



Pope Paul VI bends over to pat a baby on the head as he is carried on his throne to a general audience at the Vatican. In an impromptu comment during the audience, the pontiff said he was filled with "painful emotions and deep sadness" over the renewal of military activities in the Vietnam war. The Pope was diplomatically cautious in steering clear of any direct reference to the new U.S. bombings of North Vietnam but said the parties in the war in Southeast Asia must return their attention to "negotiations conducted with mutual generosity and good faith" as opposed to the launching of "new military operations." (RNS)

Pontiff Hopeful, But Grim, Over State of World

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul issued a grim assessment of the world state but tempered his remarks with an expression of hope for the future.

In his annual "State of the Church and the World" message, the 75-year-old pontiff placed major stress on the quest for peace in such areas as Vietnam and Northern Ireland.

His most biting criticism was aimed at the recent breakdown in Paris talks for peace in Vietnam.

He said there were "apparently insufficient motives" for the suspension of negotiations in Paris, a move which he looked upon as one that "evaporates" the hope for a suspension of hostilities in Southeast Asia.

The spiritual leader of the world's more than 433 million Catholics recalled that earlier:

"We have expressed our hope that this painful delay serves not to endanger the reaching of peace in that martyred region, but to secure a more stable and solid foundation for peace."

The Pope made no specific mention of renewed U.S. bombing but officials said his repeated mention of "recent events" was in reference to the bombings.

He said he was "praying for a fair and satisfying end" to the Vietnam war despite the fact that the talk deadlock has "spread bitterness and concern" over the situation there.

The pontiff pledged his efforts and the powers of his office and the Church to the cause of peace.

Pope Paul urged again that "civic understanding and Christian charity prevail over resentments in Northern Ireland, even where they are justified, and over temptations toward rancor and revenge."

criticized persecution of the Church in Communist and other nations, naming Albania as an example.

"We do not see what human hope remains there for the Church," the Pope said of Albania. "But we want to hope always, even against hope, while expressing respect, admiration and friendship for the Albanian people."

"We assure them that we are always ready and anxious to be able to resume with their country a good and friendly relationship," he said, in an obvious bid for some future agreement and easing of tensions between the Holy See and Albania.

The pontiff also referred to the several statements expressing sadness he made during the last week as the peace talks in Paris were suspended.

He noted again how resumption of war action during the past week dashed his own personal hopes for a peace in Vietnam in time for Christmas, the anniversary of the birth of Christ.

The Pope promised full Catholic Church support, as well as his own, of a "true and general disarmament and the search for new ways to prevent or settle disputes which threaten the peace and security of the people, whether on a world or regional basis."

In the annual message given to the College of Cardinals, the Pope noted that although Europe has escaped the ravages of war for a good many years, he saw peace there as resting on a weak foundation.

"Who is not aware that this peace, based in great part on a true or presumed balance of forces, has a weak and dangerous foundation?" the Pope asked. "Passions or a miscalculation

On the Church front, the Pope

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2 Pastors, Officialis Named

Msgr. Gerard C. Krieg, officialis or presiding judge of the diocesan marriage tribunal, has been appointed pastor of St. Mary's, Scottsville.

Father John Lynch, tribunal secretary, will succeed him as judge.

Father James F. Baker will

move from the pastorate of St. Pius V, Cohocton, to that of St. Joseph's, Wayland.

The appointments are effective Jan. 16.

The two pastorates are being vacated by the retirement of Father Edward H. Hartmann of St. Mary's and Father William J. Riefer of St. Joseph's. It is expected that a new pastor will be chosen for Cohocton in about two weeks.

Announcing the changes, Bishop Dennis W. Hickey said that Father Cyprian Rosen, OFM, Cap., of Geneva would continue to assist at the tribunal and that no permanent appointment to the court would be made.

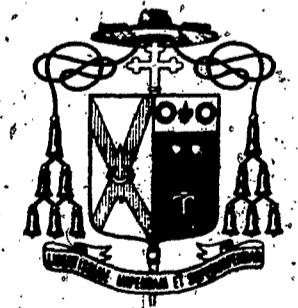
Msgr. Krieg, trained in canon law at the Catholic University of America, has been with the tribunal for 12 years and has been presiding judge since 1966. A program he devised last year to discourage ill-considered marriages.

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Diocesan Appointments



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Father John Lynch, secretary of the Diocesan Tribunal, to be officialis.

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