



Vietnamese civilian survivors of a battle between combined Vietcong and North Vietnamese forces and Cambodian army occurring April 9 in Prasot, Cambodia, rest in the yard of a farm co-op where they had been detained as Vietcong suspects. Reports were that at least 89 were killed in cross-fire. (RNS)

Student Torture Laid to S. Viets By 8 Priests

Saigon — (NC)—Eight Vietnamese priests have charged that university students arrested by the Vietnamese government have been tortured by police.

They also claim the students have been denied their constitutional rights to a speedy trial, bail and the right to legal defense.

The priests' accusation came against a background of continuing confrontation between students and government. Student-government relations, never good, took a turn for the worse when 40 students were arrested March 21 and charged with pro-Communist activity.

The priests allege the arrested students have been tortured as do some opposition political leaders. They demanded that those in jail be released or brought quickly to trial.

Police have denied the torture charges. A trial began April 20.

ID CARDS FOR PRIESTS
Naples, Italy — (NC) — Priests of the Naples archdiocese will start carrying identification cards to separate them

from a rash of confidence men who have been collecting alms, hearing confessions and sometimes even celebrating Mass in this city.

Archdiocese Releases Financial Statement: OUCH!

Baltimore — (RNS) — The Archdiocese of Baltimore, for the first time in its history, has made public a complete financial statement quite similar to those issued by major corporations and attested to by a firm of corporate accountants.

Highlights of the fiscal report:

- The archdiocese holds about \$12 million in stocks and bonds in a Consolidated Investment Fund. It is used to guarantee bank loans on behalf of the archdiocese, parishes, and other Catholic institutions.

- The largest single asset is property used for essential purposes. This was valued at over \$29 million in land, buildings and equipment.

- A rapid rise in expenses and a sharp decline in income is expected to produce an operating deficit of more than \$2 million by June 30

Msgr. Joseph M. Nelligan, chairman of the Archdiocesan Finance Committee, revealed that the expected deficit, which could easily exceed the predicted \$2 million figure, would be met by the sale of some of the stocks in the Consolidated Investment Fund.

"Clearly," Msgr. Nelligan said, "means must be found to

bring our operational budget into balance. We simply cannot afford to continue to reduce the resources of the Consolidated Fund."

If this procedure were to continue, he said, two disastrous consequences would result. Not only would the archdiocese reduce its borrowing power, but eventually the fund would be "wiped out and the archdiocese would face the grim prospect of insolvency," he declared.

"Perhaps it should be remarked here that the material assets of the archdiocese itself and of its parishes—land and improvements—are of small consequence in this connection," Msgr. Nelligan added. "Lending institutions find little in the way of acceptable collateral in second-hand churches, schools, rectories or convents. The market for such is certainly minimal."

In the balance sheet, which was prepared by the noted accounting firm of Ernst & Ernst, assets total \$52,397,708. With liabilities of \$13,959,468, this leaves the archdiocese with a net worth of \$38,438,240. Most of this net worth—\$29,162,490—represents land, buildings and equipment which could not be readily sold.

That total represents land, buildings and equipment used solely for archdiocesan services: seven high schools, the Martin de Porres Center, the Spanish Apostolate, the Catholic Center, and Newman Club buildings.

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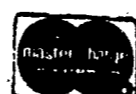
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