

Minute By Baltimore Yearly Meeting proposed by BYM Peace and Social Concerns Committee as to consideration of U.S. renewed military action against North Korea

BACKGROUND-

Within the past day (8/2/17), U.S. Senator Lindsay Graham has stated to national media (NBC's Today Show), "There is a military option to destroy North Korea's (missile) program and North Korea itself. ...If there's going to be a war to stop them, it will be over there. If thousands die, they're going to die over there, they're not going to die here and (President Donald Trump) told me that to my face."

U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley is reported by CNN to have announced, "The time for talk is over." Vice President has stated that "all options are on the table."

Nonetheless, there is a broad international consensus that economic sanctions have had a major impact on North Korea; its only remaining trading partner, China, has agreed within the past month (6/25/17) to increase its economic sanctions.

PROPOSED MINUTE:

Consistent with Friends' Peace Testimony to "utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fighting with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretence whatsoever," Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) urges U.S. leaders to resist any temptation to a preemptive military strike against North Korea.

The use of military force on the Korean peninsula could cause massive loss of life and other horrific consequences to Koreans and people of other nations. Instead, we urge continued patience, diplomacy and nonmilitary sanctions.

PROPOSED ACTION:

With the adoption of the Minute, BYM's Peace and Social Concerns Committee would transmit the minute to the White House and the U.S. State Department and post it online. We also would suggest that Monthly Meetings and other Quaker organizations transmit it to their respective Senators and Congressional representatives, together with requests to join the opposition to such preemptive military action.