

## Despite Technology, U.N. Efforts, Our World Is Still Racked By . . .

United Nations (RNS)—Although the World Health Organization, now marking its 21st anniversary, has made giant strides against disease, there were still 90,000 or more cases of smallpox throughout the world last year.

The suffering and death caused by smallpox are unnecessary—vaccination offers full protection. WHO has launched a world-wide campaign to eradicate the disease, but the problem is still huge—more than a billion people still risk smallpox and about 2 billion vaccinations and "re-vaccinations" are needed over the next decade.

Yaws, a nonvenereal disease with an effect akin to syphilis, has been successfully combated in national campaigns assisted by WHO and UNICEF. From 1949 through 1967, 152 million people were examined in 49 countries and 46 million active cases were treated with penicillin.

After being confined to traditional areas, cholera broke out in recent years and reached Europe. Poor sanitation, ignorance and poverty help breed cholera. WHO has set up an emergency service and a cholera vaccine bank to aid stricken countries. Although research is trying to

improve vaccines and find better means for dealing with cholera carriers, improved sanitation would end the menace.

More than 350 million people still run a daily risk of being attacked by malaria, despite the spectacular progress of recent years. Nearly 80 per cent (1.3 billion) of the population of the "originally malarious areas" in 146 countries have been liberated from this threat. And WHO can report the eradication of malaria in 35 countries and territories.

Perhaps one of every four beds in the world's hospitals is occupied by a patient victimized by water or filth borne disease. Typhoid, cholera, diseases of the gastro-intestinal tract, such as dysentery, spread through polluted water; in many countries in Africa, South and Central America and Asia intestinal diseases account for a majority of diagnosed deaths.

A WHO study indicated that safe, adequate water was not available to 90 per cent of the populations of developing countries. The international health agency is assisting 82 countries in improving their water supplies. Other activities cover sewerage and waste disposal, closely linked

to pollution and a problem everywhere.

Concern about air pollution has become increasingly acute in developing as well in highly developed nations. WHO has been mainly concerned with the measurement of air pollution and its effects on health.

Protection against radiation is a recognized major public health problem calling increasingly for government action. An international environmental radiological monitoring unit is being set up to provide data on levels of radioactivity to which populations are exposed.

The greater the production of electricity in a country the more deaths there are from heart disease. The same holds true of heart disease deaths in relation to average annual income, number of television sets and telephones, and other indices of technical development, all of them associated with overeating, lack of exercise and the mental strain of a competitive society.

The Philippines and the United States contrast sharply in these respects. In the Philippines, annual deaths from cardiovascular diseases are 53 per 10,000 population, average income is \$220, and electrical production is 150 kilowatt hours per person per year. In the USA, cardiovascular diseases cause 509 deaths per 100,000 population, average income is \$2,700, and electrical production is 5,641 kilowatt hours.



A major cause of disease in the world is poor water supply. An example is Calcutta, India, a major city with more than 5 million inhabitants which needs 50 million gallons more of water daily. Complicating the problem are open drains which often merge with pure water supplies. A young boy walks over a drainage ditch outside his home in Calcutta. (RNS)

### AROUND THE WORLD



#### 3 Faiths Pray at Abraham's Tomb

Jerusalem—(RNS)—Christians, Jews and Moslems held a common prayer service at the site of Abraham's Tomb in the Machpela Sanctuary at Hebron during Holy Week.

Twenty-two persons participated in the brief ceremony led by the former mayor of Florence, Giorgio La Pira. The patriarch Abraham is recognized as a common father of Christians, Jews and Moslems.

The mayor, here to attend an international symposium on the mid-east crisis, led the procession to the Machpela Sanctuary—built by King Herod—and later the site of Byzantine and Crusader churches in honor of St. Abraham. It is now a mosque.

#### Vatican Paper Hits Violence

Vatican City—(RNS)—Terrorism and violence as a means of correcting social ills were condemned by the Vatican City daily, L'Osservatore Romano, in commenting on a series of recent bombings in Italy.

"Violence has unpredictable repercussions," the paper warned. Social conditions bred by violence are often worse than those which the violence set out to destroy, the Vatican journal noted.

"People tempted to free themselves from intolerable social conditions," it said, "should be mindful of the dangers they are exposing themselves and their children to."

#### Foundations Aid Church Work

Geneva—(NC)—Two grants totaling \$440,250 will aid a church committee to program an experiment in development education to bring the Christian tradition into more relevant application to the contemporary world.

The Churches' Committee on Society, Development and Peace (SODEPAX), jointly sponsored by the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace, received \$300,000 from the Swiss-based Humanum Foundation and \$140,250 from the Ford Foundation.

The experiment also will seek to make more effective contributions to the building of international order and a secure peace.

#### Abortion Rise Alarms Uruguayans

Montevideo—(NC)—The number of abortions and the low birth rate in this country both came in for criticism at the fifth Uruguayan Congress of Gynecologists here.

It was estimated that there are three times as many abortions as there are births, and Dr. Hermogenes Alvarez, dean of the school of medicine at the National University, said that means there is "a daily average of 1,000 abortions."

"This calls for family planning and proper legislation," he said.

## Tax Exemption Seen Sign of Separation of Church and State

Washington, D.C.—(RNS)—Continuation of tax exemptions for churches and religious organizations was described here as the "best possible expression of governmental neutrality towards religion."

This observation was made by William R. Considine, general counsel of the United States Catholic Conference, secretary for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. He testified at a hearing of the House Ways and Means Committee on proposals to reform present tax structures.

"The history of our country," Considine said, "shows that fiscal separation has always been considered one of the most fundamental aspects of church-state separation. government does not finance the churches, and churches do not finance government."

He stressed that tax exemptions are not the same as subsidies: "You cannot buy a chalice or build a church with an exemption. You cannot maintain a synagogue or support a minister with an exemption," he added.

"Exempt organizations, including churches, have not been paying taxes, but they have been saving the American people hundreds of millions of tax dollars every year," Considine also noted. "In the educational, medical, welfare, housing and social services they perform, churches and other exempt organizations make contributions to the general welfare that would cost billions of tax dollars to replace."

"USCC is opposed to all tax reform proposals that have as their objective the substantial reduction of the income of exempt organizations."

To illustrate "the magnitude and importance of the contributions by American churches to the general welfare," Considine gave a brief

survey of the work of the Catholic Church in the U.S. This included (1967 figures) the operation of 834 hospitals, with 156,838 beds; 10,603 parochial schools with 4,143,150 students; 2,356 secondary schools with 1,098,756 students; 308 colleges with 433,960 students; 168 private institutions with 8,110 students; 142 special hospitals and sanatoria with 11,578 beds; 239 orphanages with 21,237 resident children; 25,188 foster homes operated in connection with Catholic charities, and 40 homes for the aged with 37,966 residents.

Considine pointed out that the provisions in the tax law for the deductibility of charitable contributions have proven of great assistance to the fund appeals of all exempt organizations, and added that, as a result, USCC is greatly concerned with the tax reform proposals that would alter existing deductibility provisions.

In earlier testimony, William T. Barnes, chairman of the division of federal taxation of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, asked the powerful House committee to write legislation extending the unrelated business income tax to churches and other tax-exempt organizations.

"The tax on unrelated business income should be extended to apply to additional exempt organizations, including churches, social welfare organizations, social clubs, and fraternal beneficiary societies," Barnes declared.

"To the extent these organizations operate business enterprises that are unrelated to their exempt purposes, they are permitted to compete unfairly with taxpaying enterprises," he said.

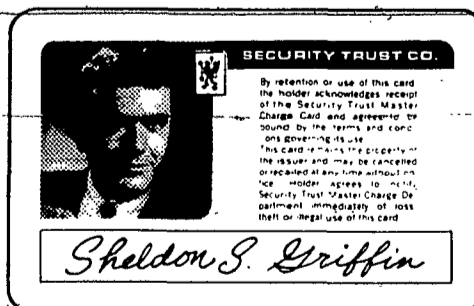
## Foundation Established

Washington—(NC)—The independent, non-profit Human Life Foundation has been organized to stimulate research into and carry out educational programs related to medical, psychological and sociological aspects of human reproduction.

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops at its November 1968 meeting launched this foundation as a response to Pope Paul VI's encyclical on birth control, Humanae Vitae, in which he said: "It is particularly desirable that medical science succeed in providing a sufficiently secure basis for the regulation of birth, founded on the observance of natural laws."

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