b) it is the professional duty of all library and information workers to defend with the utmost vigour freedom of information for all;

**Calls for**

a) the implementation of an educational programme designed to persuade library and information workers to refuse to implement any part of censorship legislation and support them in the struggle against repression;

b) critical reviews of library collections and resource centres to correct imbalances which have led to biased views of South African history and society;

c) close monitoring by the new association of all forms of censorship, and communication to progressive librarians in other countries of ongoing abuse of civil rights in this regard;

d) discussions with the liberation movement, and other progressive bodies, with a view to the formulation of a freedom of information policy in a democratic South Africa.

**DOCUMENTS: MIDDLE EAST**

**PLG Press Release on Gulf Crisis, 9/90**

The Organizing Committee of the Progressive Librarians Guild has issued the following statement at the request of members attending a PLG meeting on September 22, 1990:

We oppose U.S. military intervention in the Middle East.

The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, while in violation of international law, does not in any way justify the massive mobilization and deployment of the terrible machinery of war being orchestrated by the U.S. and its supporters. The crocodile tears being shed for the Kuwaitis (and in particular for the regime of the ruling family) cannot disguise the interventionists' utter contempt for the Arab masses whose rights and lives will be trampled in the bloody dirt and whose calls for justice in the region will be drowned out by the insane clamor of war.

Even before a shot has been fired thousands are suffering the dislocations and privations created by actions preparatory to an armed conflict. Hundreds of thousands will die, soldiers and civilians, in the event of war. And what is this war actually about? Make no mistake about it - people will be fighting and dying not for noble principles but in defense of big oil profits and a profoundly warped sense of Western "strategic interests".

As socially responsible professionals in the field of librarianship, we demand that the troops be brought home now, that immediate consideration be given to a negotiated settlement of the conflict and that our national resources be re-directed from policing the world to fighting against the
many ills that plague our own society and helping to peacefully construct a better world based on social and economic justice and mutual understanding.

We urge all of our members to participate in the anti-war movement, to work as librarians to counter propaganda emanating from the war-hysteric mass media by assuring the provision of alternative viewpoints on the conflict and to oppose all manifestations of the anti-Arab racism which the intervention is generating.

We call upon all bodies of ALA to unite in condemnation of U.S. involvement in a Middle East war.

**MSRRT Persian Gulf Resolution, 1/91**

WHEREAS nearly half a million U.S. troops, a disproportionate number of them lower class and persons of color, are now deployed in the Persian Gulf; and

WHEREAS veterans hospitals in the United States are preparing to handle at least 40,000 casualties; and

WHEREAS the enormous cost of this military adventure threatens to severely worsen the budget deficit and scuttle the long-overdue “Peace Dividend”; and

WHEREAS the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, while a clear violation of international law, does not in any way justify the massive American mobilization and deployment of offensive forces; and

WHEREAS the internationally-approved economic sanctions and regional peacemaking efforts by the Arab League have not been given a chance to work by the Bush Administration; and

WHEREAS the United States displays a “double standard” in condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait while remaining silent or actually supporting Israel’s invasions and occupations of the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem, Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon; Syria’s intervention in Lebanon; Turkey’s invasion of northern Cyprus; Morocco’s occupation of Western Sahara; the oppression and slaughter of Kurds by Turkey, Iran, Iraq and other states; and the Reagan/Bush invasion of Grenada and Panama, as well as unprovoked bombing of Libya and covert war against Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS there has not yet been a full and open debate concerning U.S. goals and aims in the Persian Gulf; and