

### **III. PEACE (Issues relating to foreign policy and weapons proliferation)**

#### **A. Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty**

**WHEREAS**, after long opposition by the U.S. government and demands by the international peace movement, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty was signed by then President Clinton in late 1996; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. is by far the most powerful nuclear power in the world, its failure to ratify the test ban treaty only serves to dissuade other nations from signing the treaty; and

**WHEREAS**, although 144 nations have adhered to it, only Japan among 44 nuclear capable nations required to ratify it has done so and the U.S. continues to conduct “sub-critical” nuclear tests in Nevada, thus violating the spirit of the proposed treaty.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Gray Panthers urges the U.S. Senate to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and fully implement it, including a halt on all nuclear tests; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Gray Panthers urge the passage of federal law that no president may act on a policy regarding nuclear treaties without prior approval and support of the Congress.

#### **B. Nuclear Weapons & Testing**

**WHEREAS**, the United States plans to go beyond the Stockpile Stewardship program, making plans for rebuilding our entire nuclear arsenal under “COMPLEX TRANSFORMATION” which claims to be “downsizing” of our nuclear stockpile, but will produce up to 125 new plutonium cores per year; and

**WHEREAS**, the COMPLEX TRANSFORMATION program will cost at least \$150 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, this program will greatly increase, rather than decrease, the nuclear threat since it violates the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, making other nations feel they too much have nuclear weapons for protection; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S., by its laboratory testing to develop new and better nuclear weapons, clearly is in violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which states that all signatory nations (including the US) will make "good faith effective measures" to end the world's nuclear arms race.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Gray Panthers oppose our Country's rebuilding its nuclear arsenal under any name whatsoever; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Gray Panthers urge the United States to work toward nuclear disarmament, as ordered by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which the United States has signed.

### **C. Relations with Cuba**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S., despite condemnation by the United Nations, has imposed an economic blockade on Cuba for over forty years; and

**WHEREAS**, said blockade infringes on the rights of U.S. citizens regarding travel and association; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pan American Health Organization reports that the U.S. blockade has had a devastating impact on the Cuban health system which has improved and protected the health of the Cuban people, and others throughout the world, and upon the general welfare of the Cuban people.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Gray Panthers condemns the U.S. blockage of Cuba; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Gray Panthers supports the spirit and sense of the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions which ended blockades of other nations, and urges extension of those resolutions to the continuing embargo on trade and travel with Cuba; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Gray Panthers urges the U.S. president to initiate negotiations with the aim of normalizing U.S.- Cuba relations.

### **D. Policy on Iraq and Peace**

**WHEREAS**, the United States domination of world affairs includes use of its overwhelming power for preemptive war rather than complying with international law; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States attacked Iraq using false information without consultation with other organizations and countries; and

**WHEREAS**, our government's sanctions, war and occupation have damaged Iraqi infrastructure, such as water, health, electricity, and led to many Iraqi deaths;

**WHEREAS**, the United States occupation of Iraq further damaged the stability, peace and prosperity of the country and region;

**WHEREAS**, the Iraq war caused many American troop deaths and casualties at enormous taxpayer expense without properly supporting service families; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States authorizes massive overspending on the military rather than on domestic needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution established Congress as the body that declares war and votes for military funds; and

**WHEREAS**, Gray Panthers strongly opposes all future preemptive wars or invasions that would further the potential for nuclear war and global disaster; and

**WHEREAS**, Gray Panthers seek to pursue peaceful alternatives to war and reconstruction by strengthening international cooperation and the United Nations.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Gray Panthers ask that Congress and the President bring our troops home without delay; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Gray Panthers support the United Nations and peace efforts to rebuild Iraq; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Gray Panthers encourages all concerned citizens to contact their elected officials, write their local press and demonstrate when necessary to demand that this Administration bring our troops home; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Gray Panthers encourages all concerned citizens to work to elect candidates committed to peace and cuts in military spending.

## **E. Rebuilding Iraq**

**WHEREAS**, too many years of war and economic embargo have left Iraq with a fragile infrastructure, and unable to provide adequately for itself until normal economic and social life is restored; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. policies and actions have contributed directly and indirectly to this situation; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the mutual interests of the U.S. and the Iraqi people for the infrastructure to be rebuilt and retained by the people as rapidly as possible.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Gray Panthers urge the President and Congress to provide generously and expeditiously for the rebuilding of Iraqi systems of public health, education, and medical care, and for the development of a viable Iraqi economy; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Gray Panthers support the work of non-governmental organizations, such as the International Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders, as they work with the Iraqi people to achieve these ends; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Gray Panthers supports the work in Iraq of international organizations, such as the United Nations, by encouraging the U.S. President and Congress to provide adequate financial support for their efforts.

## **F. Military Draft**

**WHEREAS**, Gray Panthers opposes war and advocates just, peaceful resolution of conflicts; and

**WHEREAS**, Gray Panthers believes military solutions generally create more problems; killing people, flattening buildings and destroying cities rarely wins hearts and minds; and

**WHEREAS**, service in the military should be a choice that individuals make based on full information about their options, not as a result of compulsion; and

**WHEREAS**, a military draft imposes involuntary servitude primarily on young persons; and

**WHEREAS**, a military draft makes troops available even for illegal and reckless war-making.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Gray Panthers oppose legislation and/or administrative actions which impose a military draft in whatever forms that may entail; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, Gray Panthers, in partnership with other anti-war groups, provide draft-related literature and counseling to high school and college students subject to military recruitment and/or a draft; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Gray Panthers take part in public demonstrations which oppose a military draft.

## **G. Victims of War and Role of the United Nations**

**WHEREAS**, military and paramilitary conflicts in our times have increasingly targeted unarmed civilians, as has happened in Congo, former Yugoslavia, Darfur, and the entire area afflicted by the current conflagrations in the Middle East, Central Asia and East Asia; and

**WHEREAS**, such targeting is an atrocity, violating human rights and sometimes rising to the level of genocide.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Gray Panthers will educate and advocate for effective, rapid response by the United Nations and other transnational organizations to end quickly such conflicts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Gray Panthers commends the U.S. State Department for its recognition of genocidal conditions in Darfur and encourages the U.S. government to continue to lead in this area; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Gray Panthers will advocate for a stronger United Nations to implement more adequately the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and all other international Human Rights laws, and the Charter of the United Nations; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Gray Panthers support non-governmental organizations that work to relieve the suffering and meet the basic needs of civilians affected by military conflicts.

## **H. Land Mines**

**WHEREAS**, at least 26,000 people, including a high proportion of children, are killed or maimed each year by some of the 100 million active land mines in 68 countries; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. is the largest exporter of land mines; and

**WHEREAS**, although 125 countries have adopted a treaty to ban land mines, the U.S. government refuses to sign said treaty.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Gray Panthers urge the President and the Congress to sign, ratify, and implement the treaty banning land mines; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Gray Panthers urge the U.S government to require that land mines and similar ordnance manufactured in the U.S. be designed to deactivate automatically after a specified, short period of time (e.g., days or weeks), and that governments of territories infested with U.S.- made or designed ordnance be given tools, equipment, and instructions as to how safely to remove or render-safe devices which are now in place or which are deployed in the future.

## **I. Funding the United Nations**

**WHEREAS**, Article VI of the U.S Constitution reads, “All treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land”; and

**WHEREAS**, the foremost treaty to which the U.S. is a part is the United Nations’ Charter; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S is obligated to pay assessments to the annual United Nations budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S has consistently fallen behind in its dues payments, thus weakening the work of many of the United Nations' committees, depending on adequate funding to function effectively.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Gray Panthers urges the U.S. President, Congress, and the State Department to keep dues current with the United Nations.

## **J. Century of Peace**

**WHEREAS**, Gray Panthers believe that the political power of the military-industrial complex is sufficient to influence public policy, including U.S. foreign policy, to its own advantage; and

**WHEREAS**, the spread of military contracting to all parts of the country has purposefully ensured that economic dependencies-including the jobs of millions of voters-now exist in every Congressional district; and

**WHEREAS**, the relationship between military contractors, congressional committees, and elected officials is largely opaque to the media and the public because of technical intricacy and supposed security concerns.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Gray Panthers demand that Congress charter an independent investigation of the so-called Military-Industrial complex, with emphasis on its ability to influence public policy; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Gray Panthers further demand an evaluation of current political arrangements, such as the congressional committee structure and the defense contracting system, which will lead to legislation to effectively protect the political process from contractor influence; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Gray Panthers supports the establishment of a Peace Academy and a cabinet-level Department of Peace.

## **K. NO WAR IN IRAN**

**WHEREAS**, the United States is involved in wars in Afghanistan and Iraq with poorly defined and wrong-headed goals; and

**WHEREAS**, military action has failed to bring about regional stability and has not eliminated politically motivated terrorism in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, no evidence demonstrates that Iran is an urgent threat to the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, foreign policy and military experts within and outside of the U.S. government counsel against war with Iran; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. military resources are stressed to the breaking point in the current conflicts, resulting in a rising tide of physical and psychological injuries to military personnel; and

**WHEREAS**, fiscal responsibility demands that the Federal budget that Gray Panthers demands that the U.S. renounce any and all intentions of waging war in or with Iran.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Gray Panthers demands that the U.S. renounce any and all intentions of waging war with Iran; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Gray Panthers oppose Bush's Doctrine of pre-emptive strikes; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Gray Panthers challenge all officeholders who counsel for expansion of the war to Iran; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Gray Panthers opposes any attempt to use proxy agents to expand the war with tacit or explicit U.S. approval.

## **L. Middle East Peace**

**WHEREAS**, Gray Panthers detest the continuing violence in Israel and Palestine and are aware that this conflict endangers peace and stability in many countries; and

**WHEREAS**, Gray Panthers recognize that the roots of the conflict trace at least to the end of World War I, the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire and subsequent European governance of the area then known as Palestine; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States, among other nations, supported establishment of the State of Israel and has continued its support of Israel for more than 60 years, the United States has a moral obligation equally to Israelis and to Palestinians to work for a settlement that will bring justice, safety and lasting peace; and

**WHEREAS**, during the past 60 years, countless reciprocal injustices and grievances have accumulated as a result of wars, occupation, territorial disputes, allocation of resources such as land and water, terrorist attacks and reprisals, unresolved property and resettlement issues; and

**WHEREAS**, Gray Panthers believe that diplomacy, not war, is the surest and speediest way to a just Middle East peace.

**Therefore, be it resolved that Gray Panthers:**

Urges the United States to be a participant in the quest for peace, that strives to become an honest broker for a comprehensive settlement that assures the security of both the Israeli and Palestinian people; and

Supports the work of non-governmental groups which favor peaceful solutions, which provide humanitarian support to relieve acute human needs for housing, health care, food, rebuilding of public infrastructure such as schools, roads, clinics, etc. damaged or destroyed in the conflict, and which promote dialogue between and among all parties to current conflicts, and foster democratic institutions, and

Affirms a United Nations call for a halt to new Israeli settlements in Palestinian territory; and urges all parties, as soon as possible, to take all necessary steps to enable trade, commerce and the free movement of Israelis and Palestinians; and

Consistent with current U.N. policy, supports withdrawal from illegal Jewish settlements and a freeze on the establishment of new settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; and

Calls on the United Nations for a ban on further weapons sales by any party, public or private to any of the nations or other parties involved in this conflict; and

Calls on the United States to cease giving or selling military hardware or other military aid to the government of Israel or the Palestine people and their allies and supporters; and

Supports the right of Israel to exist and for continued efforts to establish a Palestinian homeland in which the rights of the Palestine people are respected equally with the People of Israel; and

Urges implementation of full political, social and economic equality for Israelis and Palestinians, and recognition of equal and peacefully derived national sovereignty; and

Calls on Gray Panthers individually and in their networks 1) to research and understand the complexity and political, economic and social roots of conflict in the Middle East and 2) to encourage and participate in local education programs which offer the public balanced explorations of the conflict; and

Continues to conduct frank, open and respectful conversations within and among Gray Panther Networks about peace and justice in the Middle East.