

## Terrorism - 1977

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Terrorism, whether founded upon political, philosophic or personal beliefs, is a grave assault not only against persons and public or private property, but also against national and international order in society. The tragedy of increased use of acts of terror against innocent men, women and children must be condemned by all nations and people. Perpetrators should be denied the fulfillment of their demands; special personnel should be trained to deal swiftly with terrorist emergencies. When perpetrators are apprehended, just trial and appropriate punishment should follow swiftly and no country should at any time grant asylum.

We commend the efforts of the family of nations, both within and without the United Nations, to deal with the horrendous crimes of terrorism. A number of conventions have been developed and signed in various years and places by scores of nations including the United States, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Canada, the Netherlands and others:

- 1) On Offenses and Other Acts Committed Aboard Aircraft, Tokyo, November 14, 1963, 88 signatory countries
- 2) Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, The Hague, December 16, 1970, 79 signatory countries
- 3) Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation, Montreal, September 23, 1971.

In 1976 the Federal Republic of Germany introduced in the UN General Assembly an initiative against the taking of hostages. They declared that the issues were: "The protection of human beings, the sovereignty of States, the safety of international traffic and an international order free from violence." A convention is still to be developed from this initiative but it is hoped that it will be achieved within the next year.

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods in Convention assembled in San Francisco, November 1977, urges every affiliate to:

- 1) Ascertain if its country has signed existing conventions and if not urge that it does so promptly. Furthermore, seek to influence its government to help develop even broader conventions, with strong implementation of provisions, to cover forms of terrorism beyond international travel
- 2) Develop in-depth discussion courses on the roots of terrorism toward the end of better educating ourselves and others to understand its causes and terrible costs as well as to seek means of overcoming it.
- 3) Strengthen the Judaic values of the sanctity of all life.