

# INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS POLICY

## ACTU Congress September 1989

### 1. PREAMBLE

1.1 Congress declares that all the peoples of the world have the right to self determination and the democratic election of their governments, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association in trade unions and the right to live in peace without fear of aggression or subversion by a foreign power, by military force or other means.

1.2 Congress recognises, however, that there are many obstacles to the realisation of these rights - including the arms race, the mass poverty of large sections of the world's population and the fact that many of the world's people are ruled by authoritarian governments, intolerant of their neighbours and their own people.

1.3 Congress affirms that trade unions have an important role to play in arresting and eventually eliminating the nuclear and conventional arms race, the alleviation of world poverty and the development of freer and more tolerant societies. Congress recognises that the achievement of these objectives are necessary foundations for creating a more peaceful world.

1.4 Congress notes that over the past two years significant initiatives have occurred in various parts of the world which give cause for optimism and may result in societies which are more democratic, tolerant and free.

1.5 Congress also notes however, that the overall situation gives no cause for satisfaction. Many people of the world continue to live under the harsh and authoritarian spectre of totalitarianism and indeed repression and the denial of fundamental freedoms has undeniably worsened for many since 1987.

1.6 Congress calls on all governments to respect the legitimate aspirations of people to live with dignity and with full democratic rights and freedoms. In offering support and encouragement to initiatives which may contribute to the process of democratization, Congress recognises that peace can only be a reality when all people are free.

### 2. PEACE AND DISARMAMENT

2.1 Congress is deeply conscious of the massive economic burden which excessive arms expenditure places on the world's people, diverting resources away from the improvement of living standards throughout the world. Accordingly Congress reaffirms that 'peace is union business' and recommends that all affiliates play a positive part in all peace activities aimed at securing the implementation of ACTU Policy.

2.2 Further, Congress is aware that all the advances sought by Trade Unions in employment, housing and social welfare matters, are in constant jeopardy unless they can be achieved against the background of a stable and lasting peace.

2.3 The ACTU in accordance with the ICFTU Statements on "Peace, Security and Disarmament",

(i) demands that the pursuit of peace should have priority over all political objectives.

(ii) is firmly committed to the peaceful resolution of international conflicts.

(iii) recognises the right of all the peoples of the world who are prepared to defend their freedom.

(iv) condemns the reliance on nuclear weapons which pose a threat to all human life and the earth's environment.

(v) condemns the enormous growth in the build-up of conventional weapons throughout the world.

(vi) supports national trade union policies for the abandonment of nuclear weapons in accordance with ACTU policies.

(vii) demands effective national and international control of the arms trade.

2.4 Congress notes that in the years following the 1987 Congress considerable improvements in relations between the USA and USSR have developed. Greater opportunities now exist for meaningful and positive negotiations on multi-national verifiable disarmament.

2.5 Congress welcomes the treaties between the USA and USSR to reduce nuclear weapons and conventional armed forces. We also declare our support for a positive outcome in relation to the proposal for a treaty between the USSR and the USA for a total nuclear test ban and for further reductions in conventional weapons.

2.6 In pursuit of further progress the ACTU calls on the Federal Government to:

(i) use all possible influence with nuclear weapons States to bring about an end to the nuclear arms race and the elimination of nuclear weapons;

(ii) encourage meaningful negotiations leading to multilateral and verifiable disarmament under the international control through the U.N. Disarmament Commission, the Disarmament Committee, the MBFR Talks, the CSCE, and the Geneva Disarmament Talks;

(iii) press for the withdrawal and termination of production of SS 20 missiles by the U.S.S.R. and the abandonment of the production and development by the U.S.A. and its allies of Cruise and Pershing II missiles and the production of enhanced radiation (neutron) weapons;

(iv) support the maintenance, strengthening and universal acceptance of the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT);

(v) work in the United Nations and all disarmament negotiating forums for the drawing up of a treaty to ban all nuclear testing by all States in all environments for all time;

(vi) seek universal agreement on an end to the production of fissionable materials for weapons purposes;

(vii) work vigorously for the drawing up of a treaty, for universal adherence, which would stop the acceleration of the arms race by stopping the deployment of weapons in outer space.

(viii) work vigorously for the drawing up of a treaty, for universal adherence, which would outlaw the production, storage and use of chemical and bacteriological weapons;

(ix) argue for agreement on the creation and progressive enlargement of nuclear free zones;

(x) take initiatives in the United Nations and directly with other States designed to reduce sharply the arms trade whether overt, covert, or illegal;

(xi) support moves by the United Nations to bring about an overall reduction in military budgets and to divert such resources from military expenditure to developmental and other economically productive activities.

2.7 Congress reaffirms previous decisions in opposition to the use of nuclear weapons, for the outlawing of research into and introduction of new forms of nuclear weapons, including neutron bombs, and for agreed upon dismantling of all existing stockpiled nuclear weapons to be mutually supervised by the major world powers and for the outlawing of production of chemical and bacteriological weapons.

2.8 In pursuit of this objective Congress resolves that all affiliates should continue their public involvement in explaining and winning supporting for the declaration of the ACTU Federal Unions Conference of June 1982, on "Peace and Disarmament".

2.9 Congress also expresses concern at the continued French testing of nuclear weapons in the Pacific and reaffirms policy opposed to such tests.

### 3. EDUCATION FOR PEACE AND DISARMAMENT

3.1 Congress, notes the decision of the UN Special Sessions on Disarmament 1978 and 1982 relating to the World Disarmament Campaign as follows:

"With a view to contributing to a greater understanding and awareness of the problems created by the armaments race and the need for disarmament, Governments and governmental

and non-governmental international organisations are urged to take steps to develop programs of education for disarmament and at all levels".

3.2 Congress re-affirms the decision on peace education adopted by the ACTU Special Unions Conference on Disarmament, held on June 9, 1982.

3.3 Congress draws to the attention of all Governmental and non-Governmental Educational Administrations, employing authorities, and tertiary institutions, the need for priority to be given to planning for the proper allocation of such resources.

3.4 Calls for active and public expressions of support from these authorities, to encourage teachers, parents and students' initiatives in promoting Education for Peace and Disarmament, while at the same time giving a prominent place to in-service and pre-service courses for professional development.

3.5 Calls as well to the attention of such educational instrumentalities as State and Municipal Libraries, audio-visual centres, book and computer software, publishing bodies and other agencies involved in the production and dissemination of materials, the urgent need for such resources as will meet the growing demand for Peace and Disarmament Studies. In this area too, Congress sees that the U.N. Information Office has a special role to play.

3.6 Congress believes:

(i) that Peace and Disarmament Education should:

(a) help students understand some of the complex processes leading to tension and conflict at individual, group, national and global levels, and be aware of some of the ways in which these conflicts may be resolved. Such approaches should foster a critical attitude to the issues of peace and war;

(b) encourage attitudes that lead to a preference for constructive and non-violent resolution of conflict; and,

(c) help students develop the personal and social attitudes and skills necessary to live in harmony with others and to behave in positive and caring ways;

(ii) that disarmament and the use of the world's resources for peaceful purposes cannot be omitted from Peace Education;

(iii) that the issues of human rights, social justice, equitable access to resources, and discrimination on grounds of race, age, gender, ability or belief cannot be separated from Peace and Disarmament Education;

(iv) that methods of teaching and learning about Peace and Disarmament issues and the environment in which they take place are as important as the content itself;

(v) that the release of student initiative and creativeness

is essential to combat the feeling of powerlessness.

#### 4. SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS AND COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS

4.1 Congress reaffirms its support to the United Nations and its agencies and to the ideals embodied in the United Nations Charter, and stresses the need to ensure the effectiveness of the United Nations as an organisation capable of assisting in the process of the attainment of world peace and justice, thus facilitating and fostering advancement to all member nations.

4.2 Congress acknowledges the role of the Commonwealth of Nations in furthering understanding between the peoples of those nations within its membership, and expresses the hope that the Commonwealth in so doing will positively advance the cause of world peace. Congress welcomes ACTU participation in the Commonwealth Trade Union Council.

#### 5. HUMAN AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS

5.1 Congress recognises that the question of human rights is a legitimate international concern, transcending national boundaries, and rejects attempts to describe a concern for abuses of human rights as interference in the internal affairs of other States.

5.2 Congress pledges its support for the achievement of basic human rights, including:

- (i) Freedom from want
- (ii) The release of all non-violent political prisoners
- (iii) The right of all workers to organise free trade unions
- (iv) The right to free and democratic election by ballot
- (v) Freedom of speech
- (vi) Freedom of assembly
- (vii) Freedom of religious worship
- (viii) A free Press, and
- (ix) Freedom to demonstrate and protest in a democratic fashion.

5.3 Implicit in the support for basic human rights is the outright rejection and abhorrence by Congress of any form of discrimination on the grounds of:

race  
colour  
sex  
marital status  
sexual orientation

age  
religion  
political opinion  
national extraction, or  
social origin.

5.4 Accordingly, the ACTU declares that the right to food, shelter, health care, economic security and education are fundamental pre-conditions to human survival and dignity, and that the ideal of free human beings enjoying freedom from fear and want can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby everyone can enjoy economic, social and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights.

5.5 The establishment and defence of these rights are essential to free societies and the achievement of peace.

5.6 Congress recognises, however, that the 'peace' of the vanquished or hopelessly oppressed is not true peace.

5.7 As a positive expression of the importance placed on Human Rights by the Trade Union Movement, Congress actively supports the work of Amnesty International in its efforts to identify political, including trade union prisoners and to campaign for their release.

5.8 Congress deplores violations of human rights whenever and wherever they occur, irrespective of the ideology of the government or society which perpetrates them, and shall not be selective in opposing such violations.

5.9 Congress also declares full support for campaigns designed to focus world attention on nations which persist with forms of repression against the development of free trade unionism.

5.10 Congress records its condemnation of those regimes responsible for the unwarranted imprisonment of tens of thousands of active trade unionists, and those others subjected to torture and to exile.

5.11 The ACTU acknowledges with deep sorrow the death and disappearance of many of our colleagues of trade unionism within their own countries - ideals which elsewhere are the accepted right of organised labour.

5.12 Congress expresses deep concern that elementary trade unionism is being denied and suppressed in many parts of the world, and that existence of indescribable poverty, most evident in the Third World, represents an enormous barrier to the development of any form of trade unionism.

5.13 Congress calls on the Federal Government, through the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to report to Parliament on an annual basis on abuses of, and advances in human and trade union rights in nations in which Australia has development and aid interests and in which Australian companies have investments.

## 6. SUPPRESSION OF UNIONISTS

6.1 Congress noting the suppression of the trade union movement in different parts of the world, particularly in emerging nations, and recognising that Australia currently supplies economic and cultural aid to these sovereign nations, calls upon the Australian Government to consider the cancellation of economic assistance to those Governments who do not observe ILO Conventions and who are taking illegitimate action against a properly constituted trade union movement. Further, Congress calls upon the Australian Government to initiate a financial scheme of assistance to those nations so that a properly constituted and balanced union movement can develop; the ACTU to be involved in that scheme by providing personnel with the necessary trade union experience, to give adequate assistance.

## 7. INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION RELATIONS

7.1 Congress reaffirms the need to continue its affiliation with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions as a demonstration of the Australian Trade Union Movement's strong desire to promote, cultivate and strengthen the cause of international trade union solidarity, and as a means whereby our Movement can legitimately participate and contribute in the international trade union areas.

7.2 Congress also reaffirms the need to maintain affiliation to the Asian and Pacific Regional Organisation of the ICFTU and endorses the establishment in 1989 of a representative trade union organisation for our region, the South Pacific and Oceanic Council of Trade Unions (SPOCTU).

7.3 Congress supports continuing affiliation to the Trade Union Advisory Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, in recognition of the importance of the role of this Body, representing as it does the major industrialised countries of the world with which Australia has a close economic relationship.

7.4 Further, believing that contacts between trade union organisations is desirable and necessary for better understanding between people of all countries, Congress endorses the principle of exchange visits between genuine representative Trade Union movements.

7.5 Congress being cognisant of the unique geographical and historical position of Australia and changing world circumstances believes it appropriate in some instances to undertake visits in connection with some trade union centres conceived as having some special significance in terms of the interests of this country.

## 8. FOREIGN AID

8.1 The ACTU believes that the elimination of poverty and its causes in the Third World is a humanitarian responsibility.

8.2 Congress is concerned at the fall in the percentage of GNP devoted by the Australian Government as aid to developing and under-developed countries. We call for the

Federal Government to raise substantially the amount devoted to foreign aid within the life of the next Parliament.

8.3 Congress also notes that Australia is also unique in that the bulk of foreign aid is in the form of cash grants which are classified as untied.

8.4 Whilst untied cash grants are an admirable facet of Australia's aid program it is also a fact that much of this aid has been used to finance imports from sources other than Australia.

8.5 In addition to untied cash grants to developing countries, the Federal Government should give every consideration to providing aid in goods and services from Australia, provided that those goods and services are consistent with satisfying the expressed needs of recipient nations.

8.6 In supporting the concept of overseas humanitarian aid programs, Congress affirms its strong belief that such programs should be based upon long term solutions rather than short term aid, and should include the principle of:

- (i) solidarity amongst workers
- (ii) self help through training programs
- (iii) self reliance and independence
- (iv) direct involvement of Australian workers' skills

8.7 Further, Congress believes that Australia's developing and emergency assistance program should have a clearly identifiable component to assist workers in the Third World to acquire relevant trade, technical, managerial and professional skills.

8.8 APHEDA

(i) Recognising the responsibilities of the Australian trade union movement and its members towards those countries and regions of the world where men and women workers are disadvantaged through such causes as poverty, under-development and civil disruption, Congress endorses the ACTU Executive decision to establish APHEDA (Australian People for Health, Education and Development Abroad) as the official overseas humanitarian aid arm of the ACTU.

(ii) Congress affirms the work undertaken on behalf of, and in direct co-operation with the Australian trade union movement, of its official overseas humanitarian aid arm, APHEDA (Australian People for Health, Education and Development Abroad).

(iii) Congress records its appreciation of the steady growth of APHEDA's project work, outside and within Australia, which has facilitated work and skills training programs for over five hundred men and women workers in essential areas such as health, education and other technical training programs across a variety of countries marked by poverty, under-development and civil disruption.

(iv) Congress calls upon all ACTU branches and affiliates to co-operate fully in promoting the work of APHEDA, by membership at affiliate and individual levels, wide publicity, donations and direct involvement in specific overseas aid programs.

(v) Congress recognises that assistance to the economies of Third World societies is a vital requirement for the creation of democratic societies. Democracies are more stable on a full stomach than on an empty one. In relation to this issue the Federal Government should be careful to ensure that aid for butter is not converted into money for the purchase of guns, and that projects financed are closely monitored and supported to minimise the chances of corruption and to maximise the chances of success. Further, Congress believes that development assistance should be provided on flexible terms according to the level of need and the likelihood of aid reaching the poorest in recipient countries.

#### 8.9 Development Education

(i) Congress recognises the importance of increased community understanding about Australia's international role, especially in the areas of aid and development programmes with nations of the Third World.

(ii) Development Education in formal and non-formal education systems, is a key instrument in this process. It provides informed analysis and understanding of the underlying causes of underdevelopment and poverty amongst nations and peoples of the world. It shows the links that exist between such questions as economic growth, human and worker rights, development, affluence, the arms race and global interdependence.

(iii) Congress endorses the call from the Jackson Committee of Review of Australia's Aid Programs, to upgrade significantly the teaching of Development Education at all levels. Congress specifically requests of Federal and State Education Ministers, Education and Training Authorities and Systems, that they give priority in allocating resources, in response to this call.

(iv) Congress calls on the Federal Government through its relevant institutions to review existing processes by which skills training for workers in the Third World can play a more significant role in the philosophy and implementation of its aid program.

#### 8.10 ACTU Action

(i) The ACTU will seek the Federal Government's support for:

(a) the provision of development assistance on flexible terms according to the level of need and the likelihood of aid reaching the poorest in recipient countries.

(b) a commitment to achieving the UN target of 0.7% of

gross national product for official development assistance, with an eventual target of 1%.

(c) consulting the ACTU and community aid groups concerning "The Report of the Committee to Review the Australian Overseas Aid Program" (The Jackson Report).

(d) the review of assistance to non-government organisations through ADAB to ensure that it is brought back to the 1985/86 financial year level of 1% of the overall aid vote.

(e) a continued financial commitment to the overseas aid program.

## 9. REFUGEES

9.1 Congress expresses deep concern at the global growth of the international refugee problem apparent in Africa, Latin America, South-East Asia, the Eastern Mediterranean and the Pacific, and notes that official estimates place the current number of refugees and other displaced persons as high as 12 million people.

9.2 Congress believes that Australia, as a signatory to the 1951 Geneva Convention and 1967 Protocol relating to the status of refugees, and as a member of the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees Executive Committee, has a special responsibility towards refugees and believes Australia's record in this regard - the acceptance and resettlement of more than 400,000 over the past thirty years - has earned this nation the respect of the international community.

9.3 Congress accepts the general definition of refugees contained in the 1951 Convention (and later amended in the Protocol in 1967) as applying to any person who:

"owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group of political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it."

9.4 Congress supports the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and commends the work of this U.N. agency in its provision of legal protection and assistance to refugees and for the assistance rendered in their repatriation or resettlement.

## 10. POLITICAL ASYLUM

10.1 Congress asserts that political bias or expediency have no place in the proper consideration of any appeal for political asylum which arises out of desperate human need and thus has an entitlement to be dealt with by the

Government of the day on the basis of principle and elementary justice.

10.2 Congress adopts as policy the following points of principle to be applied under all circumstances with the request that the principles be formally adopted by the Australian Government immediately:

- (i) Any plea for political asylum must in the first instance be presumed to be genuine - no claim to be summarily rejected.
- (ii) Immediate conditional acceptance by the Government of the day in no way pronounces on the merits of the appeal; it simply extends the benevolent protection of the State for the period of assessing the validity of the claim.
- (iii) The claim is entitled to sympathetic consideration, the fundamental factor being the preservation of the basic human rights and dignity of the applicant. Humane considerations of the issues involved must not in any way be subordinated to strict legalistic forms and technicalities.
- (iv) If, upon investigation, there is considered to be any possibility of the loss of basic human rights and liberties to the applicant arising from a rejection on his appeal, the request to be freely and generously granted.
- (v) While the investigation is being made, no representative from the applicant's country of origin be given access unless requested by the applicant.
- (vi) Whether or not the State from which the applicant is seeking refuge is an ally is irrelevant. Circumstances often necessitate alliances between democratic and dictatorship regimes which are based on mutual self-interest, but which in no way condone tyrannous and oppressive practices.
- (vii) No appeal shall be rejected on the grounds of race, creed or colour.

## 11. UNION ACTION

11.1 Congress believes that the trade unions of all countries can play a positive role in the prevention of war as a solution to international conflict. This can be facilitated by the ACTU participating in international conferences of trade unions to plan ways to develop international solidarity for peace among workers, thus indicating to all respective governments, workers' abhorrence of war and of the expenditure on the arms economy at the cost of their living standards.

11.2 The ACTU will:

- (i) support the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) to which the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) is affiliated in its endeavours to foster the formation and development of free trade unions. Such support could involve the training of third world trade

union leaders in Australia and an increase in financial support by the ACTU to the ICFTU, particularly in the Pacific and South East Asian countries.

(ii) urge affiliated unions to provide advisory assistance and training in such areas as the development of co-operatives and other related socio-economic services for the trade unions in our region.

(iii) encourage through ACTU representatives on the National Council of TUTA the allocation of more resources to sponsoring unionists from South East Asia and the Pacific to attend specialist courses at the Clyde Cameron College.

In addition the ACTU in conjunction with TUTA should arrange visits to appropriate fraternal unions and/or peak Councils by union officials from our Region attending TUTA courses.

(iv) continue discussions with the Federal Government concerning the provision of funding for the development by the ACTU of projects of assistance to unions in South East Asia and the Pacific.

(v) continue initiatives in respect to trade union organisation in the Pacific region.

(vi) support Amnesty International's request to world governments to release political prisoners, who are frequently imprisoned for trade union activity.

(vii) call on Australian trade union officials to raise in overseas visits, the plight of gaoled or missing unionists to the governments or trade union organisations which they meet.

(viii) Congress recommends to the ACTU Executive that it allocate a portion of the International Fund to provide educational organisational aids to trade unions in developing countries in our region and to implementing policy and to developing appropriate campaigns and strategies against suppression of unionists in countries in the Asian region.

(ix) demand that the Australian Government condemn human rights violations wherever they occur.

(x) Campaign to inform workers and the public at large of the policies of the ACTU and the trade union movement generally concerning the achievement of peace and disarmament.

## PART B

### Resolutions - Region, Country and Issue Specific

#### 12. AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND/OCEANIA TRADE UNION CO-OPERATION

12.1 Congress endorses the initiatives taken in conferences with representatives from a number of Pacific Countries calling for a Nuclear Free Pacific and organisation to

achieve that result and the proposals of those Conferences relating to this question.

12.2 Congress endorses the initiatives of the Unions in the region, together with the ICFTU, in establishing a regional trade union organisational structure, the South Pacific and Oceanic Council of Trade Unions (SPOCTU). Congress notes that the SPOCTU will function to facilitate and co-ordinate programmes of practical assistance to developing trade union organisations within the region and it will also have the capacity to articulate a trade union perspective on regional issues of concern.

### 13. CO-OPERATION WITH NEW ZEALAND

13.1 Congress gives full and continuing support to the Australian New Zealand Trade Union Consultative Council (ANZTUCC) as a constructive vehicle for the long-standing close and cordial relationship maintained between the Australian and New Zealand Trade Union Movements. Congress believes the mutuality of interests between our two countries, and to the interests of this region, is best served by the closest possible interchange of ideas and viewpoints, and places on record its satisfaction as to the existing relationship between the ACTU and the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions.

### 14. CO-OPERATION WITH PAPUA NEW GUINEA

14.1 Congress believes that Australia should maintain the closest possible friendly relations with the people of Papua New Guinea to assist them to sustain a truly independent and democratic nation, a peaceful foreign policy, and a soundly based economy.

14.2 Congress acknowledges the close fraternal links already existing between the ACTU and the Papua New Guinea Trade Union Congress and considers the further development of these links by the ACTU and Australian unionists should rank as a high priority, believing that a soundly based effective and militant trade union organisation is essential for the workers in light of the increasing interest being manifested by overseas investment interest. Congress notes and congratulates the PNGTUC for its recent efforts which have resulted in rapid growth and development.

14.3 The PNGTUC has identified the need for substantial and specific assistance in the areas of trade union organisation and education, and Congress believes this assistance must be forthcoming from the Australian Trade Union Movement.

14.4 Congress therefore authorises the ACTU Executive to provide whatever assistance it deems appropriate which is consistent with this policy.

### 15. EAST TIMOR

15.1 Congress recognises the inalienable right of the East Timorese people to self determination and independence and

condemns the Indonesian annexation of East Timor.

15.2 Congress calls on the Australian Labor government to continue to support the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General to promote negotiations for a peaceful settlement in East Timor. It notes that such negotiations should include not only the governments of Indonesia and Portugal but also representatives of the East Timorese people.

15.3 Congress notes the refusal of Indonesian authorities to allow journalists, Amnesty International, aid organisations and other independent observers free access to East Timor and calls on the Indonesia authorities to allow such access.

15.4 Congress notes the re-establishment of a radio link between Darwin and resistance forces inside East Timor. It urges the Australian Labor Government to grant a licence to allow this radio link to operate and thus provide journalists, and other interested bodies and individuals the right to speak to the resistance forces to gain their views on the situation in East Timor.

## 16. FIJI

16.1 Congress reaffirms its unreserved condemnation of the military coups of 1987 and the subsequent installation of a military-backed regime.

16.2 Congress deplores the continuing denial of basic human rights, including trade union rights, in Fiji. Particularly reprehensible is the recently announced decision of the Fijian authorities to amend trade union legislation in order to remove the existing rights of several categories of public sector employees from joining and belonging to trade unions and their right to take collective action, including the right to strike.

16.3 Congress also deplores the fact that the coups have served to decimate the Fijian economy with disastrous effects on the lives and living standards of Fijian workers and their families.

16.4 Congress supports the findings and recommendations of the January 1988 ICFTU Mission and the principles of the 1970 Constitution which provides for a recognition of basic rights, and specifically trade union rights in line with ILO Conventions and standards.

16.5 Congress calls on the Fijian authorities to honour the undertakings given to the ACTU and NZFOL in July 1987 by the then Governor General, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau; and to honour also the undertakings in relation to trade union rights given freely on behalf of the authorities to the ICFTU Mission by the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Mr Taniela Veitata.

16.6 Congress calls on the Australian Government to take initiatives designed to encourage the restoration of full democratic rights in Fiji, including the withdrawal of aid and its restoration being subject to progress in relation to

human and trade union rights.

16.7 Congress pledges its solidarity with the FTUC and the workers of Fiji and conveys the commitment of the ACTU to continue to work with the ICFTU and regional trade union organisations in order to secure justice.

## 17. INDEPENDENCE FOR PACIFIC ISLANDS PEOPLES

17.1 Congress supports the right to self determination and independence for all colonised and exploited Pacific Islands' peoples.

17.2 In particular, Congress supports the growing demand for independence from France for the people of New Caledonia, recognising the prior and rightful claims and interests of the Kanak people.

17.3 Without independence, the people of New Caledonia will continue to suffer at the hands of the multi-national and colonial forces who now control and exploit their natural resources, economic and cultural lives.

17.4 Congress strongly opposes the plans of the French Government to establish a major naval base near Noumea, New Caledonia, which would service nuclear-armed warships, submarines and plans.

## 18. INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE

18.1 Congress endorses the concept of the Indian Ocean being declared a Zone of Peace and supports trade union activity devoted towards achieving that objective.

## 19. INDO-CHINA

19.1 Congress acknowledges the continued problem of refugees leaving the countries of Indo-China - in particular Vietnam - and its attendant effect of the creation of severe political socio-economic and security problems for other countries and territories in South-East Asia, with the potential for a possible destabilising effect on the region.

19.2 Congress maintains that the Australian people have no humanitarian or practical alternative but to continue to play a part in the resettlement of refugees from Indo-China. However, Congress again stresses that resettlement programs must take full account of current levels of unemployment in Australia, and intakes should be consistent with the capacity of the economy to provide the necessary educational, social welfare and health supports required.

19.3 Congress notes that Australian development aid to Vietnam was abruptly ended by the Fraser government in early 1979, after Vietnamese troops overthrew the murderous Pol Pot regime in Cambodia. The aid program has not been re-established, pending an end to the Vietnamese presence in Cambodia.

19.4 Congress notes that the last Vietnamese troops will leave Cambodia by the end of this year. We strongly urge the Australian Government to restore normal government-to-government relations and provide development aid to both Vietnam and Cambodia, without delay.

19.5 Both countries have long suffered from war, international isolation, and in Cambodia's case, genocide. They are among the poorest nations in the world. We believe the Australian government cannot reasonably argue for the forced repatriation of 'economic' refugees back to Indo-China without first providing the development and humanitarian assistance so urgently needed to improve the economic situation and living conditions in these countries.

19.6 Congress is concerned at Australian government statements which suggest that aid to Vietnam would not be restored before a "...satisfactory settlement of the Cambodia situation." Such a condition, beyond Vietnam withdrawing its troops and advisers, is to in effect require Vietnam to pressure the Cambodian parties.

19.7 Even worse, such an approach implies that Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge forces, clearly the major stumbling block to a solution, should be included in a Cambodian settlement. The Khmer Rouge murdered between one and two million Cambodians from 1975 to 1979. They should not be forced on the country again.

19.8 Further to this, we urge the Australian Government to take all possible steps to bring Pol Pot and his cohorts to justice for their crimes, in an appropriate international legal forum.

19.9 We therefore call on the United Nations to withdraw recognition of the Pol Pot regime and to leave the Cambodian seat at the UN vacant until there is a political solution in Cambodia.

19.10 Congress endorsed the Australian Government's decision to continue aid to the Lao People's Democratic Republic and its decision to construct a bridge across the Mekong River linking Thailand and Laos.

## 20. LATIN AMERICA

20.1 Congress reaffirms its condemnation of the totalitarian regimes in Chile and many other Central and South American countries, noting the unrelenting imprisonment and torture of innocent people, the denial of freedom of association, and numerous other acts of oppression.

20.2 The ACTU reaffirms its condemnation of the repressive regimes in Latin America and supports initiatives of the I.C.F.T.U. directed towards opposing such regimes and assisting Trade Unionists deprived of basic rights.

20.3 The ACTU is particularly concerned about:

(i) Central America

Congress notes with extreme regret that conflict continues to take place in Central America. In expressing our hope that genuine efforts will be made to reach early, negotiated solutions based on the Arias Peace Plan, Congress continues to call for an end to all military assistance to El Salvador and the Nicaraguan "Contras" and for an end to attempts to destabilise the Nicaraguan economy. The ACTU calls on the Australian Government to give appropriate aid to help the Nicaraguan economy. In the establishment of a dialogue between the parties to the conflicts, we call for measures that will provide for the establishment of truly democratic and pluralistic societies which respect fundamental human and trade union rights. Congress expresses its deep concern at the widespread persistence of human and trade union rights violations and the continuation of uncontrolled criminal actions. Congress considers the turmoil in Central America to be the product of political authoritarianism, injustice, poverty and corruption which can only be addressed by fundamental political change in a climate of peace.

(ii) Chile

This Congress declares its total support for the ongoing struggle for the restoration of democratic and trade union rights. We condemn the continued violation of human rights and the repression of the popular movement by the military dictatorship of Chile. We demand the immediate release of the leaders of the Chilean Trade Union Movement (CTU) Manuel Bustos and Arturo Martinez. We assure our Chilean brothers and sisters of our continued solidarity.

20.4 Finally, Congress reaffirms its full support for the people of Central and South America living under totalitarian regimes in their struggle for self-determination.

21. MIDDLE EAST

21.1 Congress calls for the cessation of all military aggression within Lebanon and for the implementation of the decisions of the United Nations that require the withdrawal of foreign military forces from that country.

21.2 Consistent with U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 Congress supports the right of Israel to exist in peace and security and the right of self determination for the Palestinian people, including their right, if they so choose, to independence and their own independent state.

21.3 Congress seeks a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East. Accordingly, Congress calls for the solution of the Middle East problems by convening a conference of concerned States, including representatives of the Palestinian people, under United Nations supervision. The Conference to seek a declaration which would respect the national sovereignty of all nations.

22. NAMIBIA

22.1 Congress endorses the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2145 of 1966 which reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Namibia to self-determination, freedom and independence; terminated South Africa's mandate and placed Namibia under the direct control of the United Nations.

22.2 Congress endorses also United Nations Security Council Resolution 269 of 1969 which recognised the legitimate right of the people of Namibia to struggle against South African authorities illegally occupying their land and calling for moral and material aid from all States to assist the Namibian people in their struggle, and determining that South Africa's continued occupation of Namibia was an aggressive encroachment of United Nations authority, a violation of the territorial integrity, and a denial of the political sovereignty of the Namibian people and, therefore, called for South Africa to immediately withdraw from the territory.

22.3 Congress also endorses United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3111 of 1973 which recognises the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) as the sole and authentic representative of the people of Namibia.

22.4 Congress further endorses United Nations Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978 which determined that the decolonisation of Namibia should be achieved by the conduct of free and fair elections under the supervision and control of the United Nations.

22.5 Congress notes that the Australian Government has a particular responsibility to assist in the decolonisation process in Namibia by virtue of its membership of the United Nations Council for Namibia.

22.6 Congress therefore calls upon the Australian Government to:

(i) Support financially the Australian office of SWAPO.

(ii) Introduce a comprehensive ban on the importation of Namibian products and discourage Australian firms from investing in Namibia.

(iii) Increase its financial support to enable SWAPO-nominated students to study in Australia.

(iv) Demand the unconditional release of all SWAPO political prisoners.

(v) Strengthen its efforts to ensure full implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 435.

22.7 Congress also calls upon the incoming Executive to:

(i) Examine means of developing effective communication and liaison with representatives of the National Union of Namibian Workers including consideration of ways and means of fostering contacts including the possible invitation of a

fraternal visit to Australia if practical.

(ii) Encourage facilities to provide moral and material support to the SWAPO office in Australia.

(iii) Encourage affiliates to support the victims of Apartheid Material Assistance Campaign launched by the Seamens Union.

## 23. NORTHERN IRELAND

23.1 This Congress expresses concern at the continuing violence in Northern Ireland and calls upon the parties to enter into meaningful negotiations in a genuine endeavour to achieve lasting peace in that country.

## 24. NUCLEAR FREE PACIFIC

24.1 This Congress once again unreservedly condemns the nuclear testing and the dumping of nuclear waste in the Pacific, and supports the New Zealand labour movement in its major contribution to the establishment of a Nuclear Free Pacific and the promotion of nuclear disarmament and world peace. It moreover proclaims the rights of people and their trade unions through the democratic process to set such anti-nuclear policies as are in accord with the wishes of their peoples.

24.2 Recognising that world peace and disarmament are the most pressing problems facing the world today, Congress calls upon ACTU affiliates to pursue with vigour and further development the already considerable policies in that field which the ICFTU has formulated, and to press upon the world community the necessity to utilise the available resources for economic development to alleviate and eradicate poverty everywhere.

## 25. PHILIPPINES

25.1 This Congress re-affirms support for the right of workers in all countries to organise and bargain as members of free trade unions and resolves that the ACTU will take all necessary steps through the ICFTU and the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs to support fundamental trade union rights in the Philippines.

25.2 Congress notes that since the overthrow and exile of the corrupt dictator Marcos the Government of President Aquino has had to face a corrupt infrastructure, a military which has mounted several failed coup attempts and a continuing NPA insurgency. Violence continues to threaten trade union leaders of both the TUCP and the KMU. Congress calls for an end to all political violence in the Philippines and implores the Aquino Government to undertake further political, economic and social changes which are necessary to bring justice and an end to the political strife and guerilla warfare which continues to plague the country. We pledge our continuing support of the democratic trade union movement of the Philippines in its struggle for

trade union rights and social and economic justice.

25.3 Congress notes that a number of Australian companies have subsidiaries in the Philippines and their actions in regard to their employees have at times been questionable.

25.4 We call on Australian companies involved in the Philippines to negotiate in a proper manner with their employees and refrain from sheltering behind the oppressive legislation of the Philippines Government.

## 26. POLAND

26.1 Congress warmly welcomes the moves towards freedom and democracy which are taking place in Poland.

26.2 In particular Congress notes with strong approval the :

Legislation of Solidarity

Right for Lech Walesa to travel relatively freely within Poland and internationally

Holding of free and fair elections for the Senate and partially free elections for Sejm.

Extensions of freedom of the press, religion, association and movement.

26.3 Congress calls upon the Polish Government to continue along the path it has laid until all the people of Poland enjoy total freedom, peace and democratic government.

26.4 Congress resolves that the ACTU, in close consultation with Solidarity will seek to persuade the Australian Government, community and trade union movement to take whatever steps are practical and necessary to preserve and enhance freedom and democracy in Poland including the provision of immediate direct material and food aid.

## 27. SOUTH AFRICA

27.1 Recognising that:

(i) apartheid has been declared by the U.N. General Assembly as a "crime against humanity", and

(ii) certain cosmetic changes made by the South African Government in the areas of parliamentary representation and sexual relations across the colour bar do not alter the fundamental economic and political basis of apartheid.

27.2 Congress reaffirms existing A.C.T.U. policy on South Africa and endorses the resolutions adopted by the A.C.T.U. Executive on May 23, 1985, which read as follows: -

(a) Code of Conduct for Australian Companies with commercial interests in South Africa:

The ACTU strongly supports the Government's total

rejection of apartheid as a basic affront to the dignity of the people and a violation of human rights. The ACTU supports the call for the UN Security Council (upon which Australia is now represented) to adopt mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa and urges the Government to support such a move. The Executive, having considered the Government's proposed Code of Conduct, resolves to meet with Foreign Minister Hayden as a matter of urgency to discuss amendments which would require more detailed monitoring of the activities of such companies.

(b) Liaison with Black Trade Unions:

The ACTU undertakes to take what steps are practicable for itself directly or through its affiliates, to attempt to establish an ongoing basis for consultation with black trade unions in South Africa on the Code and its possible application.

(c) Australian Companies in South Africa:

The ACTU will prepare and distribute a list of Australian companies in South Africa with a view to facilitating the monitoring of such companies in South Africa, and developing a basis for a report on the outcome of such monitoring to the Executive and consideration of any co-ordinated action."

27.3 SPECIFICALLY the ACTU Executive declares:

(i) That it supports and commends the campaign by maritime and stevedoring unions to enforce U.N. oil sanctions against the South African Government.

(ii) That a meeting of airline industry unions will be convened to consider ways and means of taking action against South African Airlines.

(iii) That a meeting will be convened of unions with membership in the distribution, telecommunications and transport industries to give effect to requests for action to refuse the handling of any goods to and from South Africa and to refuse to handle all telecommunications to and from South Africa.

(iv) That a meeting of building unions be also convened to consider activity by the Building Industry Unions.

(v) That a resolution condemning the racist regime of South Africa and its brutal and intimidatory attacks on innocent people be conveyed to the South African Ambassador in Australia.

(vi) That the ACTU continue to compile the list of Australian companies with operation in South Africa. Further, that the ACTU write to each of the companies concerned advising them that they are on the list issued by the U.N., and seeking from each:

- (a) The extent of such involvement in South Africa;
- (b) Whether they are complying with the principles embodied in the various Codes of Conduct; and

- (c) Their attitude to the policy of Apartheid, and that such replies to be referred to unions in South Africa for verification.

(vii) That the Governments (Federal and State) be asked to:

immediately examine their purchasing policies to ensure that no arrangements continue to exist with Australian companies trading with or operating in South Africa.

that the Australian Government be asked to consider provision of monetary incentives to those companies substantially affected by inhibition of trade with South Africa to enable them to establish new export markets in order to protect the jobs of Australian workers.

(viii) That the ACTU will seek to develop effective communication and liaison with representatives of the black African union movement and to this end requires the incoming Executive and Officers to give consideration to ways and means of fostering contacts including the possible invitation of a fraternal visit to Australia if practical.

27.4 The ACTU calls on its affiliates, State Branches and Provincial Councils to take actions, as appropriate, to give effect to the ILO Recommendations and Actions, endorsed by the ACTU, and the proposed actions specifically referring to the Australian situation.

27.5 The ACTU recognises that for the campaign to be successful action will need to be taken on an international basis. Nevertheless, there are certain actions which the Australian trade union movement should immediately take and these have been enumerated in this statement.

27.6 Finally, the Executive determines that for the campaign in Australia to be successful it will need to be co-ordinated by the ACTU. Therefore our constituents are requested to regularly advise the ACTU office urgently of actions and developments in their respective areas, including details of reliable information or contacts concerning observation of the practice of Australian companies operating in South Africa.

27.8 Congress commends the Australian Government for:

(i) co-sponsoring resolution 39/72G of the U.N. General Assembly which voices a call to "prohibit financial loans to and new investments in South Africa as well as all promotion of trade with South Africa", and

(ii) calling on the U.N. Security Council to issue a final warning to South Africa to withdraw from its occupation of Namibia, consistent with U.N. Resolution 435.

27.9 Congress authorises the ACTU Executive to develop a campaign of action, consistent with this resolution, including appropriate boycotts on the handling of South African products.

27.10 Congress calls on the Australian Government to:

(i) facilitate the visits of South African trade unionists to Australia for trade union training and meetings with Australian trade unionists;

(ii) demand the immediate unconditional release of Nelson Mandela, an imprisoned leader of the South African black people, and all political prisoners;

(iii) downgrade diplomatic representation on both sides between Australia and South Africa if real progress is not made toward dismantling of apartheid;

(iv) strengthen its sanctions against South African Government by

(a) prohibiting the South African Government owned South African Airways from operating in Australia;

(b) require the Foreign Investment Review Board to reveal publicly all South African investment in Australia;

(v) strengthen its support for the decolonisation of Namibia by

(a) endorsing the United Nations policy of recognising the South West African Peoples Organisations (SWAPO) as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people;

(b) contributing as a member of the United Nations Council for Namibia by financially supporting the SWAPO office in Australia; and

(vi) allocate funds, through its overseas development assistance program, to the ACTU's overseas aid organisation - APHEDA -for the training of workers from SWAPO and the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) in appropriate technical areas in Australia.

27.11 Congress expresses concern at the actions of agencies of the South African Government in distributing material to the Australian public and educational institutions in particular, which promote the racist apartheid policies of the South African Government.

27.12 Congress calls on the Australian and State governments to take all possible steps to prevent the agencies of the South African Government from promoting such policies.

27.13 Congress notes the initiative of maritime unions around the world to co-ordinate support for a world-wide campaign by seafarers' and dockers' unions to enforce United Nations oil sanctions against the South African Government.

27.14 Congress emphasises the urgency of resolving the particular problem of Apartheid and pledges support for all initiatives taken by the United Nations Organisation and the ICFTU which have as their objective the abolition of apartheid.

27.15 Congress supports the efforts of the ICFTU to promote the development of a genuine, democratic trade union

movement in South Africa.

27.16 Noting that academic, scientific and cultural exchanges with South Africa have been boycotted, we call on the Australian Government to ban sporting contacts under the Gleneagles Declaration.

## 28. SOUTHERN AFRICA

28.1 Congress notes with concern the continuing tensions in a number of African States which are struggling to achieve a democratic rule by indigenous people. Congress asserts the fundamental right of citizens of all nations to choose the form of government best suited to their perceived needs without military or interference from other nations who may seek to ensure that their own vested interests are preserved irrespective of the desires of the people seeking to establish their own governmental structures.

28.2 Congress believes these problems can only be brought to resolution through a forging of a consensus of the people concerned, and strongly asserts that while lasting solutions may require collective actions by the international community as a whole, ultimately the success or failure of any moves towards stable democratic Government will stand or fall on the level of support given by those most intimately concerned.

## 29. SOUTH-EAST ASIAN AREA

29.1 Congress expresses concern at the continuation of conflicts in the South-East Asian Region and condemns all acts of armed intervention in the region which violate the universally accepted principle of respect for a country's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence.

29.2 We condemn the genocidal and barbaric acts that have been carried out by the ousted Pol Pot regime.

29.3 We call for the stepping up of economic aid to the people of Cambodia and for the termination of all military, economic, political and diplomatic support for the Pol Pot forces, to ensure the situation within the country stabilises.

29.4 We welcome the withdrawal of the armed forces of Vietnam.

29.5 We declare our strong opposition to the agreement to create a three way military and political alliance based upon the Pol Pot Khmer Rouge forces.

29.6 We believe that such action can only intensify friction within the region, and threaten the well-being of the Cambodian people.

29.7 The people of Cambodia must be able to rebuild their country in conditions of peace and security.

29.8 Congress supports the attempts of the Australian

Government to find a solution whereby the Cambodian people can determine their own political future.

29.9 Congress calls on the ACTU to continue its efforts to promote peace and understanding between people in this region and to support the development of independent and free trade union activity by participating in the activities organised under the auspices of the ILO and ICFTU Asian and Pacific Regional Offices.

29.10 Congress further encourages all manner of interchanges between national trade union centres in the region and recognises the need to provide assistance in the areas of trade union training, the acquisition of trade union management and organising skills, and specific projects designed to strengthen the integrity of trade union movements in the region. Congress believes a more active role on the part of the ACTU will result in the attainment of mutual benefits and recommends that the Executive work towards the achievement of a formalised set of objectives for the decade of the Eighties which in a practical manner reflects the spirit of this and previous policies.

### 30. PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA

30.1 Congress expresses abhorrence at the massacre of thousands of peaceful demonstrators at Tiananmen Square, Beijing in June 1989 and the subsequent executions, detentions and other violations of human rights.

30.2 Congress conveys its support for the legitimate aspirations of those workers and students and others campaigning for greater freedom and democracy and an end to corruption.

30.3 Congress calls on the Chinese Government to:

- (i) release all political detainees
- (ii) lift the state of emergency
- (iii) immediately cease the persecution of those associated with the movement for democracy
- (iv) fully respect all internationally recognised human and trade union rights and take immediate steps to guarantee these rights and freedom.

30.4 Congress calls on Governments and intergovernmental institutions around the world to exert political, economic and moral pressure to end the killings and repression.

30.5 Congress supports all initiatives, including dialogue with the All China Federation of Trade Unions, which are aimed at the development of a free and independent trade union movement in China.