

# Vatican Lauds WHO But Not on Abortion

Geneva (RNS) — The leader of the Vatican's delegation to the 13th general assembly of the World Health Organization (WHO) rejected the United Nations agency's classification of abortion as a form of birth control and called for greater efforts in behalf of natural family planning.

Msgr. Silvio Luoni, nevertheless, praised sections of a report by WHO Director General Dr. Halfdan Mahler, which reflected concern for the rural health sector, overpopulation and the family.

Msgr. Luoni said the report contained "positive"

approaches to the world health question, some questions "giving rise to concern" and some aspects "which are unacceptable from the Roman Catholic point of view."

The permanent observer at the U.N. offices here, Msgr. Luoni lauded WHO's consideration of health problems as "part of a wider complex of issues in the integral development of man."

He maintained that according to statistics 70 per cent of the world's population is in the rural sector, more than half under age 25. "It is therefore necessary," he said, "to

encourage WHO efforts among those living in rural areas."

Aspects of the report giving him concern were research on human reproduction and methods of regulating fertility. He described as "positive" the fact that WHO is concerned about overpopulation, but he pointed out that "the Church's opposition to unnatural methods to regulate births is first of all based on ethical principles ... motivated by concerns of the medical and socio-cultural order — concerns which are shown to have a sound basis."

He noted that the Church's attitude toward overpopulation is "not one of blind and unreasonable opposition to any method of birth control whatsoever. The Church is opposed to methods that are not natural."

Stressing a need to make married couples "more responsible" for human reproduction through special education programs, the priest said "natural (birth control) methods certainly necessitate a basic education but they have the advantage of being more economical."

He described as "Unacceptable" a section of the WHO report which classified abortion as one of the existing methods of birth

control. "One can ask if the classification of abortion among methods of contraception conforms to the principles of the Declaration on Children's Rights approved by the U.N. General Assembly in 1959," he said.

"The Holy See's delegation prefers to think that the classification of abortion in the regulation of fertility category is due to an error of distraction," he added. "It is difficult to imagine any other hypothesis in a document in which the need for the protection of the family is affirmed without ambiguity and pursued with a courage and frankness so particularly necessary given the present crisis in the family."

Msgr. Luoni concluded by stating that despite its "just and necessary reservations, the Holy See's delegation pays tribute to the director general of WHO and its Family Health Division for their effort in favor of this institution (the family), which is, and always remains, the basis of human society."

### CONCERT

The Rev. Charles Walker of Philadelphia, who became known here as a pianist while he was a student at Colgate-Rochester, will be featured at a concert at 8 p.m. Friday, May 27, at Third Presbyterian Church, East Avenue at Meigs.

The Christ Clarion Musicians and three black choirs from area churches also will perform. The concert is sponsored by Christ Clarion, a 78-member Pittsford congregation.

# Zero Population Would Curb Immigration

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — Zero Population Growth, an organization that formerly concentrated on promoting birth control, is about to launch a campaign against immigration to the United States, according to a lobbyist quoted in the Washington Post.

Melanie Wirkin said ZPG hoped to form an alliance with environmental groups and labor organizations that are concerned about the influx of illegal aliens, and also would campaign for

"drastic reduction in legal immigration."

A fund-raising appeal describes illegal immigration as a "human tidal wave depressing our economy and costing American taxpayers an estimated \$10 billion to \$13 billion a year in lost earnings and taxes, in welfare benefits and public services."

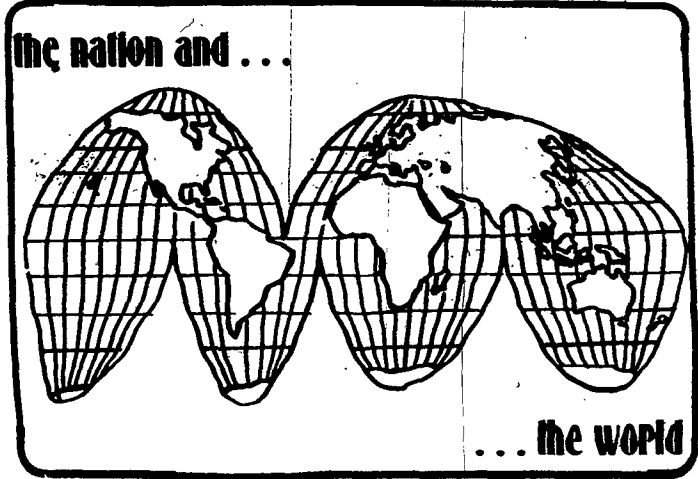
ZPG goals include tighter controls over the admission of foreign students and

# Small Business Workshop

The Active Corps of Executives, a non-profit organization, and the Small Business Administration will conduct a one-day workshop on "Keys to a Business Success," May 21 at the Federal Building, 100 State St.

Subjects to be covered will be business financing, taxes and insurance, organization and planning, management techniques, choosing a location and sources of assistance and information.

All new and prospective business owners are invited and requests for registration should be mailed to Small Business Administration, 100 State St., Rochester, N.Y. 14616, telephone 263-6700. A \$5 fee will be charged.



President Jimmy Carter was one of 13 persons to receive honorary degrees at the University of Notre Dame's largest graduation ceremony in history on May 22 in South Bend, Ind. The President also delivered the commencement address in the Convocation Center Arena on campus. The President received an honorary doctorate of laws during a ceremony in which 2,177 undergraduate and graduate students received degrees.

Following recent meetings with two Vatican theologians in Rome, dissident French Archbishop Marcel LeFebvre, C.S.Sp., said he had again refused to sign a declaration that would "obey" the liturgical and doctrinal reforms of Vatican. The 71-year-old prelate told reporters at a press conference held outside Rome that the Vatican theologians, whom he did not name, were writing up a report of the meetings "which will be fairly negative."

A spokesman for the Philippines consulate in New York City, denied a report in the press that a Jesuit bishop from Mindanao had been arrested by the government of President Ferdinand Marcos during a visit to Manila. The spokesman said a cable from Manila stressed that there is "no truth" in the report that Bishop Francisco Claver, S.J., of Malababay has been arrested. The cable also denied that an American prelate, Bishop Joseph Regan, M.M., of the Gagum Prelature was arrested. Both men are known to be on a list of suspected subversives prepared by the Philippine military.

A 33-year-old Roman Catholic priest, Father Nabarro Oviedo, was shot and killed by a group of armed men near his parish on the outskirts of San Salvador, El Salvador. The death, the latest in a series of killings in the capitol city, reflect the growing tension prevailing in El Salvador and fears that civil war is about to break out in the tiny Central America nation.

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