

For Climate of Peace, Search for Alternatives

(Continued from Page 4)

Their efforts to find a solution to the present impasse are well known. We realize that citizens of all faiths and of differing political loyalties honestly differ among themselves over the moral issues involved in this tragic conflict. While we do not claim to be able to resolve these issues authoritatively, in the light of the facts as they are known to us, it is reasonable to argue that our presence in Vietnam is justified.

We share the anguish of our government officials in their awesome responsibility of making life-and-death decisions about our national policy in Vietnam. We commend the valor of our men in the armed forces, and we express to them our debt of gratitude. In our time, thousands of men have given their lives in war. To those who loved them, we express our sorrow at their loss and promise our constant prayers.

But we cannot stop here. While we can conscientiously support the position of our country in the present circumstances, it is the duty of everyone to search for other alternatives. And everyone in government leadership and citizens alike — must be prepared to change our course whenever a change in circumstances warrants it.

This can be done effectively only if we know the facts and issues involved. Within the limits imposed by our national security, therefore, we must always insist that these facts and issues be made known to the public so that they can be considered in their moral context.

On the basis of our knowledge and understanding of the current situation, we are also bound always to make sure that our government's actions, in fact, pursue every possibility which offers even the slightest hope of a peaceful settlement. And we must clearly protest whenever there is a danger that the conflict will be escalated beyond morally acceptable limits.

On a broader level, we must support our government in its efforts to negotiate a workable formula for disarmament. What we seek is not unilateral disarmament, but one proceeding, in the words of the Council, "at an equal pace according to agreement, and backed up by authentic and workable safeguards." We commend the officials of our country and others for their contribution to the proposed Treaty against Nuclear Proliferation which, hopefully, will soon become a reality.

Moreover, we must use every resource available, as a nation, to help alleviate the basic causes of war. If the God-given human dignity of the people of poorer nations is not to become an illusion, these nations must be able to provide for the spiritual and material needs of their citizens. We must help them do this. The economically developed nations of the world, as Pope John insisted in his great encyclical, *Pacem in Terris*, must come to the aid of those which are in the process of developing so that every man, woman and child in the world may be able "to live in conditions more in keeping with their human dignity."

Seton Groups In Action

11TH BRANCH of Seton Workers of St. Mary's Hospital monthly meeting, Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Hospital.

12TH BRANCH monthly luncheon meeting, Jan. 12 at the home of Mrs. Roderick Cunningham, 182 Elm Dr. at 11:30 a.m.

There is a grave danger that the circumstances of the present war in Vietnam may, in time, diminish our moral sensitivity to its evils. Every means at our disposal, therefore, must be used to create a climate of peace. In this climate, prayer, personal example, study, discussion and lectures can strengthen the will for peace. We must advocate what we believe are the best methods of promoting peace: mutual agreements, safeguards and inspection; the creation of an international public authority to negotiate toward peace. Above all, in its peace-making efforts, we must support the work of the

United Nations which, in the words of Pope Paul, marks a stage in the development of mankind, from which retreat must never be admitted, but from which it is necessary that advance be made.

We ask every person of good will to support with prayer the Holy Father's plea for a Christmas cease-fire. May it open the way to lasting peace. In the spirit of Christ, the Christian must be the persistent seeker in the Gospel, the man willing to walk the second mile. (cf. Matt. 5:42.) He walks prudently, but he walks generously and he asks that all men do the same.

As Catholics we walk in good company. Pope Paul, in his recent encyclical on peace, cried out, in God's name, to stop war. We pray God that the sacrifices of us all, our prayers as well as our faltering efforts toward peace, will hasten the day when the whole world will echo Pope Paul's historic words: "No more war, war never again!"

Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, Part II, Chapter V, Section 1 (The Documents of Vatican II, Guild Press, New York, p. 296)

Ibid., Part II, Chapter IV, p. 286

Ibid., Part II, Chapter V, Section 1, p. 293

Ibid., Part II, Chapter V, Section 1, p. 294

Ibid., Part II, Chapter V, Section 1, p. 295

Ibid., Part II, Chapter V, Section 1, p. 293

Ibid., Part II, Chapter V, Section 1, p. 293

Ibid., Part II, Chapter V, Section 1, p. 296

Pacem in Terris (NCWC, 14 COURIER-JOURNAL, Friday, Jan. 6, 1967)

Washington, D.C., pp. 28, 29)

"Address to the United Nations Assembly, October 4, 1965 (Pope Paul VI in New York, NCWC, Washington, D.C. p. 7)

"Ibid., p. 9

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Perhaps the greatest ment of Vatican II was ment on the Church. Lumen Gentium, from two words of the Latin translation the text "Christ is the Light tions." To refer to Ch light is biblical. On Constitution on the Ch "Christ," "light," and tions" served notice document would be Cal, biblical and opti one and universal in cern.

The very first ques can it asked herself w is the Church? For pose of the Council u form and renew the But self-reformation renewal are impossible self-knowledge. So the asked herself: "What posed to be? What a posed to do in this w answering this ques Council—forged the m Dogmatic Constitution

A Revision Of Indulgen

The Vatican announce er step to update the Church this week. Part genes, it was reported longer be counted qu by in days or years. has been "a considera tion in the number of indulgences," limiting one a day.

An exception to th tion, however, is still a "for the hour of dea plenary indulgenc granted even though one was gained earlie day.

Dominican Father Lu termed the revision "a tive act of great impor

Another announce Rome said Pope Pau send the Golden Rose Letare Sunday—grt shrine of the Immacu ception of Aparacia I This year marks the 25 versary of the shrine t

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