

Major Christian Concern: Increasing Violence

If one development more 56 per cent of adult Americans. Sometimes the atmosphere of could tell us where and when most Christians believe that sought before resorting to viothan any other in 1969 is the approved of the way the Chi-violence transcends particular to expect trouble. But in the violence is permissible, within lence major concern of Christians, it rago police handled the demon-is probably the increasing use strators. Violence was one of the ma is probably the increasing use strators. A corollary more and more jor themes of Pope -Paul's ad-

of violence. Christian churches are unani

mous in their condemnation of Churches have devoted more violence except for self-defense of their energy to action than in pleas for its avoidance and to statements, gathering relief in efforts to find alternative supplies and attempting to get ways for resolving differences. them into Biafra through the Yet the incidents mount. Nigerian blockade. Statements ence of situations favoring vio-

Violent events which are still

having repercussions include: blame has been assigned to gov- it may occur. - The assassination of two

national leaders: Senator Rob ernment or military leaders, ert Kennedy and Dr. Martin churchmen have usually said "It would quite obviously be Luther King; ble for the situation.

- The invasion of Czechoslovakia by five Communist countries determined to stop a

20



In the Biafra situation, which may find its expression lable factors undermines our frequently being added to this dresses during his visit to Latin argument is the assertion that America in August. It is a prevasive philosophy or outlook ence of random and uncontrol-The predominant viewpoint considered a form of institu- ments that date back to the be-

on the situation have focused ence of situations favoring vio-chiefly on the human suffer-ing of the Biafrans, and when it may occur

and must be accepted when no prove" and participate in vio- "Experience has taught that the lence to bring about a "more opposite is usually true." "It would quite obviously be other course is open. just legal structure." It caution-

cord with the crospel . . . 11 1s

not Christian . . . sudden or

violent changes of structures

would be deceitful and certain ly would not be in conformity with the dignity of the people."

In-condemning-violence however, the Pope, like other re-

ligious spokesmen, has equally

condemned social injustices

which breed violence.

Conto

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With the exception of some ed, however, that "other re- In Bogola, he elaborated on either science or common sense traditionally pacifist groups, sponsible solutions" should be the idea: "Violence is not in ac