

Aid to Backward Countries

The Key: Not How Much but How Suitable

By LOUIS PANARALE (NC News Service)

Rome — An abandoned school bus stands off to the side of some unnamed road in Latin America because no one knew how to repair it when it broke down. A tractor is covered with rust in some desolate African farm field because it was too expensive for peasant farmers to use on their small plots of land. A garment factory in India lacks skilled workers to run its machinery because the local people have worked for centuries with only the simplest tools. Meanwhile, a weeding hoe and a simple file enjoys great success in a farming project in the Congo. To study such problems and practical solutions to them, the Catholic Rural Life Conference and the Intermediate Technology Group (ITG) jointly held a symposium here Oct. 11-16. Entitled "Populorum Progressio to the Third World," the symposium reviewed the advantages of using an "intermediate technology" for various undeveloped sectors of the world. This intermediate technology, explained symposium officials, involves simple techniques that are not over-specialized, techniques that fill the needs of the "real potential" within a developing country. There were 15 major reports on development aid projects through intermediate technology in such fields as medical assistance, family economy, cooperative organizations, training of nurses and agricultural education. Represented among the more than 30 organizations were national and international relief organizations,

both secular and religious, voluntary agencies for aid to development and Christian missionary organizations. One of the co-sponsors of the symposium, the Intermediate Technology Group, is a private non-profit organization founded in England by persons from industry and the professions. Its stated purpose is "to assist developing countries in meeting the challenge of unemployment and world hunger." The ITG explained the problem this way: When the West began in earnest to try to narrow the gap between the rich industrial countries, industrialization seemed to be the quickest method. What did not occur to the Western planners was that the transplanting of industries, designed for the affluent and industrial nations, would not necessarily take root in an environment where technical standards differed so greatly, the ITG explained. The symposium's co-sponsor, the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, is a 45-year-old organization founded in the United States to promote the general welfare of rural people by a program of extension services, publications and activities. Msgr. Luigi Ligutti, overseas representative for the NCRLC, said missionary workers have long been aware of the importance of small-scale assistance in underdeveloped areas. "Man has to be improved before natural resources are improved. He is the very hub of progress; he is both the subject and the object of any improvement," he said. The kind-of-improvement Msgr. Ligutti talked about was given in a report from the Catholic Missionaries of Scheut regarding a small agricultural project in Kasayi province of the Congo. The equipment used by the region's rural population is limited to the axe and the hoe, the report said. The axes are used by men to cut down large trees and clear the ground. The hoe is the utensil of the women. It is of the short-handle variety and requires that the woman bend down as she sows, weeds or harvests in the fields. It is in accordance with custom that working with the hoe is a woman's task. "To pass from the hoe and the axe to the bulldozer and the tractor would seem extremely difficult, if not impossible in the present situation," the report said. "The project must look for some utensil that is considered as being 'viable' in order to completely incorporate the men in agriculture. No man will ever work willingly

with an indigenous hoe in a bent position; this offends his dignity as a man." Right from the beginning there were two implements that enjoyed great success, the report said. They were the file and the weeding hoe. The files were used to sharpen the other instruments. "A utensil that cuts well makes it possible to work more quickly and calls for a smaller effort," the report said. The weeding hoe is long-handled and has been accepted by the men because it allows them to work in an erect position. Only a small-scale attempt at popularization has been made so far, the report concluded. About 200 hoes and 500 files have been sold in the pilot villages at a very modest price. Success has been such as to guarantee a much greater distribution.



"We had a sparkling conversation last night! He said, 'Change the channel!' and I said, 'Do it yourself!'"

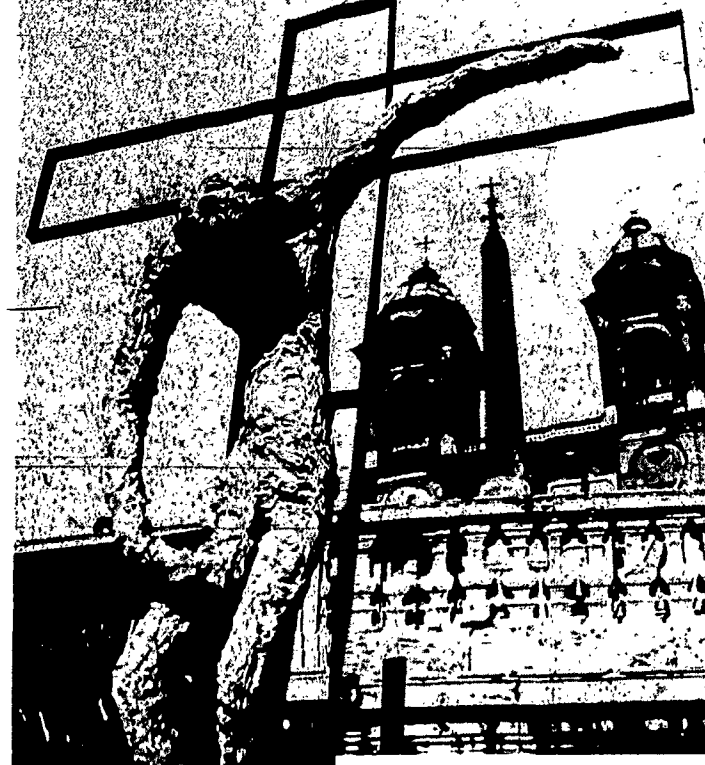
Lutheran Convention Questions Viet War

Omaha — (RNS) — The American Lutheran Church's annual convention adopted a statement questioning the war in Vietnam, but the delegates failed to condemn it on moral or any other grounds. There was active debate on the issue of America's presence in Southeast Asia. But after spending more than two hours of an extra evening session set aside to discuss the issue, so-called "hawks" won only minor editorial changes in the prepared statement. Biting civilian and military casualties and a continued diversion of resources from domestic crises in America pose a serious problem, it said. Americans are upset over the "high rate of civilian casualties, the limited support given to the Saigon govern-

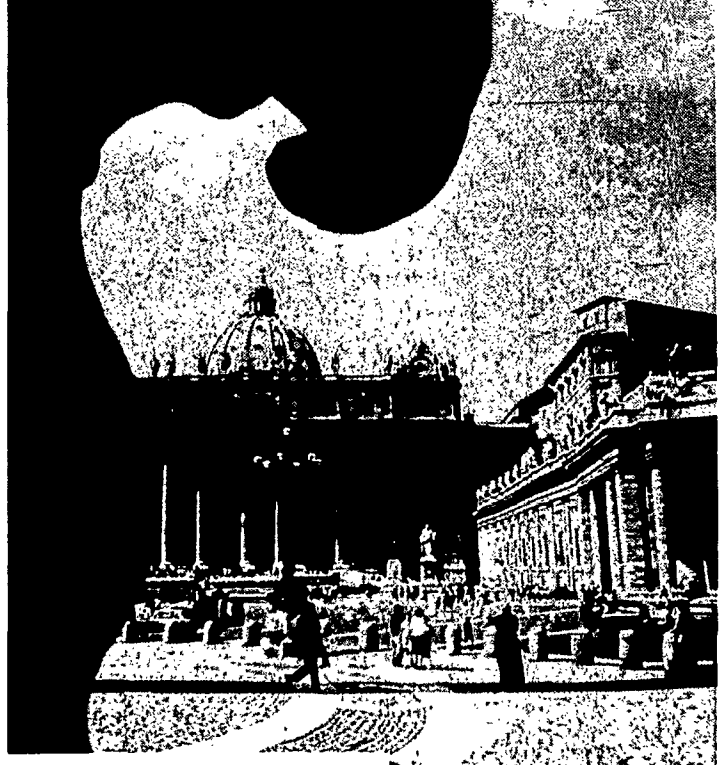
ment by the South Vietnamese people and widespread corruption among South Vietnamese military and public officials." "There is growing anxiety over our country's loss of prestige and moral leadership due to the war," the statement said, adding that there are continuing questions of "our nation's obligations to treaty provisions which appear to conflict with one other." "While many persons support the efforts of the American government to secure a non-communist South Vietnam as essential to United States' national interest, others question whether our national interest requires such extensive involvement in the area. Numerous voices are raising serious questions relating to the morality and justice of the conflict."

Nuns Teach in Jail

Boston (NC) — Every morning 30 Catholic nuns walk into Boston's city prison and the big steel doors clang shut behind them. The 30 Sisters of St. Joseph are volunteers who teach inmates of the prison, officially known as Charles Street Jail, in assorted academic subjects. The nuns, some much younger than the prisoners they teach, have brought a new spirit and even a sense of humor into the grim Bastille. The nuns, who come from various parochial schools in the Boston area and Regis College



A crucifix by Hernandez of Colombia is featured at the annual art display on Rome's Spanish Steps, left. Curves of a sculpture help frame the unusual view of St. Peter's Square, right. Shown are St. Peter's Basilica and the Apostolic Place. (RNS)



Autumn in Rome

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Black Separatist Strategy Termed 'Defeatist'

San Antonio — (NC) — Black Americans who call for a separate Negro society are courtin a strategy that "is defeatist and stupid." There is no future for the Negro in this country if he cannot succeed in the mainstream of American life. Carl Rowan, nationally syndicated columnist and news commentator for the Westinghouse-Broadcasting Company, expressed this view when he came here to deliver an address at Our Lady of the Lake College. He formerly was director of the U.S. Information Agency and ambassador to Finland. "I'm an integrationist from beginning to end, whether blacks, Americans or white Americans like it or not," Rowan declared. "I think the idea of blacks staying in their own confines is a defeatist and stupid strategy. There is no future for the Negro in this country if he doesn't get out and succeed in

the main stream of American society." Rowan said the Kerner Commission's allegation of America moving toward separate black and white societies may be an accurate conclusion. "This idea of separatism is a sort of semi-insanity," he declared, "and it is now infecting black American communities as well as white American communities." Rowan believes there is a conservative trend in the U.S. today. "A large segment of Americans want to turn back the clock," he stated, "and many white Americans think the American Negro is going too far too fast." This belief, he said, "is a fallacious and absurd notion. Black men are still three times as likely to be unemployed as white men, but the erroneous notion of the blacks' big progress is obviously making a reverse political impact."

Canada Anglicans To Let Men, Women Give Communion

Augusta, Ga. — (RNS) — While the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church in the U.S. conferred about law and peace, their Canadian counterparts of the Anglican Church of Canada in executive session approved a sweeping measure that would allow "either a man or a woman" authorized by a diocesan bishop to assist in administering the elements of the Holy Communion. The new Anglican usage will represent a far more liberal policy than in the Episcopal Church where canonical regulations limit the administration of the chalice to duly licensed men in special circumstances for a period of time not to exceed one year.

Protestant Cleric To Aid Bishop in Drive for Poor

Spokane, Wash. — (NC) — A Presbyterian minister is among three persons designated by Bishop Bernard J. Topel of Spokane to decide how \$23,500 realized from sale of the bishop's residence will be spent to help the poor. The Rev. David Yeaworth, pastor of Northwood Presbyterian church will serve with Father Frank Bach, diocesan director of charities, and James Sweeney, lay and civic leader, on the bishop's committee.

"The money, we hope, can be distributed as 'seed money,'" the Bishop said, and "more than matched from other sources, such as from the government" to help the poor. The bishop said he will not be involved in any decisions made as to expenditure of the fund. Bishop Topel decided last August to sell the residence which had been home for the bishop of Spokane since 1917. He moved to the cathedral rectory in downtown Spokane. Fathers John P. O'Brien and Carl Bauer serve with the bishop as equal or "associate" pastors in this experimental set-up modeled after Vatican II directives.

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CHURCH 'Sack-Clot'

By Father P. David

The United States Olympic team is coming home with a bag of gold medals. Yet before the world we have lost some more precious. Two of our athletes, Tommy Smith and Carlos, both Black Americans, were expelled from the Mexico City world to the discriminating policies still rampant in States.

The U.S. Olympic Committee and its subsequent expulsion of the Olympic athletes, Tommy Smith and Carlos, are a stain on our national character. "Using this occasion to advance domestic political views."

Red Smith, well loved for his prose and humor, reacted positively to the U.S. Committee's action. He put his own endorsement on the real disgrace. He said: "They (the Olympic athletes) are, as Mark Twain once said, 'men who consider children more sacred than human beings.'"

Many Americans cannot see the historical fact that the Olympic athletes are not just a few better than the rest. They are men who are squarely in the symbol of the American dream. They are men who are more sacred than human beings.

A "letter to the editor" last week's "Democrat" had much the same protest.

THE PR Time to Se

By Barbara W

The United States Congress finally passed the bill to aid in the whole billion. For the first time in its history it falls below the mark.

In the same mood of or distaste for economic to less fortunate lands, it has simply not voted the lion needed to replenish the International Development (IDA) — the U.S. agency for extending loan easy terms. This oversight other governments could the example of what is wealthiest government in that case, another may never reach the net.

What are we, as Christians, to do about it? In that case, another 4 represent them?

The unpopularity of particularly poverty strikers, has long been a fact these are troubled times

Clou

By THE RIGHT RE PAUL MOORE

(Some of our readers surprised, or even offended, by the use of the word 'clown' in my column. But this is not a new word. It is a word that has been used since the days of the Medieval Juggler. The Parable, a movie by Christian Pavillon of the World's Fair.)

It is too bad that the you can see a clown is a And people don't even gus very much because Barrum and Bailey wonderful anymore. But clowns badly.

Clowns are a glass th we see Christ insisting o of the dream persistence world of heaven in a walking the clown light surely where the two co

Clowns are great. They faces and come up smil on your face and lie t They smile because face to them, surprising. You you do not expect ev thousandth fall.

Clowns are sad. They world whose knives cut unshielded heart. The trampling of the each flower's crushing h We are sad. We cry o knives press through dullest when they strike, unyielding flesh. And they may strike again, crocuses in escaping.

Clowns laugh as they their tears for a brother rain on another, for en enough of his own grief, many of us would think, sake, of bearing grief s We all can't be smart, saintly. But we can be clown already are clowns. All do, maybe, is to admit w