

Final draft

RELEASE, January 8, 1945.
Commission on Social Recon-
struction of the Protestant
Episcopal Church.

The Joint Commission on Social Reconstruction, acting on its instructions by General Convention, reports to the Church as follows:

1. Responsible use of the great power and influence of the United States of America in international relationships is, in our judgment, a primary necessity for the maintenance of the justice, order and peace of the world in the immediate future. The Dumbarton Oaks Proposals, agreed to by representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union and China, offer a forward looking plan representing the widest area of agreement yet achieved by the four Great Powers on a general organization making for world stability. The support of these Proposals seems to us the first step toward a just and durable peace.

2. These proposals have grown out of the common interests and tasks of the United Nations. They carry into the post-war era an association already established through co-operation in war. This association, existing to win the war, must be continued to win the peace; with provision for expansion and modification as experience dictates, ultimately reaching out toward universality through the inclusion of neutral and enemy states.

We agree with the statement of the President that "Perfectionism, no less than isolationism or imperialism or

power politics may obstruct the paths to international peace." We think that an irresponsible idealism under the guise of Christianity which will not submit to the discipline of the achievable will ultimately give support to the isolationism so deeply rooted in many citizens and so dangerous to the peace of the world.

3. In the near future a general United Nations Conference will be called at which the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals will be used as the basis of discussion in preparing the Charter for the new organization. Our representatives at that Conference must know where our people stand and will need evidence of substantial support for their efforts.

4. We therefore commend the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals to our fellow Churchmen for immediate study, and we urge that as citizens they support the basic principles and machinery outlined in the Proposals.

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