

**Canadian Friends of Peace Now
Shalom Achshav Peace Foundation**

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NEWS

UNITED CHURCH RESOLUTION IS A WAKEUP CALL, SAYS CFPN

TORONTO—[August 13, 2012]—Regardless of whether the United Church of Canada decides to adopt a boycott of exports from Israeli settlements, the debate should serve as a wakeup call to the Netanyahu Government and its Canadian supporters, says Canadian Friends of Peace Now.

The UCC's General Council will debate in Ottawa on Tuesday a boycott resolution proposed in the May report of its Working Group on Israel/Palestine Policy.

Canadian Jews opposed to Israel's settlement building are themselves not of one mind on a settlements boycott. But irrespective of the proposal's fate, it signals a growing loss of patience among North American liberals with the occupation and Mr. Netanyahu's apparent intent to perpetuate it.

The settlements remain a major (albeit not the only) impediment to Israeli-Palestinian peace. The longer the peace process remains deadlocked, the more liberal public opinion in the West will blame Israel for its role in the deadlock. It goes against Israel's own self interest to rely only on right-wing support in the Western democracies.

Whatever one thinks of the wisdom or fairness of a boycott aimed at one element in the conflict, it is foolish for Bnai Brith Canada to claim that the UC has "join[ed] forces with those who seek the destruction of the Jewish State." That is not the tone or intent of the UC report.

Nor do those UC members who support the report necessarily represent "part of the movement to isolate and delegitimize Israel within the international community," as the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) has charged.

It may be tempting for Jewish groups such as Bnai Brith or CIJA to dismiss the UC's position as unimportant, since the denomination's numbers are declining. But if the UC stance is so unimportant, why have these Jewish groups been furiously lobbying UC ministers and their congregations?

CFPN is a Zionist organization dedicated to enhancing Israel's security through peace and to supporting Peace Now, Israel's oldest and largest peace movement.

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