

AGAINST DEPLETED URANIUM WEAPONS
(Resolution of Witness)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the United States government has admitted to the use of depleted uranium weapons in Iraq and Afghanistan AND

WHEREAS, the Parliament of the European Union has on March 13, 2003, passed a resolution to request a moratorium on the use of depleted uranium weapons AND

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut and Louisiana have passed laws to test for the presence of radiation in their veterans from the effects of exposure to depleted uranium; AND

WHEREAS, the uranium oxide depleted uranium created by the explosion of these weapons on impact remains radioactive and harmful for billions of years; AND

WHEREAS, the Pentagon has recently stated that they will not clean up depleted uranium from weapons used in Iraq; AND

WHEREAS, such radioactive weapons including depleted uranium arguably violates the Geneva Conventions on warfare; AND

WHEREAS, the use of depleted uranium violates the historic injunctions of the Christian tradition for the conduct of a "just war" AND

WHEREAS, numerous recent books and websites have pointed to the dangers of depleted uranium weapons for human health; AND

WHEREAS, Jesus in Matthew, Chapter 7, Verse 12 has given us the Golden Rule not to do to our neighbor what we would not want done to us, and to befriend the victim, and because we would not want any part of the world to become contaminated with depleted uranium particles that have the potential to cause cancer and genetic mutations in victims for thousands of years;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod of the United Church of Christ, deplores the use of depleted uranium weapons in recent conflicts in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq, AND

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod calls for a world-wide freeze on the production of depleted uranium, sale and use of depleted uranium weapons, AND

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the Twenty-sixth General Synod calls for an internationally acceptable study of the long-term health effects of battle-generated depleted uranium on our veterans and on the affected citizens in other countries.

LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that we call on the United States government to be mandated to provide health care to members of our armed forces who have been exposed to the effects of depleted uranium weapons.

FUNDING

Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

IMPLEMENTATION

Justice and Witness Ministries is requested to be the primary implementer of this resolution.