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Baptist Editorial Says  
Viet Nam Policy "Just"

LUTHERVILLE, Md. (BP)--United States involvement in the Viet Nam war is justified on the basis of the government's benevolent policy of coming to the aid of any nation under attack by Communism, an editorial in the weekly Maryland Baptist said.

"Fight we must because survival is the issue and a just policy is at stake," declared the editorial, written by Gainer E. Bryan, Jr., editor of the weekly newspaper of the Baptist Convention of Maryland

The editorial urged prayerful support for President Lyndon B. Johnson "as he pursues the most difficult, the most painful, the most politically perilous course that any U.S. president can pursue.

"Let us also weep with those on both sides who weep for the loss of loved ones," the editorial urged.

It is believed to be the first time that a Southern Baptist state Baptist newspaper has editorially supported the nation's involvement in the Viet Nam war.

Said Editor Bryan in the editorial:

"The question remains whether U.S. Involvement in Viet Nam is just. Justice in human affairs, particularly in international relations is relative. We must speak only in proximate terms. No nation or national policy is perfect. There can be no sure claim that 'God is on our side.'

"The war in Viet Nam is, however, being waged in conformity with a policy that is just, so far as our finite, admittedly biased perspective can discern. That policy is that the United States will come to the aid of any nation that comes under armed attack by communism and that has the will to defend itself. This policy is not only benevolent toward allied nations but is in the intimate national interest of the United States.

"The fundamental fact of history is that a nation survives only so long as it has the will to defend itself against armed aggression."

Editor Bryan said that sober reappraisal of the struggle has been forced by "the rising tempo of the war in Viet Nam, the street demonstrations against it, the high-level policy debates in Washington, and now the daily return of American young men in coffins."

The editorial appearing in the March 10 issue of the publication, pointed out three attitudes on the part of Christians toward war: (1) pacifism or non-involvement, (2) just war or regretful participation, and (3) holy war or crusade.

"Pacifism or non-involvement," said Editor Bryan, "finds strong support from the teaching of Jesus to 'resist not evil' and his example in submitting meekly to his oppressors. It has its place for the individual or minority group that is called to cooperate with God in redeeming others through suffering service.

"It (pacifism) is not yet realistic as national policy in the international jungle where moral righteousness must still be bolstered by military strength."

Bryan said that regretful participation or just war finds implied sanction in the New Testament and best conforms to the realities of the earthly situation in which the Kingdom of God has not yet been realized.

He cited scriptures in the 13th chapter of Romans, saying that the Apostle Paul "upholds the power of the state as the ordinance of God and the use of force as a necessary form of the state's power."

The editorial said that the idea of a holy war or crusade is supported in the Old Testament but not the New Testament, and those who accept the idea of progressive revelation will reject the Old Testament doctrine of holy war as inferior to the more humane standards of the New Testament.

Baptist Pastor Says  
Ghana Coup Beneficial

MIAMI (BP)-- The coup in Ghana was not as bloodless as the world was led to believe, but the change of government is bound to be beneficial to the country, a Baptist pastor who was there told the Miami Herald on his return.

Conrad Willard, pastor of the Central Baptist Church in Miami, was winding up a month-long preaching mission in Ghana where the recent revolution broke out.

"There actually was a great deal of fighting," Willard said. "Many of the elite palace guard were killed after they came out with their hands up."

Missionaries and other white people were often stopped and queried, he added, but being American or almost anything but Russian assured their safety.

"Ghanans resent the Russians," he explained, "because Khrushchev called them savages and threatened to bury them."

Both the missionaries and the Ghanaian people seem pleased with the overthrow of Kwame Nkrumah, who was more unpopular than most people suspected, Willard said. Nkrumah's pictures and statues, which were everywhere, were all taken down in one day.

"Nkrumah had not solved the economic and other internal problems of Ghana," the Baptist minister observed. "There was a scarcity of things to buy and there was a growing sentiment in his government to restrain missionaries."

Ghanaian church men are hopeful over the economic outlook of the leader of the coup, Lt. Gen. J. A. Ankrah, and his sympathy for the church.

"He led the singing for one of the revival meetings a few days before the coup," recalled Willard who was one of three American and Canadian ministers preaching in a series of daily services across the West African nation.

"We had 2,500 conversions," said Willard, explaining that 70 per cent of those making decisions for Christ were between 12 and 25 years of age. Most of his preaching was in Kumasi, 180 miles north of the capitol of Accra.

Despite the fact that Nkrumah and the nation's news media he controlled were anti-American, the Ghanaian people were very friendly.

"Not once did a university student raise a question about Viet Nam," Willard reported.

"The West Africans are docile, friendly, and eager to learn," he said. "They asked sincere questions about Christianity and most of the college students are Christians who are the product of mission schools."

He said Baptist mission work, which is one of the youngest and smallest, has been slowed down because of the lack of volunteers.

"We have the money, but not enough people," said Willard, who hopes he can encourage some of the young people at Central Baptist to volunteer for such service.

"The door is open, all we need to do is go in. They will listen," he said.

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New Orleans States  
Pastors' Conference

3-11-66

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--George A. Buttrick, general editor of The Interpreter's Bible, will be the principal speaker for the annual Pastors' Conference at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, scheduled June 13-17.

Buttrick, in addition to editorial duties from The Interpreter's Bible, is also professor of preaching at Garrett Theological Seminary, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

Other speakers include J. Washington Watts, Ray Frank Robbins, E.N. Patterson, and Harold Rutledge.

Pre-registrations are being accepted by the seminary. There is no registration fee and housing is available for interested pastors on the seminary campus.

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Scottish Youngsters Use  
Cafe Music In "Outreach"

DUNDEE, Scotland (BP)--A group of about 120 teenagers were enjoying snacks and talking with one another in a popular cafe here when their normal routine was interrupted by the sound of guitars and drums.

Another group of teenagers had entered the cafe. Six of the newcomers were providing music, three playing guitars, one a drum and two singing a duet.

After the music stopped, a man accompanying the musical group had a few words to say. The the newcomers and the teenagers previously there spent some time chatting together. Despite the intrusion, the group already in the cafe seemed to enjoy the diversion.

The event had a purpose, reported the European Baptist Press Service. It was part of the new "outreach" effort by youth of the Rattray Street Baptist Church in Dundee.

The church youth, temporarily at least prevented from opening a cafe or tearoom of their own as desired, decided to visit cafes in the city where teenagers gathered.

The music was to attract the attention and interest of the other teenagers. The man who spoke briefly afterward was William Freel, pastor of Rattray Street Church.

In the period following the music and the minister's talk, the church young people asked about the beliefs and convictions of their fellow teenagers and had opportunity to discuss spiritual matters.

Before the church youth made their first "outreach," they had a night of prayer, lasting from 10:30 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. They decided they would invite interested young people, whose acquaintance they would make in the cafes, to the youth fellowship at the church.

The Rattray Street teenagers soon found themselves with expanding opportunities. They planned visits in other cafes of the city. And, at the same time, they were offered an old tailor's shop which they could clean up and use for their own "outreach" cafe.

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Tax Credits For College  
Tuition Costs Rejected

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WASHINGTON (BP)--The United States Senate defeated a move to provide individual income tax credit for college tuition costs.

The measure, sponsored by Sen. Abraham A. Ribicoff (D., Conn.) and 28 other senators, would have allowed a tax credit for tuition, fees, books and supplies for students attending public and private colleges and universities.

Tax relief for higher education expenses is viewed in some areas with reservations. Observers fear that providing such relief for higher education would set a precedent for similar relief for elementary and secondary education. It is viewed as a possible step toward some form of tax relief for parents sending their children to private and parochial schools.

It is also considered by some as preferring private colleges and universities over public ones. Private institutions have higher tuition costs. A tax credit would make it easier for parents to send their children to private institutions and increase private school enrollment. Public institutions of higher education generally are less expensive.

The concept of tax relief to ease the burden of higher education is not new. In the last 10 years more than 400 bills have been introduced in the Senate and House of Representatives. The Senate defeated such a proposal in 1964.

Ribicoff's proposal was offered as an amendment to the tax increase bill before Congress. It based the credit on the first \$1,500 paid for tuition, fees, books, and supplies for any student at an institute of higher education.

It provided a maximum credit of \$325, with 75 per cent credit on the first \$200, 25 per cent on the next \$300, and 10 per cent on the next \$1,000.

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The plan would allow the credit to anyone who pays tuition expenses. It would be available to students who work their way through college, to parents, relatives, and others who would like to help a student.

Ribicoff said the tax credit would allow students "to choose their colleges on the basis of their individual academic requirements, rather than simply economic necessity."

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Baptist School Gets  
College Housing Loan

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WASHINGTON (BP)--A Baptist school is one of 14 church-related colleges and universities approved for college housing loans, according to announcement by the Community Facilities Administration. Funds have been reserved for 19 other church schools.

Keuka College, Keuka Park, N. Y., an American Baptist school, was approved for a \$950,000 loan. The federal loan will be supplemented by \$30,000 of the college's funds. The funds will be used to construct a new women's dormitory.

The other church-related schools approved for housing loans include Methodist, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, and Disciple of Christ. They received a total of \$11,591,000 in loans.

Nineteen other schools have a total of \$20,513,000 reserved for final approval. These include Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran, Congregational, Roman Catholic, United Church of Christ, Mennonite, and Episcopal.

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Total SBC Effort  
Asked for Northeast

3-11-66

ATLANTA (BP)--First plans for a total Southern Baptist missions effort to the populous Northeastern United States were announced here.

M. Wendell Belew of Atlanta, a Baptist missions leader, said the plans include the marshalling of every resource possible throughout the more than 10 million-member denomination for the work.

"Our major effort will be in evangelism and starting new churches and church-type missions," he said, "but all of Baptist church life in the area will be touched."

Belew heads a department, called pioneer missions, which stresses new work in new areas for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

This effort may send hundreds of Baptist men and women to these states for surveys, evangelism work, and may bring a stepped up support for pastors and new buildings.

Belew said special help for the northeastern effort would come from the Convention's Sunday School Board, Brotherhood Commission, Woman's Missionary Union, Radio and Television Commission, and other SBC agencies.

Also involved are the state Baptist conventions of Ohio and Maryland, with whom most of the present churches in the Northeast are affiliated.

Belew made the announcement following a committee meeting of representatives from a number of Baptist agencies, the mission board, and the state groups.

The committee was shown detailed needs for the huge 10-state section which stretches from Delaware to Maine and includes more than 60 million people.

In turn, the Baptist national missions agency was asked by the committee to indicate how other agencies of the denomination could assist in meeting these needs, especially during the next four years between 1967-1970.

"The spontaneousness with which this idea of a strong effort for the Northeast was born and the willingness of all our agencies to give it special attention, make us aware that this is an area whose time has come for exceptional endeavor," Belew said.

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Southern Baptists started their first congregation in these states in 1957, and now have 85 with a membership in excess of 10,000.

Belew credited the laymen of the SBC with initiating the new effort. "Through the Brotherhood Commission, they became interested in special evangelism projects in the area and were working with the Home Mission Board division of evangelism in planning for them."

"One thing led to another," he said. "Mission workers in the area shared their needs, and the greater dimensions of what was involved began to unfold."

"Then came the advisory committee, a detailing of needs, and a request to the other agencies for their participation.

"Our effort in this direction is not to say that other Christians are not working in this area," Belew added. "We simply feel an obligation to do whatever we can in these great urban areas where nearly a third of our nation's people live."

He emphasized the fact that the SBC is a national denomination and presently has churches in every state in the nation.

"We will not encourage the establishment of any church near other evangelical Christian churches," he said, "although I realize our view of what is near differs from many groups."

More detailed planning will come after the Home Mission Board endorses the progress thus far and after sub-committees have studied needs and suggested procedures, he indicated.

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