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HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN CHURCH

14 WOODLAWN AVE. WEST, TORONTO, ONTARIO M4V 1G7

"World Council of Churches  
SIXTH ASSEMBLY  
24 July - 10 August, 1983  
Vancouver B.C., Canada

Document **PR2-11** fourth part

DRAFT MINUTE ON PUBLIC ISSUES  
OF CONTINUING CONCERN TO THE WCC

1. In accordance with the guidance given by the Assembly, Policy Reference Committee II has received from the Business Committee requests from several member churches regarding concerns arising in their own situations. Most of these are being dealt with in the normal course by the General Secretariat, one of the Programme Sub-units, the Central Committee or the Executive Committee. The Policy Reference Committee recommends however that the Assembly adopt minutes on the following due to recent changes in circumstances or the particularly pressing issues they present. The proposed minutes recognize the continuing work being done in these areas by the WCC and provide guidance for future actions.

2. DRAFT MINUTE ON THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

2.1. During this Assembly's discussion of violations of human rights our attention has been drawn to the historical reality and present threat to some peoples of genocide. Far too often these occurrences are passed over in silence. In certain current instances this is being used by groups to justify wholly unacceptable acts of violence.

2.2. In this context we have been reminded once again of the tragic massacre of one-and-a-half million Armenians in Turkey and the deportation of another half-million from this historic homeland at the beginning of this century. The silence of the world community and deliberate efforts to deny even historical facts have been consistent sources of anguish and growing despair to the Armenian people, the Armenian churches and many others.

2.3. The Commission on the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches has raised this concern in the United Nations Commission on Human Rights with reference to the latter's study of the Question of Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

2.4. The Assembly requests the General Secretary to provide information to the churches on this matter and to continue to pursue it in appropriate contexts. Public recognition of those events is essential in order that they not continue to engender violent acts of retribution, and that through remembering the history of the Armenian people other peoples might be spared a similar fate."

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The above recording was unanimously ratified by the World Council of Churches - Sixth Assembly, at its last plenary session held on August 10, 1983 from 8:15 to 10:30 P.M.