

Church Body Attacks Vietnamization Policy

The representative body of the 2-million member United Church of Christ, which ended its meeting in Grand Rapids, Mich. this week, denounced President Nixon's policy of Vietnamization as "racist" and called for immediate cease-fire in Indochina.

The Eighth General Synod of UCC called for the President and Congress to submit "compromise" proposals at the Paris peace table "to end the war within the next six to nine months."

Citing recent disclosures of the "Pentagon Papers," the Synod likened the country's "war aims and strategies" to atrocities and declared they are "unjust and must be condemned by Christian conscience." The resolution gained overwhelming approval from the 728 delegates.

A resolution hitting recent Federal suits against newspapers called upon the President to "stop efforts to impose prior restraint on the publication of political information and opinions, including documents that have been classified secret, but do not bear directly on current military operations."

The Synod suggests that withdrawal of troops and military assistance to Vietnam be submitted to the peace table with an agreed timetable and be negotiated along with establishment of a general cease-fire, release of all war and political prisoners and organization of open and free elections in South Vietnam under international supervision agreed upon by all parties.

The proposal also urges U.S. officials to "be ready to commit substantial funds for the rebuilding of war-torn countries if requested by the governments of Indochina."