
Commissioners' Resolution 23-85. On Protesting Clandestine Government Surveillance of Church Meetings. [The General Assembly adopted *Commissioners' Resolution 23-85 as amended.*]

Whereas, undercover agents employed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the U.S. Government were used to secretly spy on church worship service, meetings, and Bible study groups; Whereas, these agents were equipped with concealed electronic surveillance devices; and Whereas, the information gathered in this clandestine fashion was used to obtain indictments against sixteen church sanctuary workers and the arrest of sixty-four Central American refugees; and Whereas, in the pretrial hearings of those church workers indicted, a government witness testified that the church meetings they infiltrated were "political" and not religious meetings; and Whereas, this surreptitious invasion of church property and confidentiality by government agents is unprecedented in U.S. history and a serious violation of the principles of religious freedom and the separation of church and state; therefore, be it ***Resolved***, that the **197th General Assembly (1985):**

1. Protest the clandestine eavesdropping on church meetings by U.S. government undercover agents without warrants or judicial supervision as a serious threat to the constitutional guarantee of religious freedom and the separation of church and state;

2. Demand that all charges against the refugees and sanctuary workers based on or connected with such surveillance be dropped and any deportation proceedings be halted;

3. Direct the Stated Clerk to communicate this protest and these demands to the President, the Secretary of State, and the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, requesting a full report on the surveillance activities in Arizona and seeking guarantees against any future such activities and, if necessary, to join others in pursuing a legal remedy to insure the protection of the church's religious liberty and constitutional rights.

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