

Statement of FCNL Legislative Priorities for the 104th Congress (1995 - 1996)

Approved by the FCNL General Committee, November 13, 1994

In its ongoing effort to bring spiritual values to bear on public policy decisions, the Friends Committee on National Legislation will work to make the 104th Congress more aware of creative solutions to the problems we see.

Around the world, bitter ethnic and regional conflicts continue to emerge. Questions arise over how to provide humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping, and whether the military should play a role in these tasks. The earth still suffers from misuse and lack of stewardship, and the gap between rich and poor continues to grow.

In the United States, the transition from a military to a domestic economy has stalled. Public cynicism toward government and public institutions is reaching new heights. Hatred and discrimination are growing in many forms and places. This is a time when U.S. citizens must work to foster a government that is participatory, responsive and visionary.

We encourage members of FCNL's General Committee, Friends, FCNL staff and volunteers, and like-minded people to join together in working for the following legislative priorities:

- Promote worldwide peace and justice, both by *building the institutions and nonviolent processes* that prevent and resolve conflicts, and by *responding to particular conflicts*
- Build a just, equitable, compassionate and safe society at home and abroad by *shifting federal budget priorities* away from massive military spending toward human needs
- *Halt the production and global distribution of military weaponry* to improve national and international security and advance the cause of peace

Our staff and Policy Committee are given the flexibility, within the Statement of Legislative Policy, to respond to crises and unexpected legislative opportunities. The omission of a particular issue as a legislative priority does not diminish its importance. For example, FCNL will continue its historic work with Native peoples, against the death penalty, for U.S. ratification of the Law of the Sea Treaty, and for rights of conscience.

As we work to find solutions to complex problems, Friends seek divine guidance and ask for renewed strength and hope.