

P R E A M B L E

We have met as delegates from the Member Churches of the World Council of Churches in South Africa, together with representatives of the W.C.C. itself, to seek ~~together~~ ^{guidance} under the leading of the Holy Spirit to understand the complex problems of human relationships in this country and to consult with one another our common task and responsibility in the light of the Word of God. Our worship, Bible Study, discussion and personal contacts have led us to a heightened appreciation of ~~each other's~~ ^{one another's} convictions and actions. Our next task will be to report to our several Churches, ^{realising} ~~in the realisation~~ that the ultimate significance of our meeting will consist in the witness and decisions of the Churches themselves in consequence of these consultations.

The general theme of our seven days together has been the Christian attitude toward race relations. ^{Nevertheless} Widely divergent ^{emotions} views have been expressed on the basic issue of apartheid, ranging from the judgment that it is unacceptable in principle to the ^{They are on the one hand} belief that a policy of differentiation would be in the best interests of the various ^{population} groups. All, however, unite in declaring [that unfair] discrimination is to be condemned.

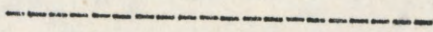
Although proceeding from these divergent premises, we are nevertheless able to make the following affirmations concerning [a number of the facets of] human need and justice ^{as they affect} ~~involved in the~~ relations between the races. ^{among the} In the nature of the case the agreements here recorded do not - and we do not ^{of this country} pretend that they represent ~~the~~ ^{do} full ^{in the} convictions of the member churches.

The Church of Jesus Christ, by its nature and calling, is deeply concerned with the welfare of all people, ~~both~~ ^{as they are in society} as individuals and as members of social groups. It is called to minister to human ^{needs} ~~necessity~~ in whatever circumstances and forms it appears, and to insist that all be done with justice. ^{in its} The social witness ~~of~~ ^{account} of the Church must take cognisance of all ^{attitudes, conditions} ~~forces~~, policies and laws which affect the life of a people; but the Church must proclaim that the final criterion of all social and political action is the realisation for all men of a life worthy of their God-given [vocation] ^{natural and dignity}. ^{We humbly confess our own share in the failure of the Church to persevere in fulfilling its task}

We make bold therefore to address this appeal to our Churches and to all Christians, calling on them to consider every ^{on the basis} point where they may unite their ministry on behalf of human beings in the spirit of equity.

Can be defended from the churches from the point of view that it provides the only solution to the problems of race relations and is therefore

principles of scripture



R E S O L U T I O N S.

*Judicial Enquiries
into the Harpersville &
Lanza murders.*

*superior's appreciation for the prompt conclusions of
enquiries into the recent incidents at Harpersville*

1. JUDICIAL ENQUIRIES:

The Consultation requests the Government to publish the findings of the two judicial enquiries ^{on the Harpersville & Lanza murders} as soon as possible. *Commissioners*

2. JUSTICE IN TRIAL:

It belongs to the Christian conception of law, justice and freedom that in normal circumstances men should not be punished except by fair trial before open Courts for previously defined offences, and that no man should be punished for political beliefs or activities which do not constitute a breach of the fundamental principles of law.

While all Christians agree that there arise from time to time abnormal circumstances which justify a temporary departure from these rules, such departure should be confined to the narrowest limits and the shortest period possible and those affected should either be cleared of any charge or brought before the ordinary courts at the earliest possible date.

In particular anything which tends to make the abnormal practice normal must be firmly opposed as being contrary to the whole spirit and tradition of Christian justice.

3. POSITIONS OF ASIANS IN S.A:

We note the absence here of Asian Christians ^{We} and assure the Asian part of the population that they have not been forgotten in our thoughts, discussions and prayers. As Christians we assure them that we are convinced that the same measures of justice claimed here for other population groups should also be applied to them.

4. FREEDOM OF WORSHIP:

Bearing in mind the urgent need for the pastoral care of Africans living on their employer's premises, or otherwise unable without great difficulty to reach churches in the recognised townships or locations, the Consultation urges that the State should not hinder the provision of permanent facilities for the worship of Africans in ^{white} urban areas, including the free admission of men of all races to churches which are open to them.

The Consultation also urges European Congregations to co-operate by making their own buildings available for this purpose whenever practicable.

5. FREEDOM TO PREACH THE GOSPEL:

We believe that the Church has the duty and right to proclaim the Gospel to whomever it will, in whatever the circumstances, and wherever possible consistent with the general principles governing the right of public meetings in democratic countries. We therefore regard as unacceptable any special legislation which would limit the fulfilment of this task.

6. RELATIONSHIP OF CHURCHES:

The Consultation urges in view of our Lord's command; "first be reconciled with thy brother and then bring thy gift"... that it be laid on the conscience of us all that whenever an occasion may arise that a Church feels ^{Compelled} required on grounds of conscience to criticise another Church, ^{Church leader} it should go first to that Church ^{in a brotherly spirit} in a brotherly spirit before making any public statement, in the belief that in this way reconciliation and mutual understanding may be effected and that Christianity may not be brought into disrepute before the world.

7. RELATIONSHIP OF CHURCHES:

The Consultation requests that means be found for the regular exchange of all official publications between the member-churches ^{of the W.C.C.} for the increase of mutual understanding and information. Furthermore, churches are requested to provide full information to other churches of their procedures in approaching the Government, and that ~~where possible~~ combined delegations, including multi-racial delegations where necessary, should act on behalf of the Churches concerned.

8. CO-OPERATION IN FUTURE:

Any body which may be formed for co-operation in the future is requested to give its attention to the following:

- a) A constructive Christian approach to separatist movements;
- b) Bantu-education and the provision of teachers in schools for Africans;
- c) The training of African leaders in the social, economic, educational and political spheres;
- d) African literacy and the provision of Christian literature;
- e) The concept of responsible Christian society ~~in Bantu areas~~, and to consider the ^{best} last means of fostering African leadership.

f) *the consideration of the impact of Islam on Southern Africa*

9. RESIDENTIAL AREAS:

The Consultation urges, with due appreciation of what has already been done in the provision of homes ^{houses} for Africans, that there should be a greater security of tenure, and that ^{non-whites} residential areas be planned with an eye to the economic and cultural levels of the inhabitants.

10. MIGRANT LABOUR SYSTEM:

The Consultation urges the appointment by the Government of a representative commission to examine the migrant labour system, for the Church is painfully aware of the harmful effects of this system on the family life of the Africans. The Church sees it as her special responsibility to advocate a normal family life for the Africans who spend considerable periods of time, or live permanently, in White areas.