

Statement of FCNL Legislative Priorities for the 103rd Congress

Approved by the FCNL General Committee, November 15, 1992

In its effort to bring spiritual values to bear on public policy decisions, the Friends Committee on National Legislation will work to make the 103rd Congress responsive to the fundamental changes taking place in the United States and the world. We face massive economic crises and increasing poverty and inequality. Recent developments in Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, the Middle East, and Africa are startling. There is a resurgence of hatred and genocide in Europe and elsewhere. At home, we are dismayed by continuing racial and economic injustice, by intolerance, and by the resulting rage and frustration symbolized by the rebellion in Los Angeles. We are alarmed by the plundering of our planet.

Nevertheless, new possibilities for constructive change are evident, both in our own land and around the world. We are resolved to seize the opportunities of this time to rebuild our communities, nurture our families, create and support agencies of hope and loving service, and restore the earth. These challenges and opportunities are complex and interrelated. We seek divine guidance in our work.

In conjunction with the 50th Anniversary Jubilee, we encourage General Committee members, Friends, and FCNL volunteers to join with the staff in working for the following legislative priorities.

FCNL will take a leadership role in:

- urging massive shifts in federal budget priorities away from military spending and toward human and environmental needs at home and abroad
- helping U.S. workers, communities, and industries transform the economies of military-dependent communities into production of goods and services useful for civilian life
- assuring that reforms in national health care policies emphasize: preventive care; accessibility; assessment, maintenance, and promotion of the health of the total population; and creation of a locally and regionally guided national health care system
- promoting treaty rights, self-determination, and religious freedom for Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians
- stopping production and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and bringing an end to military aid, arms exports, and trade in weapons of all kinds
- promoting non-military, nonviolent means of preventing and resolving civil and international conflicts, including full financial and moral support for the United Nations as an independent agency for preventive diplomacy, peace-building, and sustainable development.