



## Biafra Revisited

A little over a year ago, 30 months of civil war in Nigeria came to an end. The Nigerian federal forces defeated the Ibo tribesmen who had formed the breakaway state of Biafra and the conflict was officially declared over. But for the Ibo children who lived through the war, it is not over. It remains in their memories.

The little boy above cannot forget. He was found at the edge of a burning village at the end of the war. He doesn't know whether his parents are alive or dead. He still lives with the war at a rehabilitation center in the East Central State, watching blind former Biafran soldiers stumbling around the courtyard. Sometimes he is told not to cry because there will be no more guns booming around him and he wipes the tears away. But there will be more tears tomorrow.

ALONE, a deaf Ibo girl, below, withdraws into her silent world. She lives in a rehabilitation center in Nigeria's East Central State, along with other victims of the Biafra civil war. For her, the scars of the long conflict will remain forever, as it will for thousands of Ibo children who were injured, or lost their parents, or suffered from malnutrition.

A little over a year ago, Biafra was on the world's conscience. Now it is just a thing of the past, another unpleasant story which had filled the newspapers. But the children — some of them — are still there.

(Religious News Service)



## \$130,000 Raised in Human Development Campaign

(Continued from Page 1)

ination and self-development. The campaign funds are intended for the use of organized groups who will help the poor develop economic strength and political power in their own communities.

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Projects being proposed in the diocese and the nation include voter registration, non-profit housing corporations, cooperatives and credit unions, job-training programs and community organizations for improving health, schooling and

job opportunities.

Fund-raising and allocation is only part of the Human Development campaign. Father Hempel said. A year-round educational effort in parishes and schools and lay organizations is

Wednesday, February 3, 1971

## Berrigan Case Roundup

# Cries of 'Foul Play'

(Courier-Journal Services)

The National Council of Churches, General Board charged that the right of accused persons to be presumed innocent until proven guilty was violated by a Harrisburg, Pa., federal grand jury in naming persons as "co-conspirators" in the "Berrigan case" without presenting indictments.

In a procedure called an "action," the delegates of 33 Protestant and Orthodox Churches urged that neither those directly accused nor the "co-conspirators" be prejudged without trial.

The action referred to charges against Father Phillip Berrigan, SSJ, and five others who are alleged to have plotted to kidnap Presidential adviser Henry Kissinger and to blow up federal heating facilities in Washington, D.C., in a Vietnam war protest.

Seven persons, including Father Daniel Berrigan, SJ, were named as "co-conspirators" but no indictments were placed against them.

The naming of unindicted "conspirators," said the NCC board, "violates one important purpose of a grand jury, which is to protect those accused of

crimes against whom there is not sufficient evidence to bring an indictment."

A national committee for the defense of William Stringfellow and Anthony Towne, accused on two counts of harboring Father Daniel Berrigan, SJ, while he was a fugitive from justice, has been announced here.

The statement of support said there would be no prosecution of the two Episcopal laymen, were it not for "the moral attrition America has suffered in the past decade on account of the war in Vietnam."

Mr. Stringfellow, an attorney and theologian, and Mr. Towne, an author, were indicted in December 1970 for harboring Father Berrigan, who failed to report to federal prison after being convicted of destroying draft files.

The anti-war priest was seized at the Stringfellow-Towne home on Block Island, R.I., in August 1970.

In addition to harboring a fugitive from justice, the two were accused of being accessories after the fact of Father Berrigan's crime.

They have entered pleas of

not guilty in a Rhode Island court, agreeing that they did "relieve, receive, comfort and assist" Father Berrigan but did not "harbor" or "conceal" him or "hinder" authorities in their pursuit of the priest.

Dr. John C. Bennett, former president of New York's Union Theological Seminary, chairman of the committee, voiced his belief that the indictments were "evidence of the tendency in agencies of our federal government to intimidate dissenters."

A federal judge in Hartford, Conn., ruled that rights of free speech in the First Amendment do not apply to prison inmates, thus denying the Berrigan brothers the opportunity to write and speak for outside consumption.

They attempted to have tapes of sermons and written texts made available to clergymen and others outside the prison. When permission was denied by prison authorities, they said their basic rights were being violated.



## Abortion Opponent

State Sen. James H. Donovan (R-Oneida, Lewis Counties) looks over petitions submitted by the American Society for the Protection of the Unborn of Utica. The petitions carry more than 50,000 names and ask the State Legislature for repeal of the present abortion law and that tax dollars not be used for the purpose of underwriting abortifacient procedures.

## Executions in Guinea Decried by Pontiff

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI deplored the mass convictions of alleged plotters against the regime of President Sekou Toure of Guinea as "a collective explosion of hatred and cruelty."

Speaking at his customary Wednesday public audience in St. Peter's Jan. 27, the Pope said it was not for him to pronounce on "internal affairs of an independent sovereign state." But, he stressed, "the moral aspect of this terrific business is open to the judgment of the world's moral conscience."

Reports said the Guinean National Assembly sitting as the Supreme Revolutionary Tribunal had also sentenced 72 persons, including Roman Catholic Archbishop Raymond-Marie Tchidimbo of Conakry, two West Germans, three French-

men, and 10 Lebanese, to hard labor for life.

Pope Paul referred to the case of the archbishop, expressing "profound sorrow" that, though the prelate's life had been spared, his "honor" had been besmirched and his "freedom" taken away.

Meanwhile, Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, general secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC) appealed to Guinean President Toure to call an immediate halt to executions, and to "reduce if at all possible the severity of the prison sentences."

Dr. Blake, in a telegram to Toure, said: "I appeal to you to reassume your right to relieve and grant clemency to those in Guinean custody or under sentence, for humanitarian reasons, and for the cause of an independent Africa."

## Pope John Step Nearer Sainthood

Venice — (RNS) — The move to proclaim sainthood for Pope John XXIII advanced one step here in the city where he once served as an archbishop.

An archdiocesan tribunal concluded a preliminary stage toward beatification of the late Pope — an official inquiry into his life, reputation, and works.

The document detailing the findings and conclusions of the tribunal was signed by the Patriarch of Venice, Albino Luciani, and transmitted to the Vatican's Sacred Congregation of Rites.

Action by the Venice panel is one of many preliminaries before the beatification stage. Beatification, a step toward canonization, begins with an in-

quiry into the sanctity of a deceased person, and the certification of at least two miracles worked through the intercession of the person.

If the findings of the investigation so warrant, the Pope decrees that the "servant of God" may be called "Blessed" and may be honored locally or in a limited way in the liturgy.

Archbishop Loris Francesco Capovilla of Chieti, the late pontiff's secretary, noted that since the beginning of the inquiry five years ago, "hundreds of witnesses had been questioned in Bergamo, Sofia, Athens, Paris, Venice, and Rome." The cities all are associated with Pope John's life.

Following beatification, the

next stage in the process of canonization calls for a re-examination of the life of the "Blessed" and proof that two or more miracles have been wrought through his or her intercession.

The final stage in the process is a public and official declaration by the Pope of the heroic virtue of the one beatified and the inclusion of his or her name in the canon (roll or register) of the saints.

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