

# Unprecedented Disorder Foreseen for U. S.

Washington — (RNS) — The United States, in neglecting the problems behind the civil disorders, "may be sowing the seeds of unprecedented future disorder and division."

This assessment was made public here in an appraisal of America's reaction to the racial crisis pictured by the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders in the Kerner Report on March 1, 1968.

"One Year Later" was released on the first anniversary of the document commonly called the Kerner Report, an evaluation which found the U.S. suffering under generations of "white racism" and tending toward two separate, unequal societies, white and black.

Twelve months after the Kerner Report, Urban America and the Urban Coalition found that "we are a year closer to being two societies, black and white, increasingly separate and scarcely less unequal."

The new evaluation discovered that some steps have been taken to eliminate racial discrimination, the percentage of Negro unemployment has declined, and there has been some improvement in communications between ghettos and city halls.

Generally, however, the one-year later study discovered that "progress in dealing with the conditions of slum ghetto life has been nowhere in scale with the problems."



"One Year Later" falls into two parts. The first focuses on public and private efforts to reduce the problems of poverty, education and environment.

The second covers civil disturbances, crime, relations between black citizens and public authority, the attitudes of blacks and whites toward each other and the spread of ghetto patterns from cities to suburbs.

Not included is evaluation or comment on the variety of church and religious-sponsored urban and racial initiatives which have been announced since the Kerner Commission reported last year.

The study's assertion that U.S. society is moving toward racial division rests on several conclusions:

This is the advisory panel for "One Year Later." From left: Sen. Fred R. Harris (D-Okla.), a former commission member; the Rev. Channing E. Phillips, Democratic national committeeman and head of the Housing Development Corporation; Daniel Parker, board chairman of the Parker Pen Co.; Tom Wicker, associate editor of the New York Times; Jack Conway, president of the Center For Community Change, Washington, and David Ginsburg, Washington lawyer and former executive director of the Kerner Commission. Unable to attend this discussion was the seventh panel member — Mayor John Lindsay of New York City. (RNS)

- Civil disorders increased in number (249) but declined in intensity in 1968. A decline in the number of deaths caused by these disorders was attributed to a more sophisticated approach

- by law enforcement authorities.
- Disorder has struck high schools and continues there while turbulence on college and university campuses has become increasingly racial in nature.

- An increase in crimes and violence contributed to an atmosphere of fear inside and out of slums and ghettos, with little evidence of change or reform in the criminal justice system sufficient to stem increase.

- The civil peace of slums and ghettos continues to be threatened by incidents involving police and there is evidence of hardening of police attitudes and a weakening of civil controls over police activities.

- Black pride is increasing, its translation into action in the areas of community control and self-help contributed to the comparative quiet of last summer.

- "Black and white Americans remained far apart in their perception of slum-ghetto problems and the meaning of civil disorders. The gap probably had widened by the end of last year."

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## Black Madonna Planned for Catholic Church

Detroit — (RNS) — The artist who painted a black Christ at St. Cecilia's Church may create a greater furor with his statue of a black Mary he is preparing for one of the church's side altars.

DeVon Cunningham, who spends his days as a customer relations man and sculptor and paints at night, said his "Black Madonna" may also have even deeper theological impact than his black Jesus.

"The Black Madonna was really the pastor's (Father Raymond N. Ellis) idea, not mine," Cunningham said. "When he saw the reaction of children and teenagers both black and white, to a Black Jesus, he felt a Black Madonna was a natural next step."

"An artist is not a photographer, and in the sphere of religious art, he is not even a portrait painter," the priest said. "He must try to show something that is spiritual and invisible."

"Thus, the Black Christ is not a picture of the historical Jesus. People who have called it blasphemy do not realize that Cunningham was not dealing with the Christ of history, but what He is today."

Similarly, Father Ellis said, Mary isn't simply the mother of an individual, but mother of all those who "dwell in Christ."

He said blackness in neither case should be understood literally, but in the spirit.

## 3 Bishops to Meet With Black Clergy

Washington — (NC) — Three bishops will meet March 11 in Detroit with leaders of the Black Catholic Clergy Caucus to discuss in depth proposals to make Catholicism relevant to black Americans and to recommend action to the American hierarchy.

The bishops were appointed by Archbishop John F. Dearden of Detroit, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB), to find ways in which the American bishops and black Catholics can work together on their common religious and social problems.

The bishops will present their recommendations at the semi-annual meeting of the nation's Catholic bishops in Houston (April 15 to 17).

Chairman of the committee is Bishop Peter L. Gerety, 56, apostolic administrator of the Portland, Me., diocese, who had more than 25 years of inner-city pastoral experience in Hartford, Conn., before being named to his present post in 1966.

The other members are Auxiliary Bishop Harold R.

Perry S.V.D., of New Orleans, 52, who became the first modern American Negro member of the U.S. hierarchy in 1965, and who is a member of the Black Catholic Clergy Caucus; and Auxiliary Bishop Joseph F. Donnelly, 59, of Hartford, Conn., for 23 years a member of the Connecticut Board of Mediation and Arbitration, and currently chairman of the Division on Urban Life of the U.S. Catholic Conference.

The Black Catholic Clergy Caucus was founded in April, 1968. Its membership includes the 187 black priests in the United States.

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