

APPENDIX B

THE CHALLENGE OF THE WAR TO FOREIGN MISSIONS

The church at home and abroad is confronted by a challenge and an opportunity never exceeded. Some are counselling hesitation and even the curtailment of effort and offerings, upon the plea that the state should now command all the resources of men and of money.

Representing the mission organizations and forces of North America, the Committee of Reference and Counsel, through its officers, hereby appeals to the Christian missionary organizations and constituencies of America as well as to every individual disciple of Jesus Christ.

We recognize that the spirit of patriotism, calling for supreme sacrifice in the interest of righteousness and of country, must not be discouraged and that the cry of distressed humanity cannot be ignored. While some Missionary Boards are not contemplating special and untried undertakings or planning the erection of buildings not immediately necessary, we cannot escape from the conviction that this period of war, with all its exacting demands, may be the supreme hour for undertaking new and daring enterprises for Christ and the church.

We would call attention anew to the significant fact that the large missionary enterprises had their origin in times of the greatest national and international upheavals. The missionary societies of Great Britain were launched while Europe was rent asunder by the Napoleonic Wars and the first missionaries sent abroad from the United States began