

Israel's Rights Stressed

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — In a resolution on the Middle East situation, the U.S. Catholic bishops called for the right of Israel to exist as a sovereign state and for recognition of the rights of the Palestinian Arabs.

The resolution prepared by a special committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) also urged "continuing reliance on the United Nations diplomatically and through its peace keeping machinery."

Bishop Hogan reported, "The statement on the Middle East attempts to point a way towards reconciliation rather than offering definite solutions. While the bishops recognize the

State Bishops May Meet Here in Spring

The National Council of Catholic Bishops [NCCB] will hold its Spring meetings on a regional basis and Bishop Joseph L. Hogan says chances are good that the New York State meeting may be in Rochester.

New York, one of the 12 regions which comprise the NCCB, "fortunately" has enough bishops to constitute its own region," Bishop Hogan said.

Adult education and communicating the Gospel were suggested as topics to be discussed at the Spring meetings.

"It is our common belief that only one topic will be given full attention and hopefully that will be adult education," Bishop Hogan said.

Toronto Church, Labor, Backs Chavez Boycott

Toronto [RNS] — Metropolitan Toronto church and labor leaders are throwing their support behind a Canadian boycott of California grapes and lettuce.

More than 1,200 persons joined United Farm Workers' leader Cesar Chavez in a march through the downtown section of the city and at an ecumenical service at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Cathedral in support of the California Union's campaign for a labor contract with growers.

A similar Chavez-led boycott in 1970 ended in success with the growers signing a three-year contract with the newly-formed United Farm Workers' Union. This year, however, his union was bypassed when many growers signed new contracts with a local Teamsters union.

Chavez said the farm workers deserve better than the contract that was negotiated for them by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters local.

Toronto is California's third largest market for grapes. All grapes sold in the city between November and next April come from California.

complexity of the situation, they suggested:

* "Recognition of the rights of Israel to exist as a sovereign state with secure boundaries.

* "Recognition of the rights of the Palestinian Arabs especially the refugees including a compensation for past losses.

* "Acceptance as the basis of negotiations the provisions set forth by the United Nations in 1967 which includes that Israel withdraw from the territories gained by the conflict that year."

In the unanimously-approved resolution, the bishops viewed the problem on a global and regional level, and stressed that the situation could not be viewed simply as a religious question.

"We believe all parties possess certain just claims, probably none of which can be perfectly fulfilled, all of which can be partially realized," the resolution said.

The bishops also urged:

* "Recognition of the need for continued restraint and continuing responsible diplomatic involvement by the Soviet Union and the United States.

* "Continuing reliance on the United Nations diplomatically and through its peacekeeping machinery.

* "Given recognition of the unique status of the city of Jerusalem and its religious significance . . . we believe it necessary to ensure access to the city through a form of international guarantees."

"Most Canadians are greatly concerned about the social conditions of humanity," Chavez said. "It is to this great concern for other human beings that we are appealing."

The boycott drive is being conducted across North America with 500 field workers acting as a nucleus in the large target centers. In Toronto, 32 workers are being housed and fed by Roman Catholic institutions supported financially by the Metro Toronto Labor Council and individual churches and unions.

Chavez warned boycott supporters in his cathedral address that demonstrators face possible injunctions against store picketing in the Toronto area. His brother, two daughters and a number of clergymen are among those in Detroit who are defying similar court action.

Father Brad Massman, director of the Roman Catholic Office of Social Action, told the marchers that the Church must have the courage to examine and challenge the "system," even though many of its members believe it should remain in the pulpit and outside of politics.

Attica Probe Suspect, Bar Declares

Many people doubt that the Attica investigation has been just and fair, the president of the Monroe County Bar Association said last week.

The weight of money, moreover, is against the accused, Anthony R. Palermo declared in an "open letter" to Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller.

Palermo repeated the bar association's request of last May that the state provide funds for the legal defense of those charged with committing crimes during the prison uprising of September, 1971.

He asked also that the governor "exercise extreme care" in selecting a new special prosecutor.

The special grand jury in Wyoming County goes into its third year this month. Robert Fisher, the prosecutor, meanwhile has been elected to the Supreme Court.

"We suggest that the manner and method of selection of a new special prosecutor will be as important as the person appointed in showing concern for a just and unbiased prosecution," Palermo said.

Forty-three men were killed during the five-day prison riot, 39 of them in the state police assault that ended it. Sixty-two who were inmates at the time have been charged with a variety of crimes.

CYO LEAGUES BEGIN

Catholic Youth Organization parish basketball begins this Sunday, Nov. 25. All coaches must turn in the remaining \$110 deposit to the CYO office before the season opens. Failure to do so will result in forfeit of the first game. Teams not having paid by the date of the second game, Dec. 2, will be dropped from the schedule.

Forty indictments have been returned charging prisoners with felonies that carry life sentences.

"It is the opinion of our trustees," Palermo told the governor, "that, since the State of New York has had the excellent services of a special prosecutor, investigators and a rather substantial budget for a lengthy period of time, the State of New York should also make available to the defendants appropriations sufficient to permit a full and fair legal defense."

Although the \$250,000 appropriation the bar association

sought last May would not have been sufficient, he added. "We felt that such financial assistance would have helped to demonstrate the State's concern for fairness had the Legislature acted."

"Since last May the defense situation has deteriorated further," the letter continued.

"You must be aware of the existence of a widespread belief in a substantial portion of the community that the grand jury investigation of the Attica tragedy is not complete or impartial."

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