



Nurses for Biafra

Msgr. Andrew P. Landi, at head of table, of Catholic Relief Services and Father Joseph J. Walter brief eight registered nurses in New York who volunteered for duty in Nigeria. The nurses will serve a year in former Biafra areas now under federal control and will treat those suffering from malnutrition. Around the conference table are left to right, Nancy L. Bochin of Cleveland, Judy M. Baker of Mishawaka, Ind., Marian Forbes of Glasgow, Scotland, Mary Lou Bennett of Bristol, Pa., Elizabeth Monaghan of Queens, N.Y., Ann E. H. Sweeney of Staten Island, N.Y., Sister Mary Mona Kelly of Toronto, and Carol A. Brandel of Dubuque, Iowa. (RNS)

Task Force at Work

Biafra Causing State Dept. Rift?

By JOHN R. SULLIVAN
(NC News Service)

Washington — Under Secretary of State Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, with a strong push from the White House, has opened an emergency task force on Biafra within the walls of the U.S. State Department.

The task force may also signal the opening of a breach within the State Department over U.S. policy on the war — and perhaps policy toward all of Africa.

The task force began operations more than a week ago under the direction of C. Robert Moore, deputy assistant secretary for African affairs. But just what it is doing so furiously — it works round the clock — remains something of a mystery.

Its formation reflects the fact that growing pressure has forced the nation's top foreign policy makers to take a hard look at the effects of the nation's policy toward Biafra in the light of the soaring risk of massive starvation.

Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Joseph Palmer, a former U.S. ambassador to Nigeria, and now head of the State Department's Department of African Affairs, has long agreed with the U.S. Embassy in Lagos, the Nigerian government and the British that the most effective way to solve the problem of starvation is through a quick victory by federal Nigerian forces.

And as the war drags on the the-
saurically is becoming increasingly suspect among higher policy-makers. The federal Nigerians are receiving massive military and economic aid, the dissent says, so why doesn't it win?

They are losing hope that the federal government either can or will win a quick victory.

Therefore, as the public protests mount — every day brings more petitions and letters demanding U.S. aid

to the relief agencies sending supplies to Biafra — they have begun exploring other ways to stave off starvation.

They have also been spurred by reports from Catholic Relief Services, the International Red Cross and their own Agency for International Development that the current rate of death is rising — and will leap toward the 25,000-per-day mark by the end of the year.

AID recently estimated that half of the people of Biafra — who total between seven and nine million — are "in jeopardy" of death from starvation.

The consequences of direct U.S. aid to Biafra — the only thing the relief experts say, which would help — could well be alienation of the federal Nigerian government at a time when it is drawing closer to the Soviet Union.

The two recently signed a \$140 million long term loan agreement, and the U.S.S.R. has supplied more than

a score of jet fighters and bombers as well as technicians and arms, to federal forces.

For the Nigerian federal government, the consequences could be disastrous. To them, direct aid to Biafra would appear to mean that the United States has started to abandon their sinking ship. An angry reaction, however, could only hasten a policy shift away from the federal government.

Should that occur, it would undoubtedly influence British policy — which is already under heavy attack at home. The loss of such diplomatic props could well precipitate a further break-up of the federal government. Already Nigeria's Western Region has been the scene of demonstrations protesting new taxes to pay for the war.

Some theorists suspect that Nigeria has deliberately dragged out the war in the hopes that it will help solidify the feeling of Nigeria unity which showed early in the conflict.

Bishop Urges Leadership

(Continued from Page 1)

groups — lay teachers in parochial schools and diocesan priests—among many the Bishop wants to see arise as "creative minorities" to "rejuvenate the body of the Church."

Lay teachers, the Bishop says, "must be religious teachers in schools where there are fewer and fewer 'religious'."

He begs them not to think of their role as filling a "Sister-gap" but as special instruments "to teach children to encounter God in every human situation, to be honest in a

cheating world, to be witnesses to virtue in their age group."

Calling on the diocesan priests to awaken creative zeal in their lives, the Bishops says: "Until the priesthood is renewed, everything is antiquated."

"The Creative minority will help all priests make the almost sickening discovery that we have kept a large part of ourselves locked away in a secret garden of our heart. They will make the rest of us discover that there is only one way to happiness for us and that is to be crucified with Christ."

Sister's Right at Home in U.N.

By ALBA ZIZZAMIA
(NC News Service)

United Nations — An educator whose specialty is philosophy can feel quite at home in the United Nations General Assembly. That is the feeling of Sister Ghislaine Roquet of the Sisters of the Holy Cross of Canada, who is serving as a member of the Canadian delegation to the current session of the Assembly.

"The U.N. does not operate on lines of authority but on moral influence," she observed in an interview with NC News Service. "Philosophy is like that, too." Sister is a professor of philosophy and theology at Basile-Moreau College in Montreal, and heads its philosophy department as well.

Referring to the work of the Assembly's committee on which she serves, which is working on a draft declaration on social progress and development, Sister Roquet stressed that it was "an attempt to set standards whereby men can live in peace."

Sister Roquet attributed her appointment to the Canadian delegation to her work on the Royal Commission of Inquiry on Education, from 1961-1966. She served on sub-committees dealing with educational structures and curricula, teacher training and financing. "This brought me before the public quite a bit, in conferences, TV panels, etc."

This took place, she noted, at the time of the Second Vatican Council, which helped to shape education, and especially Catholic education. The interest of the Church in public affairs became evident.

She stressed, however, that she was appointed as a citizen, and this means that the public is convinced that "Sisters are socially minded citizens interested in the efforts of society to bring about more justice and peace, efforts that touch our Christian concern for development." She observed that Sisters of her community are serving in the ministry of education of Quebec and in teacher-training institutes.

Sister Roquet, who joined the Sisters of the Holy Cross 20 years ago, has a masters degree in philosophy from the University of Laval at Quebec and a doctorate from the University of Paris. Her teaching career included courses in secondary schools

and as well as college courses and administrative duties, and she has traveled extensively in the U.S., Canada and Europe on educational inquiry missions. Unenthusiastic at first about wearing lay dress, Sister Roquet said she now feels that it is a good thing.

Encyclical Supported

It Must Be Followed, Portuguese Declare

Lisbon — (NC) — Pope Paul VI's encyclical on birth control, *Humanae Vitae*, must be viewed together with the great encyclicals on social problems, the Portuguese bishops said in a joint pastoral.

The bishops said the encyclical must be followed, and urged married couples to be apostles of the Church's doctrine on family life. At the same time, however, they appealed particularly to Catholic Action organizations in Portugal to prod the government and private business to promote policies that will improve such conditions as bad housing and enlarge social security for the Portuguese people.

In connection with the problems of birth control, the pastoral said social and living conditions must be improved to assist couples who are tempted to break God's law in their marital life because of the standard circumstances in which they live.

It appealed to priests to teach the encyclical's doctrines with generosity but stressed that they are not allowed a choice in the spiritual direction given on contraception in confession and in preaching.

'Question of Faith,' Spanish Bishops Say

Madrid — (NC) — Spain's bishops have called on Catholics to accept the teachings of Pope Paul VI's encyclical on birth control *Humanae Vitae*, "not as a dogmatic definition but as a clear and simple question of faith and morals."

The joint statement on the encyclical was issued as the Spanish bishops ended their nine-day meeting here.

The bishops said that there can be circumstances in which responsibility concerning birth control practices can be diminished, even though "acts contrary to divine and natural law are in themselves objectively immoral."

The bishops terminated their meeting apparently without coming to any final conclusions concerning worker-priests, norms for doctrinal guidance of Catholics, the renunciation of such Church privileges as state salaries for priests, and other subjects that were expected to be discussed by the bishops at their sessions.



Nun Represents Vatican

Sister Therese Grondin, a Maryknoll nun, attends a session of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) at Bangkok, Thailand. Sister served as official representative of the Holy See at the FAO ninth regional conference for Asia and the Far East. Shown with Sister Therese is Father Charles Young, C.S.C., from Pakistan, who represented International Caritas at the gathering. The Maryknoll nun also was the Vatican's representative at the Freedom from Hunger Campaign meeting which preceded the FAO conference. (RNS)

Dutch By C

(From Courier-Journal)

Rome — A commission, backed by Pope Paul VI, has mandated that the progress of catechism return to strict Catholic Orthodoxy on at least puted points.

Publication of the decision six Cardinals named by the study the catechism brought open the long-standing differences of the catechism and through the already significant differences between the Vatican and progressive Dutch church.

The document traces a history of negotiation between the Vatican and Roman delegates.

The changes demanded Dutch catechism's liberal interpretations of such matters as the existence of angels, the virgin birth of Jesus, the significance of the Crucifixion, the presence of Christ's body in the Eucharist, church and moral theology.

The results of the study known by the Vatican as the "Fausto Vallina" news conference at which special note of the document was given with regard to changes made by the Holy See.

"Naturally the declaration regarding the op are still debatable, leaving the full liberty of theologians and the Holy See.

Msgr. Vallina also noted that the declaration is in its approach to making

"It recognizes the uncertainties of the new catechism's pastoral, biblical and character; it approves the to present the Christian in a manner suited to the mality.

"It should be noted that laration does not make denation, but underlines malitions which are inexact without, however, the word 'heresy.'"

The Dutch Catechism of the Roman Catholic faith addressed to adults and is of questions and answers for children preparing for First that is usually associated term "catechism."

It has had a large sale final Dutch edition and French and German translations were published the episcopal imprimatur by at least one bishop is ordinarily required for volume. The first print English-language edition imprimatur of the Most F. Joyce, Bishop of Bur who later withdrew it.

The Cardinals took part in the "praiseworthy liturgical and Biblical of the catechism and the 'opus' of the authors is faith, in a way adapted understanding and the third present-day man."

The eight-page document ed by the members of commission. They are J. nal Frings of Cologne, G. seph Cardinal Lefebvre France; Lorenz Cardinal Paderborn, Germany; Cardinal Florit of Flor Michael Cardinal Browne man curia, and Charli Journal of Switzerland.

The document points "contrary to the wish of hierarchy and without correction, an English t the new Dutch catechism.

Cou

New York — (NC) — tart Council of the City has dropped the word from its name in an move aimed at encoura Catholic membership on san levels.

Beginning Jan. 1, the organization headed by Vincent Peale, will be k Council of Churches of New York. The change is as part of a unanimous new constitution which greater participation policy and decision-making churches on the loca

The new constitution, a meeting of the council's sembly, also opens the v bership for local "cluster tant congregations an parishes.

Eventually, council of the archdiocese of New diocese of Brooklyn will be received into the co nomination members.

In some areas, Catho and dioceses have joined church councils.

Meanwhile Archbishop Cooke of New York beca high-ranking Catholic participate in a service of the Interchurch Center, of the National Council major Protestant denom

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