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END OF WAR URGED BY PRESBYTERIANS

Escalation of Protest by
the Denomination Asked

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DENVER, May 23—The General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. has called for an immediate halt to all military involvement in Indochina.

It also urged "an escalation of conscientious protest" against the war with church support for nonviolent civil disobedience.

The statement was considered to be the strongest antiwar proposal made by the 3.1-million-member denomination. It was approved late last night after prolonged debate by the Assembly, which is the church's highest policy-making body.

During today's session, the Assembly voted not to participate nationally in Key-73, a planned evangelistic campaign involving more than 100 denominations. It also refused to send official observers to the Consultation on Church Union, from which it withdrew last Friday.

The consultation, which seeks the merger of Protestant denominations, was given until October to "disengage United Presbyterians from acting participation.

Among the objections to Key-73 were what were described as its "vague" plans, one-man, one-vote procedures and tendency to "isolate evangelism from the total mission of the church."

The issue was referred to congregations and regional church bodies for study as "part of a search for new evangelistic thrusts."

The Vietnam resolution urged the following:

¶Congress should "withdraw spending authorization for any military or paramilitary operation by United States personnel in, over or near the Indochina peninsula."

¶Congress should limit the President's authority to commit military forces without its consent.

¶American military personnel in Indochina should be withdrawn "subject only to a public pledge that all American prisoners be released upon such withdrawal."

¶The United Presbyterian Church should consider actions such as working for Congressional peace candidates.

During the drawn-out debate some voiced support for a statement that would have endorsed President Nixon's Vietnam decisions. At one point, however, following comments from both sides, a delegate from Geneva, N. Y., William Ringlestein, said, "For Christ's sake, let's get to hell out of Vietnam."

Gun Controls Backed

On another matter, delegates urged gun-control legislation as a result of the shooting of Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama and the "succession of grisly assassinations" in the United States.

They urged Congress to prohibit "the manufacture, sale, ownership and possession of concealed weapons that are not specifically designed and registered for sporting use or law enforcement."

The Assembly also said the society ought to work for the virtual abolition of prisons. It said these had survived because of an "adherence to the alleged value of punishment" and urged, among other things, that crimes without victims, such as taking drugs, be removed from criminal codes.

In a statement on population control, the Assembly urged couples to "consider having fewer children than you now contemplate having, even if you currently anticipate having only one or two."

A statement on the Middle East, adopted for study, was praised by the American Jewish Committee as a "basis for serious conversations among Christians, Muslims and Jews."

During yesterday's morning session, Gov. Reubin O. Askew of Florida called for an "unemotional dialogue between opposing views" on school busing in order to establish "realistic guidelines" for its use.

However, he said this would not be possible "as long as busing is viewed as the problem instead of the means [to] furnish every child the quality education."

In action late last week, a surprisingly overwhelming vote—without audible dissent—appeared to abate the controversy over a \$10,000 grant to Angela Davis, an avowed Communist on trial in California.

On the recommendations of a committee, the Assembly rejected petitions that would have altered or eliminated the legal aid fund that made the grant last year.

Instead, the delegates commended new guidelines developed for the fund by its parent body, the Council on Church and Race. Following the action, many of the 750 delegates rose and applauded.