



Back to School

Mrs. Shirley Batey teaches her nursery school children how to count in Albuquerque's Southern Baptist Neighborhood Center. (RNS)

Archbishop Camara Honored by SCLC

Atlanta — (NC)—Archbishop Helder Camara of Olinda and Recife, Brazil, was named the second recipient of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. award here.

The archbishop was honored for his leadership in nonviolent social movements. It was presented at the SCLC's 13th annual convention.

Dom Helder, as the archbishop is affectionately known, was guest of honor during a banquet commemorating the founding of the Atlanta-based SCLC.

During the banquet, SCLC head Rev. Ralph David Abernathy praised Archbishop Camara's spiritual leadership as being "just what the American people need."

"American people need to get to know him and love him as I do," added Abernathy, who

has been with the archbishop frequently during the four-day convention. Abernathy met Archbishop Camara last March in Brazil when the two joined to issue the declaration of Recife, a call for worldwide social justice, peace and non-violent protest.

In accepting the King award, the archbishop commented that his visit to Atlanta represented a rededication to nonviolence for all men.

"We, the people of the world," he said, "need to build a church of nonviolence very much like the church of Martin Luther King." He added that the world's oppressed people must "push themselves forward through nonviolence."

After the archbishop's remarks, the audience rose in his honor to sing the SCLC freedom hymn "We Shall Overcome."

SCLC Plans More Militant Demonstrations

Atlanta — (RNS) — A more militant Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) will return to the nation's capital in the Spring to continue the Poor Peoples Campaign, the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy announced here at the 13th annual convention of the organization founded by the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

While non-violence will continue to prevail, Mr. Abernathy said, "rhetoric and marches will bring to 'a grinding halt' agencies in Washington, D.C., which he said were responsible for the Vietnam war and for slow progress in aid to the poor and the black.

After a slow start, the annual meeting moved on to some of the strongest denunciation of the federal government and the white establishment ever heard at an SCLC gathering. And there were some groups present which thought SCLC not militant enough.

Dr. Abernathy acted as a "prosecutor" of the American system in one session. The "jury" of 1,500 conference participants issued a verdict of "guilty" as the Baptist clergyman denounced the nation as "liar . . . fraud . . . robber . . . murderer . . . invader . . . and prostitute."

The press conferences of Mr. Abernathy were equally fiery. Saying the U.S. is "sitting on a powder keg," he wondered how long a time is left to achieve the promises of the Declaration of Independence.

He accused President Nixon of alienating the poor and the black, of inciting "military troops to gun us down in the street" and of making "murderers of our sons in Southeast Asia."

Vatican, Yugoslavia Resume Full Relations

Vatican City — (NC) — The Holy See and Yugoslavia have agreed to re-establish full diplomatic relations.

The Vatican announcement signaled the first full diplomatic relations of the Holy See with any country in the eastern European Communist bloc since the end of World War II.

The move is a followup to a limited resumption of relations begun in 1966 when the two parties agreed to exchange special representatives. It ends an estrangement between the Holy See and Yugoslavia begun when Yugoslavia broke off relations in 1952 to protest Pope Pius XII's decision to name Archbishop Alois Stepinac of Zagreb a cardinal. The archbishop at the time was serving a 16-year sentence in jail for alleged war crimes.

It is expected that Archbishop Mario Cagna, the Vatican's apostolic delegate and envoy to Yugoslavia will be shortly named pronuncio to Belgrade. His Yugoslavian counterpart in Rome with the title of envoy, Vjekoslav Cvrlije, is expected to be raised to the title of full ambassador.

The Vatican City daily, L'Osservatore Romano, stated that "the Church has not asked nor does it seek privileges. But it needs — and therefore asks for — the 'living space' which is indispensable for the exercise of its mission."

Catholic War Vets Stress Spiritual, Patriotic Renewal

Hollywood, Fla. — (NC) — The 35th annual Catholic War Veterans convention here advocated a rebirth of Americanism and a renewal of spirituality in this country.

Aldo Di Chiari, Belleville, N.J., was elected national commander of the 140,000-member organization. Elizabeth McGlynn, Cleveland, national auxiliary president, was reelected for a second term.

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