

Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
RESOLUTION

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

1985

Whereas, RRA believes that efforts to end the nuclear arms race and prevent a world-wide nuclear holocaust must remain one of the highest priorities in Jewish life; and

Whereas, RRA is conscious that Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, z'l, wrote in 1970 that "religion becomes irrelevant if it abstains from a massive effort to avert the doom that threatens the human species' and that "a functional interpretation of the Flood myth and of God's covenant should warn [hu]mankind to bring its morality into the same century as its weaponry; and

Whereas, RRA takes pride in the RRC's initiative in providing space and initial guidance to The Shalom Center, the only national Jewish resource and organizing center dedicated solely to preventing nuclear holocaust; and

Whereas, RRA is conscious that in the past (for example during the Kennedy Administration's efforts to secure a treaty banning nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere) independent initiatives to take important but secure steps away from the arms race by a great power have sometimes been the most effective way of achieving international agreements; and

Whereas, RRA remains convinced that a bilateral verifiable freeze on the testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons by the U.S. and the Soviet Union is the most promising step that could be taken;

Therefore Resolved, That

RRA urges the U.S. government to initiate action toward such a bilateral freeze - by announcing that the U.S. will suspend all such testing and deployment for a one-year moratorium period and invites reciprocal action by the Soviet Union, to be followed by a formal treaty for a verifiable freeze on further testing, production, or deployment of nuclear weapons;

That RRA urges the U.S. Congress to require such action in the military appropriations acts, and urges the President, to approve and support such action;

That RRA urges immediate planning of economic reconversion of affected businesses and areas to production of urgently needed civilian goods;

That RRA urges all Reconstructionist rabbis, congregations, and havurot to "pursue peace" by urging this course of action upon Members of the Senate and House of Representatives;

That RRA directs its officers to communicate these views to the President of the United States and to leading Members of the Senate and House, if possible by meeting directly with them, and to other Jewish groups especially groups of rabbis;

That RRA urges all Reconstructionist rabbis and members of congregations and havurot to become Rodfei Shalom members of The Shalom Center, and to take part in its "Rainbow Sign" efforts this May that will honor the Rainbow Covenant's commitment to preserve all life on earth from a "Flood of Fire";

That RRA recommends the establishment of a Social Justice Committee whose members shall be appointed to do research, organizing, outreach, and other work in this area on behalf of RRA; and

That RRA mandates its officers and convention planning committees to focus the 1986 RRA convention, including pre-convention local dialogues, speakers, etc. on the question: "What are the personal responsibilities of citizens in acting to prevent nuclear holocaust?"