## The Necessity of a National Defense

WHEREAS the use of nuclear weapons has become an international issue with great moral and spiritual implications; and

WHEREAS many religious groups have spoken out in denunciation of the use of such weapons;

BE RESEOLVED that we express ourselves as believing that:

1) To cease the development and production of nuclear weapons would weaken our national defense to a dangerous degree; and

2) To cease from the stock-piling of such weapons would open us to possible attack by the enemies of our country.

While we deplore the necessity of warfare for the settling of differences between nations and abhor the imperative of the use of terrible instruments of destruction against armies and civil populations, we recognize the absolute necessity of national defense and the obligation of our nation to resist, under God, all threats to her freedom and sovereignty. We believe that sovereignty is entrusted to nations in order that they may be the servants of the Most High God in bearing the sword of power to uphold freedom and righteousness.

We recognize furthermore in this world alienated from God that always there will be individuals and nations in rebellion against decency, order, and righteousness, who must be restrained by all possible means.

Be it therefore the resolved opinion of this body that the government of these United States be encouraged to produce powerful nuclear weapons for the defense of this nation and the peace of the world, and that no cessation of this activity be considered until indisputable evidence be found that other powers are genuine in their desire for cooperative world peace.

*June 25–29, 1956 Seattle, Washington*