

United States Ambassador to the Vatican

WHEREAS President Ronald Reagan recently appointed William A. Wilson as the United States Ambassador to the Vatican, thus establishing full diplomatic relations with the Vatican; and

WHEREAS the Vatican is a religious state and the pope is the head of the state by virtue of being the religious head of the Roman Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS the separation of church and state has been the consistent practice of the United States republic and a principle long cherished by Baptists especially, but also by other religious groups in the United States;

BE IT RESOLVED that the messengers of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, gathered in Seattle, Washington, June 25–29, 1984, urge President Reagan to reconsider his decision and sever diplomatic ties with the Vatican; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the churches of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches to inform President Reagan of their strong dissatisfaction with the appointment of an ambassador to the Vatican and to ask him to maintain the important principle of the separation of church and state.

*Seattle, Washington
June 25—29, 1984*