



Before and After

At top is a general view of Yungay, Peru before the May 31 earthquake struck. Below is a photo taken at the same place showing the ruins of the town after the massive earthquake and mudslides. (RNS)

English Nurses Rebel Against Abortion Duty

By F. C. PRICE
(NC News Service)

Stockport, England — (NC) — Senior nurses at Stepping Hill Hospital here have refused to assist in any further abortion operations. As a result, the Manchester Regional Hospital Board will schedule all future abortions for other area hospitals.

The stand of the Stockport nurses could lead to similar action in hospitals elsewhere. Disquiet among the nursing profession over the working of the 1967 Abortion Act is known to be widespread.

The nurses involved are mainly non-Catholic. Most Catholic nurses already had refused to take part in such operations, being allowed to opt out under the Act's conscience escape clause.

A spokesman for the Manchester Regional Hospital Board told me that the revolt at Stockport was not basically on religious grounds but was more "a matter of nursing conscience."

The Royal College of Nursing in London has come out in support of the nurses, stating that it will back any nurse who refuses to take part in abortion operations on either religious or moral grounds.

One doctor at Stepping Hill said, "The nurses object to the practice, as it appears to them to be throwing human creatures into the dustbin."

Pope To Extend Visit to Australia

Sydney — (RNS) — Australian Radio reported that Pope Paul VI will spend three days in Sydney during his visit to Australia, giving Nov. 20 as the probable date of his arrival.

The report quoted Auxiliary Bishop William Muldoon of Sydney as saying that the Pope's main engagement in the city will be to attend the regional conference of bishops from Australia, New Zealand, Papua, New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

The radio said it was "almost certain" that the pontiff would appear at a big open air rally of Catholics and non-Catholics planned in Sydney.

Pope Sees Young Justified In Deploring Strife & War

Vatican City — (NC)—Pope Paul VI deplored the continuance and increase of wars and violence in the world and saw justification for the disillusionment of the young with world leaders.

In an address to cardinals who came for traditional congratulations on his name day (June 23), the Pope dealt with the problem of war and peace.

"Innocent peoples are being thrown into confusion by forces greater than themselves," the Pope declared. He called such peoples "uncomprehending pawns of a cruel and merciless game."

"As a result of wars," he said, "people are dying in the world every day, through violence which is at the same time blind, wily and insidious, through vengeful and malicious reprisals, and through the resulting terrible lack of security and food."

"In today's world, young people no longer believe in fine words. They see, with their intuition of reality and their instinctive knowledge of the moral bases of situations, that in spite of so many speeches — for everyone is in agreement in speaking about peace — armed conflicts are increasing frighteningly, like a patch of oil spreading inexorably toward a flame."

The Pope cast doubt on how effective present peace efforts are and called upon the powerful nations and international organizations to summon "greater courage" in the quest for peace.

Pope Paul reaffirmed what he had stated earlier in the month, that his pontificate is "firmly oriented" toward evangelization. But he took care "to draw attention to the need not to forget the specific assistance that Christians must bring to a world in the grips of the grave

problems of development and peace."

He continued;

"If evangelization must always be the first and basic intention, development remains an essential requirement of justice and brotherly love."

"Let us face the fact: in spite of generous efforts everywhere to solve the most urgent and dramatic implications of the

whole question, which involves the entire world, we have to say that the inequalities between wealthy countries and developing countries have not been removed, and unfortunately in some respects are continually increasing."

The Pope declared that if the underdeveloped Third World's "cry for help" is not answered, it could explode in "ungovernable rage."

Bishop Hogan Calls Ecumenical Meeting

(Continued from Page 1A)

leaders to spend two mornings and afternoons in high-level study of practical questions touching on future ecumenical association of area churches.

The proposed new agency, under discussion by Protestant leaders for nearly three years, would replace the area Council of Churches as soon as six groups approve.

So far the Monroe Baptist Association, the black Rochester Area Ministers Conference and the Presbytery of the Genesee Valley have approved membership. Spokesmen for the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester and the Reformed Church have indicated their denominations will approve.

The new agency would be denominational in organization, instead of by individual church congregation. At present the Area Council has about 250 member Protestant church organizations.

Bishop Hogan made a public statement on June 4 that the diocese "had no specific comment to make at this time about membership."

Law of God Remains Unchanged

(Continued from Page 1A)

pressed into submitting to abortion for the sake of lower welfare costs."

Stating clearly that this change in civil law does not alter God's law or the law of "our church", the Bishops called abortion "particularly heinous because that life is innocent and defenseless."

Their statement is as strong as any made at any time when the issue was being debated over the last three years in New York state.

As the new law is about to go into effect, medical, hospital and health officials have is-

sued grave warnings of their own about the problems likely to come. Among them the view that abortions are "major surgery" and after 3 months are "fraught with danger" including the possibility after 20 weeks of the birth of a live child during the procedure. Both birth and death certificates will be required in such cases, Health authorities have warned.

The statement coming at this time, indicates the Bishops do not consider the abortion battle over and will continue to oppose "destruction of human life" and uphold the "sanctity of human life" as essential elements of the Christian belief.

COURIER / WORLD

Canada's Abortion Law Attacked

Ottawa, Ont.—(RNS) — The Canadian Psychiatric Association and the Humanist Association of Canada have called for relaxation of abortion laws in this country.

The psychiatrists stated that decisions to perform abortions should be regarded as "strictly a medical decision and a medical responsibility," not under the jurisdiction of criminal law.

The Humanists urged amendment of the Criminal Code so that abortions could be considered two doctors and could be

ered legal on the consent of performed in any medical facility, office or clinic by a licensed surgeon. They estimated that between 100,000 and 200,000 illegal abortions are performed each year in Canada—compared with an estimated maximum of 1,500 legal abortions this year.

Under recent amendments, therapeutic abortions may be performed in an accredited hospital after a committee of three doctors has decided that a woman's physical or mental health may be in danger if the pregnancy were to continue.

The interdenominational agency would be committed to "a common mission involving tasks beyond the ability and responsibility of individual churches."

The Bishop's invitation was sent to leaders of the following denominations: Episcopal, United Church of Christ, Baptist, Reformed Church of Christ, Methodist, Lutheran Church in America, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Rochester Area Ministers Conference and the Presbytery of the Genesee Valley.

Msgr. Charles V. Boyle, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church, Humboldt St., Rochester, was on the committee which devised the new agency. As chairman of the Diocesan Ecumenical Commission he has kept Bishop Hogan informed of the developing organization.

The Bishop's letter said that he had publicly expressed his interest in Catholic participation in the proposed ecumenical agency several times since his installation here last November.

He had read "results of three years of discussions" on the agency and approved of its "Statement of Intent", he said, but felt the need of a conference of leaders to come to a clear meeting of minds at the top-level because "many practical questions were left unanswered."

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Page 2-A

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