



Monsoon downpour traps three First Air Cavalry troopers under makeshift tent in the deepening mud of Hill 432, about 17 miles inside Cambodia.

COURIER / WORLD

Unity Chief Eyes Latin Sects

Milan —(RNS)— Jan Cardinal Willebrands, president of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, said here that the Catholic Church is planning to extend its ecumenical contacts with such religious bodies, as the Seventh-day Adventists and the Pentecostal Churches.

These churches, he said in an interview published in L'Avenir, comprise a large majority of the non-Catholic Christians in Latin America.

Cardinal Willebrands expressed hope that within five to ten years the Catholic Church would reach agreement with some other Churches "on essential truths of the faith."

Book Disputes St. Joan Story

Paris—(RNS)—A new book about France's most famous saint has thrown religious and historical circles into an uproar.

In *The Secret Missions of Joan the Maid*, historian Pierre de Sermoise challenges virtually all the accepted "facts" concerning her life and death. He claims that Joan of Arc was a secret illegitimate daughter of the Queen of France, that Joan was not burned at the stake, but that a condemned witch was burned in her place at Rouen in 1431. De Sermoise claims Joan died in 1449, and that he has found her tombstone at Pulligny, near Nancy. Numerous historians and Catholic intellectuals have challenged the new book. The well-known historian Henri Guillemin has rejected the entire thesis.

Canonized in 1920, Joan of Arc, "the maid of Orleans," was declared the patroness of France in 1922.

CATHOLICS IN POLAND

Bonn, Germany — (NC) — More than 97 per cent of the people of Poland are Catholics, and about half of the others are Orthodox, according to statistics published in a Warsaw daily received here. The only other body with as many as 100,000 Polish members is the Lutheran Church.



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Truth in Crisis, Pope Declares

Vatican City — (NC) — Objective and religious truth is under such attack today that man has mistaken "his own blindness for the death of God," Pope Paul VI told a general audience May 20.

"Today truth is experiencing a crisis," he said. "Objective truth which gives us knowledge of reality is replaced by subjective truth — experience, awareness, free personal opinion, when it is not criticism of our capacity of knowing and of thinking clearly."

"Eyes have become dimmed and then blinded and it was dared to mistake one's own blindness for the death of God," he told the audience in St. Peter's.

Some, he said are intolerant of the Church's teaching authority and others "seek a new faith," trying to "make it conform to the ideas of modern sociology and profane history — thus repeating the errors of other times by modeling the structure of the Church according to ruling historical institutions."

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