

ECONOMIC AID AND COOPERATION

A Social Document of the
ULCA



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

A Series of Statements of the United Lutheran Church in America, 1946, 1948, 1952

1946: Minutes, 15th Biennial Convention, ULCA, pp. 461, 467.

The Convention recommended:

That in view of the world's need for food, the Church encourage pastors to urge members as Christian citizens to cooperate with every reasonable effort of the government to conserve food and to minister to the material needs of people wherever the same exist.

1948: Minutes, 16th Biennial Convention, ULCA, pp. 374, 384.

The Convention requested:

That The United Lutheran Church in America urge its people to support continued appropriations by Congress of sums for the European Recovery Program sufficient to give that program a chance of success in fulfilling its purpose of rehabilitating the nations ravaged by war.

That The United Lutheran Church in America urge its people to support all proper means of furthering international trade upon which in part peace depends.

1952: Adopted by Board of Social Mission. Reported in Minutes, 18th Biennial Convention, ULCA, pp. 788-89.

The Board of Social Missions of The United Lutheran Church in America re-emphasizes its support of the principle of governmental programs of technical assistance to underdeveloped areas of the world as a means by which a part of our Christian responsibility to our fellow men might be demonstrated.

Hunger, disease, poverty, and illiteracy are the common lot of for national defense. We urge our people in the United States to correspond immediately with their Representatives and Senators in Congress asking that appropriations for Economic and Technical Aid be kept at least at the recommended level. half of the world's people. These help to create a fertile field in which the seeds of communism and war take root.

People of the underdeveloped countries are no longer content with their role as colonial subjects and are demanding justice and a better way of life. The tensions

between Communism and Western society are greatly increased by the political unrest growing out of colonialism and poverty.

In this situation Christian people have a great opportunity and responsibility to follow Christ's command to help one another by supporting the United Nations program of technical assistance, the Colombo plan of the British Empire, and the United States Point IV Program. These programs are not relief handouts, but rather the furnishing of minimal amounts of capital and goods along with major numbers of technically trained and socially skilled leaders to nations requesting such assistance in programs of self-development.

The Congress of the United States is at the present time considering the proposal for a Mutual Security Program for the fiscal year beginning in July, 1952, which calls for an appropriation of 7.9 billion dollars, broken down as follows:

- Direct Military Aid \$5,350,000,000
- Defense Support (Raw Materials) \$1,819,000,000
- Economic and Technical Aid \$656,000,000
- Administration \$75,000,000

The appropriation for economic and technical aid, which is less than 10 percent of the total, includes all appropriations for the Point IV Program. The exact amount of the Point IV budget, probably between two and three hundred million dollars, cannot now be stated. In any case it does not seem likely to be more than 5 per cent of the Mutual Security Program and less than 1 per cent of the total budget.

In addition a variety of study materials have been recommended to the churches and representation at conferences of the UNESCO and the Point IV Program have been arranged.