropriations stage of the annual budget cycle. The initial step in this stage is allocation of available funds to various subcommittees of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Representative Jamie L. Whitten, as the chair of the House Appropriations Committee, has considerable influence on this allocation.

With a tight federal budget there is a tendency to fund programs at the same level as the preceding year, adjusted for inflation. This is called "current services funding". However, this is insufficient for some crucial programs that meet urgent needs of poor people, especially children and their families, the disabled and elderly persons. Programs that provide them with proper nutrition, health care, housing, education, and human services need to be increased beyond "current services."

If this is to happen, the House Appropriations Committee should allocate substantial increases to three Subcommittees, as follows:

Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Subcommittee, which handles

Head Start, Chapter I compensatory education, child welfare services, child welfare services, childhood immunization, community and migrant health centers, and other vital services needed by poor people.

HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee for assisted housing.

*Agriculture Subcommittee for WIC (Women, Infants, and Children's
Supplemental Feeding
Program).*

We suggest that you ask people in Representative Whitten's district to contact him immediately, requesting him to provide allocations to these three subcommittees sufficient to allow for increased funding for these vital programs. Situations in Mississippi where such increased funding is essential can be cited. His Washington number is (202) 225-4306, or callers can contact his district office and ask them to relay the message. His mailing address is:

*The Honorable Jamie L. Whitten
Committee on Appropriations
H-218 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515*

Please let us know his reply. If you have any questions, call Howard Hallman, executive director of Methodists United, at (301) 897-3668.

Special Alert for
PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA, GEORGIA,
FLORIDA, MINNESOTA, IOWA, KANSAS

July 19, 1989

IMMEDIATE CONTACT WITH SENATORS NEEDED FOR CRUCIAL VOTE ON SDI

Next Wednesday or Thursday, July 26 or 27, the U.S. Senate will vote on an amendment offered by Senator J. Bennett Johnston of Louisiana to lower funding to the Department of Defense for the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). This amendment offers the best opportunity in this session to curtail SDI in the Senate. It has a good chance of passage. Contact is needed immediately with the following senators, who are considered swing votes:

<u>Senator</u> <u>(202)</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Suite (zip:20510)</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
John Heinz	Pennsylvania	Russell Bldg. 277	224-6324
Arlen Specter	Pennsylvania	Hart Bldg. 303	224-4254
Charles Robb	Virginia	Hart Bldg. 517	224-4024
Wyche Fowler, Jr.	Georgia	Russell Bldg. 204	224-3643
Bob Graham	Florida	Dirksen Bldg.241	224-3041
Dave Durenberger	Minnesota	Russell Bldg. 154	224-3244
Charles E. Grassley	Iowa	Hart Bldg. 135	224-3744
Nancy Kassebaum	Kansas	Russell Bldg. 302	224-4774

ACTION: Get off a quick letter. Better yet, call the senator's office in Washington, ask to speak to the "defense aide", and state your views. Or call the senator's office in your state. Ask the aide to give you feedback on how the senator intends to vote (that person may have to call Washington to find out).

Get others to write and make calls. Time is short, so please act immediately.

Background

This year we have an excellent chance to cut back on SDI, a program questioned by the United Methodist bishops in *In Defense of Creation*. Current funding is \$4.0 billion. The Bush Administration asked for \$4.9 billion. The House Armed Service Committee is recommending \$3.8 billion, but an amendment initiated by Congressmen Bennett and Ridge to lower that amount to \$3.1 billion has an excellent chance of passage on the House floor.

The Senate Armed Services Committee is recommending \$4.4 billion, including \$4.2 billion for

the Department of Defense and \$200 million for the Department of Energy. Senator Johnston's amendment would lower Department of Defense SDI funding to \$3.6 billion. If that amendment carries, the House-Senate conference committee will yield a figure that will be the first reduction of SDI funding since President Reagan announced the Strategic Defense Initiative in 1983.

This is a result advocated by Methodists United for Peace with Justice. Therefore, we ask you to contact your senator(s) now. Thanks for your effort.

Special Alert for West Virginia
15, 1991

April

CONTACT SENATOR BYRD ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR LOW INCOME PROGRAMS

Congress is reaching the appropriations stage of the annual budget cycle. The initial step in this stage is allocation of available funds to various subcommittees of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees. Senator Robert Byrd, as the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, has considerable influence on this allocation.

With a tight federal budget there is a tendency to fund programs at the same level as the preceding year, adjusted for inflation. This is called "current services funding". However, this is insufficient for some crucial programs that meet urgent needs of poor people, especially children and their families, the disabled and elderly persons. Programs that provide them with proper nutrition, health care, housing, education, and human services need to be increased beyond "current services."

If this is to happen, the Senate Appropriations Committee should allocate substantial increases to three Subcommittees, as follows:

Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Subcommittee, which handles

Head Start, Chapter I compensatory education, child welfare services, child welfare services, childhood immunization, community and migrant health centers, and other vital services needed by poor people.

VA-HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee for assisted housing.

Agriculture Subcommittee for WIC (Women, Infants, and Children's Supplemental Feeding Program).

We suggest that you immediately contact Senator Byrd, asking him to provide allocations to these three subcommittees sufficient to allow for increased funding for these vital programs. You can cite situations in West Virginia where such increased funding is essential. His Washington number is (202) 224-3954, or you might want to call his office in West Virginia and ask them to relay the message. His mailing address is:

*The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Committee on Appropriations
S-128 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510*

Please let us know his reply. If you have any questions, call Howard Hallman, executive director of Methodists United, at (301) 897-3668.

For immediate release
(202) 546-5551

Contact: Howard Hallman

MOVING BEYOND CONTAINMENT AND NUCLEAR DETERRENCE

"Now is the time to move beyond containment, to a new policy for the 1990s." So stated President George Bush in an address in May 1989. "Now is also the time to move beyond nuclear deterrence," adds Howard Hallman, issues chair of Methodists United for Peace with Justice. This viewpoint is expressed in the latest issue of *Peace Leaf*, the quarterly newsletter of Methodists United.

"If one removes all the phantasy scenarios," Hallman points out, "the sole purpose of the U.S. strategic nuclear arsenal is to deter Soviet expansion into Western Europe. Once we have firm assurances that the Soviets will not and cannot invade Western Europe -- assurances guaranteed through withdrawal and demobilization of Soviet offensive forces, then we can disband the strategic nuclear arsenal because it will no longer have a mission."

For this reason, Hallman looks upon European disarmament as a key for moving beyond containment and beyond nuclear deterrence. He advocates an expanded goal for current Negotiations on Conventional Forces in Europe. He proposes withdrawal of all military forces stationed outside their country (Soviet, U.S., British, French), demobilization of these forces back home, and dismantlement of their weapons, both conventional and nuclear. At same time other national forces should be cut back to a level no greater than needed for border defense without offensive capability.

Hallman believes that European disarmament of this scale would open the door for the elimination of U.S. and Soviet long-range, strategic missiles. He reasons that 45 years of history has shown that nuclear weapons cannot prevent "little wars", such as in Korea, Vietnam, the Middle East, and in many other regions. Nor are they useful in such wars because of excessive destructive power.

Neither the U.S. nor the Soviet Union is likely to wage an out-of-blue, first strike against the other's homeland, Hallman maintains. The sole purpose of the strategic nuclear arsenal is as backup to a potential World War III starting in Europe, and to deter such a war. European disarmament would eliminate that need. This would make possible the complete abolition of the strategic nuclear weapons. It would also provide the basis for significant naval reductions. For that reason, moving beyond containment through European disarmament is closely linked with moving beyond nuclear deterrence.

Hallman's article is contained in an issue of *Peace Leaf* that focuses on "Achieving Arms Reduction." Other articles deal with current arms reduction negotiations and unilateral initiatives. This *Peace Leaf* issue is available free from Methodists United for Peace with Justice, 421 Seward Square, SE, Washington, DC, 20003.

[First draft, not used]

In explaining his viewpoint, Hallman traces the history of Soviet expansionism during and after World War II and United States efforts of containment in the postwar period. Soviet expansion into Finland and the Baltic states began in 1939 after the Nazi-Soviet nonaggression pact that allowed Hitler's forces to invade Poland. After Hitler broke the pact by invading the Soviet Union and after the Red Army drove back the Nazis, Soviet forces continued into Eastern Europe and eventually set up satellite states. This occurred in spite of a promise that Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin made to President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill to allow free elections in Eastern Europe.

As the Soviets pressed to expand elsewhere, the United States initiated policies of containment. This included the Truman doctrine to provide military aide to Greece and Turkey, the Marshall Plan to help the economic reconstruction of Western Europe, and the Berlin airlift to overcome a Soviet land blockade. In the late 1940s and the '50s, nuclear deterrence became an intergral part of U.S. containment policy.

The situation is different today, Hallman insists. By now we know from experience that nuclear weapons cannot deter "little wars", such as fought in Korea, Vietnam, the Middle East, and in many other regions. Nor are nuclear weapons useful in such wars because of their excessive destructive power. Virtual every defense analyst agrees that a deliberate first strike by the Soviets against the United States is highly unlikely. And in spite of tremendous military buildup in Central Europe, the Soviet Union has no true self-interest to invade Western Europe, so says a long line of analysts, including John Foster Dulles and Professor Richard Pipes. This leads Hallman to conclude that "nuclear deterrence is illusory, an act of self-deception. It can't deter 'minor' events. The 'big' events it claims to deter wouldn't happen anyway."

For immediate release

*Contact: Howard Hallman
(202) 546-5551*

*NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTED FOR
METHODISTS UNITED FOR PEACE WITH JUSTICE*

Eighteen United Methodist clergy and laity from around the nation have taken office as the first elected Board of Directors of Methodists United for Peace with Justice. They were nominated by Methodists United members and elected by a mail ballot. They replace an Interim Board which has functioned since Methodists United incorporated two years ago.

The new directors include Doris Akers, Follett, Texas; Rev. Clifford A. Armour, Jr., Newark, Delaware; Alice Ashton, Raleigh, North Carolina; Rev. Craig L. Barbour, Charlottesville, Virginia; Ralph L. Clark, Arlington, Virginia; John D. Copenhaver, Jr., Stephens City, Virginia; Rev. Bruce W. Edwards, Thayer, Missouri; Jennifer Garvin-Sanchez, Richmond, Virginia; Howard W. Hallman, Bethesda, Maryland; Sherman W. Harris, Potomac, Maryland; Edward Helm, St. Petersburg, Florida; Rev. John M. Mecartney, Detroit, Michigan; Betty J. Nelson, Topeka, Kansas; Nancy Risch, Gulf Breeze, Florida; Bernice Smith, Decatur, Georgia; Rev. Spencer Turnipseed, Florala, Alabama; Rev. Mark W. Wethington, Durham, North Carolina; and Rev. James Zeisloft, York, Pennsylvania.

At an organizational meeting held in Washington, D.C., this new Board of Directors elected the following officers: Chair, Sherman Harris; Vice-chair, Doris Akers, Bruce Edwards, and Mark Wethington; Secretary, Craig Barbour; Treasurer, Howard Hallman; and Assistant Treasurer, Jennifer Garvin-Sanchez. The officers will serve one year terms.

*Methodists United for Peace with Justice is a national association of laity and clergy. It formed in 1987 in response to the call of the United Methodist Council of Bishops for greater witness and action for peace and justice. This call came in the bishops' pastoral letter, *In Defense of Creation*. Methodists United has been working particular for nuclear disarmament, better US/Soviet relations, and shift in federal budget priorities from excessive military spending to greater concentration on human needs. Methodists United publishes *Peace Leaf*, a quarterly newsletter, and *Peace/Justice Alerts* on particular issues before the U.S. Congress.*

October 25, 1989

For immediate release

Contact: Howard Hallman

(202) 546-5551

*HOWARD W. HALLMAN APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF METHODISTS UNITED FOR PEACE WITH JUSTICE*

The Board of Directors of Methodists United for Peace with Justice has appointed Howard W. Hallman as its first Executive Director. This sets the stage for expansion of Methodists United activities on disarmament, improved US/Soviet relations, federal budget priorities, and other peace and justice issues.

A native of Kansas, Howard Hallman received bachelor and master degrees from the University of Kansas. As a student, he was a leader in peace and social action for Wesley Foundation and campus ecumenical activities. After graduation Hallman worked on housing improvement programs in Philadelphia and New Haven, Connecticut. In the early 1960s in New Haven he was initiator of a social development program that was a forerunner of the Community Action Program of the War on Poverty. In 1967 he directed a Senate subcommittee study of the Poverty Program.

From 1969 to 1983 Howard Hallman was President of the Civic Action Institute in Washington, D.C. The Institute (which at first was called Center for Governmental Studies) conducted research, training, and technical assistance on employment programs, municipal decentralization, neighborhood self-help, and citizen participation. In 1984 as he saw the U.S. military buildup taking money away from important social programs, Hallman began devoting more attention to nuclear disarmament. In 1986 he wrote and gained endorsement for "A Citizens' Declaration on Worldwide

Nuclear Disarmament by the Year 2000." When Methodists United for Peace with Justice organized in 1987 he became Issues Chair as a volunteer. He was elected Treasurer in 1988.

Hallman is the author of nine books, including *Community Programs Employment and Manpower* (1966), *Small and Large Together: Governing the Metropolis* (1977), and *Neighborhoods: Their Place in Urban Life* (1984).

He has two married daughters and one grandson. His wife is an ordained United Methodist minister who serves two churches near Westminster, Maryland.

October 30, 1989

For immediate release

Contact: Howard Hallman

(202) 546-5551

A New Peacemaker Handbook Published

Prayer, Study, and Action -- these are the main themes of Witnessing for Peace and Justice: A Peacemaker's Handbook. Published by Methodists United for Peace with Justice, this new handbook was inspired by the United Methodist bishops' call for greater witness and action for peace and justice. This came in the bishops' 1986 pastoral letter, In Defense of Creation.

The handbook offers practical guidance for applying these three themes. It explains:

Prayer is crucial to effective witness because it allows individuals and groups to tap into the Source of our spiritual strength. Prayer grounds all actions appropriately.

Study informs as prayer empowers faithful witness and action. Collective study can itself be an action as well as a community building mechanism.

Action flows naturally as a consequence of prayer and study. Action can be individual or collective.

The handbook then outlines ways local church groups can carry out this sequence of prayer, study, and action.

Witnessing for Peace and Justice also provides a listing of books,

videotapes, miscellaneous resources, and national organizations in the peace and justice field.

This handbook is available for \$2.00 from Methodists United for Peace with Justice, 421 Seward Square, SE, Washington, DC 20003. A ten percent discount applies to orders of ten or more.

-30-

A copy of Witnessing for Peace and Justice is enclosed.

For immediate release

Contact: Howard Hallman

(301) 897-3668

MAJOR CHANGES IN FEDERAL BUDGET PRIORITIES ADVOCATED

Methodists United for Peace with Justice advocates major changes in federal budget priorities. In a *Peace/Justice Alert* this national association of laity and clergy offers three recommendations on the federal budget now being considered by Congress:

- (1) ***Cut excessive military spending.*** *Methodists United states, "We are astounded that President Bush wants to spend \$18 billion for more nuclear weapons directed at the Soviet Union and for strategic defense (sometimes called Star Wars). We believe that the military budget should be cut by at least 10 percent (\$30 billion) by halting the production of all new nuclear weapons and their delivery systems; cutting back on new conventional weapons; achieving troop reductions, particularly bring forces back from Europe; and carrying out procurement reforms."*
- (2) ***Savings from reductions in military spending should be reassigned to programs meeting urgent human needs.*** *The U.S. government should be more responsive to those in greatest need: the hungry, the homeless, the unemployed, children in poor families and their parents. The Bush budget, according to Methodists United, does not respond sufficiently to those needs.*
- (3) ***Achieve meaningful deficit reduction, even if this means raising taxes.*** *Methodists United says that the fairest way to do this is (1) to raise*

the tax rate of the progressive income tax for upper-income persons and corporations who have the greatest ability to pay and (2) to close tax loopholes that give tax preferences to a few.

*In addition to offering its own views on the federal budget, Methodists United for Peace with Justice has published articles presenting the perspective of five United Methodists who are members of Congress: Senators Bob Dole and Jim Sasser, and Congressmen Bill Goodling, Lee Hamilton, and Augustus Hawkins. Their views are found in Methodists United's newsletter, *Peace Leaf*.*

*For a free copy of *Peace Leaf* and the *Peace/Justice Alert* on the federal budget, write to Methodists United for Peace with Justice, 421 Seward Square, SE, Washington, DC 20003.*