

## **Russian Baptist Clergy**

INASMUCH as there has come to this country in the past two months team of five Baptist clergy from Russia; and

INASMUCH as these Russian Baptist leaders have been welcomed by other Baptist associations and churches as fellow Christians; and

INASMUCH as testimony before the Senate Internal Security Commission of recent date has revealed:

1. That every Russian group leaving for visits to other free countries always includes a member of the Russian Secret Police; and
2. That all institutions for the training of the clergy in Russia are under the direction of the head of the Secret Police; and
3. That Alexander Karev, a member of the Baptist group visiting here and listed as the Executive Secretary of the Baptists of Russia, has been an admitted member of the Russian Revolutionary Party since 1917 and has been identified as a member of the Secret Police, having given information against Latvian and Estonian pastors, leading to their liquidation; and
4. Since there has been no evidence presented to indicate
  - (1) Their repudiation of the Communist program;
  - (2) Any protests to the Communist government concerning the incarceration and extermination of their fellow Russian Christians;
  - (3) Their repudiation of the Communist propaganda lies directed against the United States; and furthermore
5. Since all trustworthy testimony indicates there exists no true religious freedom in Russia and only those who fully cooperate with the Communists leaders are permitted to operation;

BE IT THEREFORE the declared opinion of this 25th Annual Conference of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches that the presence in this country of this Baptist group is

1. Inimicable to the best interests of our country in general and Baptists in particular;
2. That we do not believe they represent the true Baptists of Russia;
3. That the welcome of these men to our Baptist fellowships is a betrayal of all the Baptists in Russia who have and are suffering for their faith;

4. That they are false leaders forced upon the organized Baptists of Russia and therefore not entitled to the hand of fellowship of this Association.

*June 25-29, 1956  
Seattle, Washington*