

The United Nations - 1971

The United Nations can act only when men, acting through member-nations, put it to work. (The UN in the Age of Change) Since the inception of the United Nations, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods has consistently, through resolutions, releases and hearings before government bodies, pleaded with its members as well as with men and women throughout the world to persuade their governments to “put the UN to work.” NFTS reiterates that plea at this time and reaffirms its continued support of the United Nations not only as an international forum for discussion and the development of world opinion and action on issues of international concern but also as a keeper of the peace. Therefore, in convention assembled in November 1971, in Los Angeles, California, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods states:

Universal membership in the UN is an urgent necessity in the face of worldwide tensions and problems.

If some of the smallest nations of the world, both in geographic territory and population, are represented in the UN—as indeed they should be—it is of even greater importance that one of the largest land masses, as well as populations, is included, namely, the People’s Republic of China. And so, we declare:

- 1) Our appreciation to President Nixon and the Administration of the United States for its decision to support the seating of the People’s Republic of China in the UN.
- 2) We respectfully request the government of the United States to:
 - a. Declare that any solution which may ultimately be developed for the question of Taiwan’s future status must be by peaceful means and acceptable to the people of Taiwan;
 - b. And reaffirm its commitments to maintain treaty and other obligations to Taiwan.
- 3) Our affiliates should encourage their members to form study and discussion groups on all phases of China’s history in an effort to bridge the gap developed by traditional differences in culture between the East and the West and, hopefully, to inaugurate better relations among all nations, their people and the Chinese.

Furthermore, since the United Nations has often been frustrated in its desire to alleviate human suffering in disasters because of the problem of seeming to interfere in the internal affairs of member nations, its efforts have had to be restricted too often to disasters produced by natural causes. Therefore, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods further resolves that:

- 1) The Secretary-General be asked to develop a plan for the expanded role of the UN in disaster relief in cooperation not only with governments but also with voluntary agencies around the world;
- 2) That the magnitude of the refugee problem in Pakistan and the suffering of men, women and children caught in the natural disasters and civil warfare there demand UN concern, relief, rehabilitation and development operations;
- 3) That nations and citizens urge the acceptance in the UN of the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council to develop mechanisms to:
 - a. Plan on a worldwide basis for the storage of emergency supplies;
 - b. Develop necessary international agreements on the use of communications satellites and networks to mobilize relief efforts;
 - c. Improve disaster warning systems.

Furthermore, since more than a score of years have passed since a subcommittee of the Senate Foreign

Relations Committee recommended U.S. ratification of the International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods resolves:

- 1) Once again, on behalf of its U.S. members to call upon the government of the United States to ratify this Convention which has been signed by 75 nations of the world, both small and large;
 - 2) To request the Senate of the United States, as our Biennial Assemblies did in San Francisco in 1965 and in Montreal, Canada, in 1967, to ratify the treaties on forced labor and the political rights of women; these treaties, too, have been signed by many nations large and small;
 - 3) To call upon its members to become active leaders in communal education on these treaties and conventions; and, on behalf of our U.S. members to urge the Senate of the United States speedily to ratify them.
- Communications toward this end should be addressed by NFTS groups and individuals in the United States to the White House, the State Department, the U.S. Mission to the UN and to the members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee as well as to national, state and local leaders of the major political parties.