

World War, 1939 - Peace

Christian Conference on War and Peace

Program For Action

That God created the world and its resources for the benefit of all His children, that each individual, made in His image, is of infinite worth and that all men are equally precious in His sight, are fundamental postulates of our faith. Only as life is ordered in accordance with these principles of the Creator can mankind enjoy the blessings of security and peace. Accordingly we, Christian men and women, of varying persuasions and differing branches of His church, record our firm and unanimous agreement on the following statement setting forth a program of action essential to a peaceful and ordered world.

I—Win the War and Win the Chance to Build a Better World

We recognize these facts:

1. The highest values of our civilization are menaced in this war.
2. We must give our strength individually and as a nation to the winning of this war.
3. Our ultimate concern, in the war as in the peace, is with the establishment of a world order in which justice and concord may be secured.

II—A Council of the United Nations Now to Prosecute the War and Plan the Peace

We hold these convictions:

1. Justice and peace in international relations can be permanently secured only through international organization.
2. Such organization involves a continuing cooperative effort of the nations of the world, with a definite commitment of authority and power by the nations to

this organization. The United States of America should pledge its support to such a plan.

3. A Council of the United Nations should be set up now as the organ for cooperative action in prosecuting the war and in organizing the peace.

4. This Council should include all the nations now cooperating in the war effort.

5. The Council after the war should be open to those who are now neutrals, and to the present enemy nations as soon as they shall be able and willing to assume the responsibilities of such membership.

6. It is a fortunate circumstance that the United Nations now include China and Russia. The membership of China exemplifies the principle which should have general application: that membership in the Council should be world-wide without distinction as to race or limitation as to region. The membership of Russia encourages us to believe that difference of national economic and political structures need not of itself prevent international cooperation for a world order of justice and peace.

7. The United Nations should guard against domination or exploitation by the more powerful nations. They should secure to the smaller nations their due rights and proper representation. They should aid in the economic and political development of dependent peoples and safeguard the rights of minorities within the nations.

III—*Economic Cooperation by the United Nations to Raise Standards of Living Throughout the World*

Modern technology has created an interdependent world economy. We therefore maintain that an essential element in any organization of the world for peace is permanent international collaboration to improve

the standard of living among all peoples and to give to all nations access to raw materials and opportunity to trade on equal terms. Only so can the productive capacity of modern industry be fully utilized for human welfare. We believe that such cooperation will help to obviate recurrent economic depressions and so remove one of the causes of war with its appalling destruction alike of human beings and of the means of life. We believe that no people, including our own nation, can be assured of full and permanent employment, and of a satisfactory standard of living, without the general economic progress of peoples throughout the world.

IV—*Extend Democracy at Home—Eliminate Racial Discrimination—Enlarge Economic Opportunity*

1. If there is to be a world order of justice and peace, then the principles suggested above for international relations must be embodied in the life of individual nations, including our own.

2. Our people cannot mobilize for united and heartfelt effort toward a better world order unless they see it being realized in their own land. Our nation cannot take the place of leadership to which it is obligated by its resources of men and means, as well as by its ideals, if it is not loyal to those ideals in its own life. Our nation cannot adequately meet its post-war responsibilities unless it corrects its own social evils while the war is on.

3. We are concerned particularly with the problems involving civil liberties, race discrimination, and economic justice, all closely inter-related.

Our people must preserve the constitutional liberties of individuals and minority groups at the same time that they fight those who rob nations of their freedom.

The wrongs of racial and religious discrimination must be removed. We recognize the danger of anti-Semitism. We deplore the discrimination which appears in the exclusion provisions of our immigration laws. The chief racial problem of our own nation, however, is found in relation to the Negro, in the grave discrimination from which he suffers in many areas of American life.

Economic opportunity must be provided for all workers, and social security for all ages and conditions, carrying to completion plans already begun.

Only as we all work toward these ends can we secure the full life and strength and unity of our own people, and earn a place in the moral leadership of the post-war world.

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The members of the Conference, which issued the statement were as follows:

Dr. Henry A. Atkinson	Dr. Benjamin Mays
Dr. Eugene E. Barnett	Dr. Kathleen W. MacArthur
Dr. M. Searle Bates	Miss Dorothy McConnell
Prof. Brand Blanshard	Bishop Francis J. McConnell
Mrs. Walter Russell Bowie	Miss Rhoda McCulloch
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Dr. Frederick L. Fagley	Dr. Daniel A. Poling
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