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**Carter Pledges Ongoing
 Human Rights Campaign**

By Stan Hasteay

WASHINGTON (BP)--Declaring that "human rights is the soul of our foreign policy," President Jimmy Carter pledged continued efforts around the world for the victims of torture, violence, hunger, disease, and poverty.

The president addressed a group of more than 150 human rights activists, members of Congress, and administration officials on the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations.

Baptists present included U. S. Rep. John H. Buchanan, R.-Ala., Southern Baptist Convention President Jimmy R. Allen of San Antonio, Texas, and Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Executive Director James E. Wood Jr., Washington.

Carter appeared to be answering critics of the administration policy of giving human rights high visibility by saying that the subject is not "peripheral" to U. S. foreign policy. "Our human rights policy is not a decoration," the president said. "It is not something we have adopted to polish up our image abroad, or to put a fresh coat of moral paint on the discredited policies of the past.

"As long as I am president," he stated, "the government of the United States will struggle continually throughout the world to enhance human rights. No force on earth can separate us from that commitment."

He also used the occasion to urge the U. S. Senate to approve a second human rights covenant adopted by the UN general assembly in 1948 one day before it ratified the Universal Declaration, the so-called "Genocide Convention," an international agreement designed to prevent and punish the crime of genocide.

Carter also indicated that the United States will do its utmost to help resettle "more than our fair share" of refugees from Indochina and Lebanon and of political refugees from countries such as Cuba. The plight of stranded Vietnamese "boat people" has received wide publicity in recent weeks and many groups have urged the administration to do more for them.

The president's 20-minute address covered the whole range of human rights problems and signaled that American foreign policy will not hesitate to identify them and work for their solution.

He called political killings, torture, and detention without charge or trial the "cruellest and ugliest" of human rights violations. Other violations, which he identified as hunger, disease, and poverty, are nevertheless "especially destructive of human life... as relentless as any repressive government," he said.

"President Carter stands on firm biblical grounds" in his human rights emphasis, declared Buchanan, a leader in Congress in the human rights field and an official representative to the Belgrade Conference.

"Every person on earth is someone whom God loves and for whom Christ died," the Birmingham clergyman went on. He called attention to Jesus' teaching that "inasmuch as ye have done it to one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

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Buchanan expressed the view that "a Christian has no choice but to care about those who hunger and are oppressed." He said that Carter "is giving good and right leadership" in the area of human rights which the nation should follow. "The inalienable rights of man is what this country is all about," he said.

"His restatement of commitment is in tune with the best instincts of the American people," said Allen, a consistent supporter of Carter's human rights position. "The moral commitment of the American people will be supportive to our national leaders as we press for the recognition of the worth, dignity, and rights of every person."

Allen cautioned that "we have our work cut out for us in our own communities, but we cannot hesitate to call for living up to our ideals because there are some flaws in our behavior."

The SBC president stated his belief that other nations "are increasingly looking to us for moral leadership." He called on Southern Baptists "to pray for the spiritual awakening out of which that leadership can be accelerated."

Wood, whose agency is on record in support of the president's human rights policies, said that "the president's affirmation of the centrality of human rights in U. S. foreign policy is necessary in the continuing struggle to make the rights of all people a reality rather than a mere slogan."

"We have not achieved our goals as a nation with regard to human rights," Wood said, "but the high visibility which President Carter has given to the subject gives assurance that the commitment is ongoing."

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Government, Citizens
Clash At IRS Hearing

By Carol Franklin

Baptist Press
12/8/78

WASHINGTON (BP)--Government agencies and private citizens clashed at hearings in Washington held by the Internal Revenue Service on a proposed revenue procedure to require private schools to prove they are racially nondiscriminatory or lose their tax-exempt status.

The IRS proposal was supported by the Department of Justice, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights. Numerous private schools, including church-related schools, as well as members of Congress strongly opposed the proposed procedure. The American Civil Liberties Union and the League of Women voters were the only private organizations which testified in favor of the IRS proposal.

The overwhelming majority of witnesses at the four-day hearing said that the proposal would only hasten the death of many private schools innocent of racial discrimination without significantly achieving the goal of integration.

The proposal, first published August 22, 1978, in the "Federal Register," would give the IRS power to review the tax exempt status of a private school if it is judged discriminatory in a court of law, if it was formed or "substantially expanded" when public schools in the area were desegregated, or if it has an "insignificant number" of minority students.

"Significant" is defined by IRS as 20 percent of a city's percentage of minority school age population. Private schools in a city of 50 percent minority students would need a 10 percent minority enrollment.

A school also could meet the IRS criteria of nondiscrimination if it granted scholarships to minority students, actively recruited minority students and staff, had an increasing percentage of minority enrollment, or made other efforts to involve minorities in school activities.

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James P. Turner, assistant attorney general of the civil rights division of the Department of Justice, said that the proposed procedure would "significantly promote the overall federal policy of prohibiting governmental aid of any kind to private enterprises engaged in racial discrimination."

But U. S. Rep. Marjorie S. Holt, R.-Md., declared "many of these religious schools are representative of church congregations that lack minority members, although they do not bar minorities from church membership. They do not have the financial resources to offer scholarship help to students outside these congregations, or to conduct extensive recruiting of outside students."

Rep. Holt also told the IRS panel: "We can all agree that the law should prohibit certain anti-social acts, but it is quite another matter for the law to require the performance of acts deemed by some authorities to be socially desirable. It is the difference between protecting people or managing them."

Nathan Z. Dershowitz of the American Jewish Congress said at the hearing that the IRS proposal "failed to recognize the unique and special considerations which affect Jewish religious schools."

"Although Judaism worldwide is a color-blind faith and there are oriental Jews and black Jews as well as caucasian Jews, the fact remains that few non-caucasian Jews settled in America," he said.

Dershowitz also commented that the pluralistic society of America "permits each minority group to maintain its own integrity and identity and contribute from its own traditions and creative forces to the mainstream of American life."

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs also testified against the proposed procedure. James E. Wood Jr., executive director, stressed the constitutional problems with the proposal. "The fundamental issue which is raised by the proposed revenue procedure is religious liberty and the separation of church and state rather than the furtherance of a meritorious public policy of abolishing racial discrimination," Wood said.

June Griffin of Evansville, Tenn., requested permission to speak from the floor after listening to several members of Congress request the IRS to wait on implementation of the procedure until Congress could hold hearings on the subject. "I get the feeling Congress is asking these men's (IRS) permission to do this and that," she said. "We don't want this proposal ground through the mills of compromise; we want it buried." Judging by the enthusiastic response from the audience, Griffin spoke for the majority present.

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Commission Never
'Tyres' of Shekels

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12/8/78

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Producers of "The Baptist Hour," long-running radio program of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, hope to spend a few shekels to seek out listeners with needs.

In December, listeners who write in will receive an exact replica of the Shekel of Tyre, the type of coin experts think Judas Iscariot received for betraying Jesus and that Peter found in the fish's mouth. (Matthew 17:27).

The replica, cast in the same basic metals used in U. S. quarters, was struck from an ancient shekel given to commission president Paul M. Stevens by the Department of Antiquities in Israel during filming of a television show there by the commission.

"The original coins, worth about four days' wages, were cast from solid silver," Stevens says. "While all coins weighed the same, no two were exactly alike."

The purpose of the gift, one of a series of audience response techniques used by the commission, "is to discover who our listeners are and to offer personal counseling," said Claude Cox, marketing director.

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DANVILLE, Va. (BP)--Averett College has accepted a 112-acre gift from Dan River Mills and will relocate on the land in 1982.

The new site is two and a half miles from the present campus in Danville. In the last decade, the Southern Baptist school has advanced to senior coeducational college status and has added a graduate program.

Increasing enrollment, pressing needs for academic and athletic facilities and increased program demands pushed the need for an expanded campus. No dollar value was placed on the land parcel.

According to a college spokesman, new campus construction will evolve over the next ten years in a three-phase plan, the first phase to be completed by 1982.

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Hospital Evangelism Touches Patients, Families, Villages

BANGALORE, India (BP)--The evangelism ministry of the Baptist hospital in Bangalore has produced more than 680 professions of faith in one year.

Led by Truman S. Smith, a special-assignment chaplain, the ministry reached past the hospital into the villages through follow-up visits with many patients. Smith, family consultant for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, spent the year heading a team of local pastors who work in chaplaincy and follow-up ministries. His wife, Gwen, was director of nursing.

Smith reported that 86 persons were baptized during the year he was there and more than 100 requested baptism. Because becoming a Christian is such a major social and religious change, many times there is a long wait between profession of faith and baptism, according to Smith. Total membership in Southern Baptist related churches is about 500.

Seven local pastors and two women, along with many of the Christian staff of the hospital, made hospital contact with more than 2,000 persons. Smith and the pastors followed with more than 1,200 visits with former patients and family members in their homes.

Smith said a major goal of the hospital ministry is that "all who come experience a caring, competent staff in an atmosphere of hope and love. Patients and visitors expect an excellent medical facility. They find it. They may or may not expect to sense the love of God Incarnate but many discover this reality with joy."

Other methods of witness in Bangalore include a Bible Way correspondence course and the English-language outreach library. Dwight L. Baker, missionary director of evangelism, said his basic strategy is the establishment of Bible-reading groups in homes and development of lay leaders with pastors serving as trainers and shepherds. This year 162 new reading groups have been formed.

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