



City of Cambridge

38.

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 19, 1992

COUNCILLOR WOLF
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY

WHEREAS: October 24 is celebrated as United Nations Day; and

WHEREAS: There will be a gathering, organized by the World Federalist Association, to recognize the work of the United Nations on October 24 at 1:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS: The U.N. is the existing world body devoted to the resolution of international conflict; and

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has long been a center of human effort to create and support world peace; and

WHEREAS: In preparing for the 50th anniversary of the U.N. to be celebrated in 1995, the World Federalist Association of New England, headquartered in Cambridge, proposes to strengthen the peacekeeping function through a revised charter for the United Nations, (along the lines of the attached resolution); and

WHEREAS: The City Council and the citizens of Cambridge will wish to recognize the importance of the U.N.'s work and to consider ways in which it might be strengthened; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council hereby proclaims the importance of working towards a lasting peace and world justice by recognizing the United Nations on this U.N. Day, October 24, 1992, and by working towards measures to strengthen the United Nations such as those proposed by the World Federalist Association of New England; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to prepare a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution for presentation at U. N. Day ceremonies on October 24.

In City Council October 19, 1992.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

consent

Whereas October 24 is celebrated as United Nations Day; and

Whereas there will be a gathering, organized by the World Federalist Association, to recognize the work of the United Nations on October 24 at 1 PM; and

Whereas the U.N. is the existing world body devoted to the resolution of international conflict; and

Whereas the City of Cambridge has long been a center of human effort to create and support world peace; and

Whereas, in preparing for the 50th anniversary of the U.N. to be celebrated in 1995, the World Federalist Association of New England, headquartered in Cambridge, proposes to strengthen the peacekeeping function through a revised charter for the United Nations, ~~attached to this resolution; and~~

along the lines of the
Whereas the City Council and the ~~citizens of Cambridge~~ will wish to recognize the importance of U.N.'s work and to consider ways in which it might be strengthened; *the*

Therefore be it resolved that:

The Cambridge City Council hereby proclaims the importance of working towards a lasting peace and world justice by recognizing the United Nations on this U.N. Day, October 24, 1992, and by working towards measures to strengthen the United Nations such as those proposed by the World Federalist Association of New England; and further that

The City Clerk is hereby requested to prepare a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution for presentation at U. N. Day ceremonies on October 24.



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 349-4280

Fax (617) 349-4287

October 8, 1992

Dear Friends:

Does Cambridge need to reform it's municipal Charter?

For the past several years the question has been raised by a large number of citizens groups, individuals, and public officials. On **Wednesday, October 14, 1992 at 7:30 p.m.**, we will be sponsoring a public meeting at City Hall to explore it.

The current Plan E Charter has stood for nearly fifty years without significant change. It has been called the "strong manager - weak council" form of governance. Does it cause rule by the bureaucracy as some have claimed or insulate us from ward politics as others argue? Some question the near absolute authority the charter gives to an appointed official - while the charter's proponents praise it's ability to keep politics out of municipal administration.

Should Cambridge have a strong mayor? or maybe just a stronger mayor? Should we continue to use proportional representation? Should the City Council be involved in the appointments to boards and commissions, or even significant staff positions? We feel that these are questions that are at least worth asking.

What do you think?

We will start with a review of the current Charter and the process for charter reform. In addition, we will accept testimony from citizens. Join the discussion.

Sincerely,

Ed Cyr (aw)
Ed Cyr
Vice Mayor

Alice K. Wolf
Alice K. Wolf
City Councillor

s

enclosure

P.S. We expect to hold a second meeting on the Charter on Tuesday, October 20, 1992 at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

VII.

In those civil war situations where a spiraling cycle of bloodshed and ruin has prevented the introduction of traditional peacekeeping forces, the United Nations should be authorized to intervene without the prior permission of the adversaries. It should be allowed to use sufficient military force to separate the combatants, introduce humanitarian relief, initiate conciliatory procedures, and, where indicated, supervise elections and plebiscites.

VIII.

The United Nations should be provided with improved funding mechanisms adequate to support all its operations and to ensure its long-term financial independence.

September, 1992



World Federalist Association

OF NEW ENGLAND

2161 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02140
Telephone: 617.576.3871

Working to transform the United Nations into a democratic world federation, capable of ensuring peace, human rights, economic justice and environmental protection.

New England World Federalist

DRAFT CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION

TO STRENGTHEN THE UNITED NATIONS

WHEREAS, the people and the nations of the world are increasingly looking to the United Nations to address the many problems of modern civilization which require global solutions; and

WHEREAS, new tasks and additional responsibilities are increasingly assigned to the United Nations by the world community; and

WHEREAS, the successful accomplishment of many of these tasks has resulted in greatly increasing the respect in which the world organization is held by the people of the United States, as by the people elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, the tasks that await the United Nations far exceed its present powers and capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance of world peace and security requires that the people of every nation can rely on protection from external aggression; and

WHEREAS, legal, economic, or military sanctions are applied only against nation-states; and

WHEREAS, expanded jurisdiction of a world court system to cover individuals, organizations and corporate bodies could provide a substitute for sanctions against whole populations; and

WHEREAS, the universal enforcement of fundamental human rights would reduce the pressures on national governments to use force for the protection of the civil and cultural rights of their citizens residing beyond their borders; and

WHEREAS, the enforcement of human rights can substantially reduce the fear which motivates much of the migration of the hundreds of thousands of political refugees in the modern world; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance of world peace and security requires immediate progress toward general and complete disarmament of all individual nation-states; and

WHEREAS, it is increasingly recognized that environmental problems are either transnational or global in extent, and that they require world-level programs of corrective action; and

WHEREAS, in the post Cold War period, the spontaneous outbreak of numerous civil wars seriously threatens world peace and the increasingly interdependent network of human society;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Congress of the United States hereby declares its sense that the United States should call for a Conference to review the Charter of the United Nations, to be held in 1995, the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Charter, and at such a conference should propose and vigorously support changes in the structure and authority of the United Nations toward establishing a world federal government in general accordance with the following guidelines.

I.

A. The General Assembly should be rendered more democratic, representative and responsible by the addition of a Second Chamber, election to which should increasingly, through an evolutionary process, be by direct votes of national parliaments or by total national populations rather than by administrative appointment. The Congress notes the precedent currently being set by the European Community with respect to the direct election of the European Parliament, and it also notes its own evolution with respect to direct election of Senators.

B. Representation in the Second Chamber should reflect the relative populations of the states represented, modified by an agreed formula to deal with major variations in population between the largest and smallest states. Legislators should vote as individuals and not necessarily in conformity with other members of their delegations.

C. The restructured General Assembly should have authority to enact world law within constitutionally established limitations.

II.

A. The executive authority of the United Nations should be vested in the Secretary General, who should be responsible for the enforcement of world law, and for the execution of policy decisions and directives of the General Assembly.

B. The Secretary General should be elected for a term of four to seven years by two-thirds or three-fourths majorities in both Chambers of the General Assembly, and be subject to recall by three-fourths majorities in both Chambers.

C. Under a revised Charter, the Security Council should have advisory status only, serve as a Cabinet, or cease to exist.

D. During a transitional period, systems of legal and economic sanctions should be further developed for maximum effectiveness against an aggressor nation or group of nations. Unavoidable military actions, as under Articles 42-43 of the present Charter, should be under the direct command of the Secretary General and the United Nations military staff.

E. Deployment of the military forces of the United Nations should be permitted only on an order of the Secretary General who must have the prior approval of a Military Deployment and Control Council. This Council should have as its sole responsibility and function the regulating of the disposition and use of the military forces in such manner that they cannot be employed to augment the powers of the Secretary General beyond those granted in the Charter, or be used by military officers, or by any faction or interests, to acquire powers and controls which are illegal under the Charter and the Bill of Rights. For this purpose, there should be geographical separation of military bases and, correspondingly, regional separation of command structure, with no central professional military command.

F. The composition of the Military Deployment and Control Council should consist of from twelve to sixteen civilians elected annually by the General Assembly, one half by each Chamber. No nation-state should be represented by more than one of its citizens. Voting in the Council should be by simple majority except that votes on deployment should require a two-thirds or three-fourths majority.

G. Military actions of more than thirty days' duration should require the approval of the General Assembly.

H. The Secretary General should have sole authority for the deployment of traditional peacekeeping forces pledged to use force only in self-defense.

III.

The World Court should be expanded into a multi-level appellate system with authority and capacity to adjudicate cases involving established international law and laws enacted by the General Assembly. The revised court system should have compulsory jurisdiction in all cases involving human rights and cases involving conflict of interest among nation-states, the United Nations, individual world citizens, and international organizations, including transnational commercial corporations, in any combination of these categories of litigants.

IV.

A World Bill of Rights adequate to protect the basic human rights of all human beings must be adopted as an integral part of the Revised Charter. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the other international human rights conventions should be examined and assessed as to their ability to provide complete Bill-of-Rights protection and their suitability for incorporation as the human rights guarantee in the constitution of the new world order.

V.

A. The United Nations should conduct and carefully supervise a program of balanced and verifiable reduction and eventual elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, and conduct a similar program to eliminate all offensively capable conventional weapons. To the extent deemed necessary, the military forces of the United Nations should be simultaneously increased to provide alternative security.

B. In order to carry out the disarmament process, the United Nations should be specifically directed and empowered to regulate the trade in armaments, with the aim of ending such trade as a business for profit and preventing all nations from possessing offensive arms.

C. The Secretary General should be provided with all the investigative powers necessary to the disarmament process, including satellite verification facilities.

VI.

The United Nations should have the means and authority to enforce compliance with all laws and regulations relating to programs which protect the environment.



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CONSENT ORDER #38

Whitney
S-797
Councillor Wolf re: Recognizing the importance of United Nations Day on October 24, 1992.

In City Council,

October 19, 1992

Order Adopted