

Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association

RESOLUTION

BLACK-JEWISH RELATIONS

1980

We are gratified that the tension which arose as a result of Ambassador Andrew Young=s resignation from the United Nations last fall, and which led to a period of strained relations between segments of the Black and Jewish communities, has be now been contained. We are please to note that a movement toward the re-establishment of channels of communication between responsible leaders in both communities, has begun to be discernable.

We look forward to a return to the re-affirmation of common values and shared concerns, to the re-establishment of bonds of cooperation, to the continued dialogue between two ethnic communities, each of which has deep religious associations and both of which share a similar historic experience as persecuted minorities.

Recognizing that we may differ in the specifics of implementing the achievement of certain goals, let us never lose sight of the fact that we uphold a common vision of a society where equity, justice and peace will prevail.

As Reconstructionist Jews, we emphasize the principle of living in two civilizations and we are optimistic in believing that what is good and just for our nation as a whole, will be good also for the Jewish community.

We call upon our colleagues and congregations to continue to make every possible effort to dialogue with and elucidate to the Black community the varied postures we maintain on issues such as Affirmative Action, quotas, the PLO and the process of peace in the Middle East. Let us also be open to what are the specific problems faces by the Black community and search for the ways through which we can best support one another=s concerns, recognizing and respecting the democratic principle of our right to differ.