

Praying

Members of the Saudi Arabian band who were at Riyadh Airport awaiting President Carter's arrival on Jan. 3, put down their instruments to pray just prior to his arrival there. Carter conferred with King Khalid and Crown Prince Fahd, the operating head of the Saudi government, before flying on to his meeting with President Anwar Sadat in Egypt. (RNS)

Pope Feels for Palestinians

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul, in remarks to the new Syrian ambassador to the Holy See, reaffirmed his "profound sympathy" with the Palestinian people and his "deep concern" for all the people of the Middle East.

more serious and generous consideration." "However," the Pope added, "all the peoples of the Middle East without exception are of deep concern to us, for all (have suffered) from repeated armed conflicts and are suffering from the continued effects of an unsettled situation."

Ambassador Diyah Alla al-Fatal, presenting his credentials to the Pope on Dec. 15, mentioned the "plight" of the Palestinians in the course of his brief address to the pontiff.

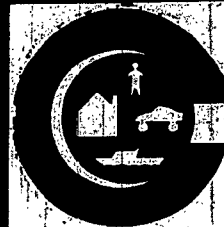
The Palestinian people, said the Pope, "are of particular concern to us, since, among the others, (Middle East peoples) they have suffered and are suffering most."

"On various occasions, we have declared our profound sympathy with them. We consider that, in spite of the deplorable acts of violence by which their cause has sought at times to bring world attention to itself, it ought to be given

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Prepared by the Human Rights Task Force of the Diocesan International Justice and Peace Commission.

As we have in the past and will continue in the future to discuss the situation of human rights in various countries, it is important to occasionally draw back from the specific situations in order to reflect on some larger questions and common themes. It is in this context that we will want to look deeper into such questions as: What are the rights of human beings in the fullest sense? And how might they be related to each other? Or, pursuing a different area, is there any relationship between such factors as economic development and the violation of human rights?

There are a variety of complex and multi-faceted issues which deserve our consideration when discussing or thinking about human rights. But due to our limited space we shall confine ourselves to a very brief discussion of one general question per column.

This week we would like to provide an opportunity to deepen understanding and conception of the general term "human rights". As a rule, when we read or hear about the term human rights today, it is most frequently meant to apply to situations in which political or civil rights are abridged or abused.

Within this category are included a variety of rights, such as the right to be free from governmental violation of the integrity of the person. The major and most flagrant example of this is torture. Other civic or political rights of which we

often hear violations are the right to free speech and expression and to equal protection before the law. The importance and significance of these rights, the violations of which we hear so much about and on which many of our articles have focused cannot be understated.

At the same time, there is another area of human rights, which is mentioned or discussed much less frequently by the news media, by politicians or by various interest groups. Yet they are no less fundamental to our existence nor could they be said to be less essential to our conception of human dignity.

We speak here of the social, economic, and cultural rights of man. Of natural and logical preeminence in all of them is the right to life. From this flow such basic ones as the right to food, the right to shelter, the right to good health, the right to a job and to education.

The two documents which provide international and in most cases, legal validity to these two kinds of rights emerge from the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights refine and expand upon the rights as we have discussed them above. Although these agreements, or covenants, have been 30 years in the making, 46 countries have now ratified, each of the agreements which took

effect in January 1976. In early October of this year, President Carter signed the multilateral treaties but Senate ratification is still required before the U. S. becomes party to them.

The two kinds of rights are deeply related and inseparably linked. But how they are related, which are more important, or which

Lefebvre Unleashes New Attack on Pope

Paris (RNS) — Rebel French Catholic Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre has fired another broadside at Pope Paul and Vatican II, charging that "Satanic interpretations" of liberty, equality and fraternity were playing into the hands of the "enemies of the Church."

In a new brochure, "A Master Coup of Satan," the archbishop argued that religious freedom "leads to the liberty of all religions," as against the special position that should be accorded the "one, true, Church."

"Equality," he said, "introduces the principles of egalitarianism in the Church," and "fraternity, or ecumenism, plays into the hands of all the enemies of the Church."

Archbishop Lefebvre reiterated his frequently repeated criticisms of Pope Paul, accusing him of "philo-Lutheranism" and "Masonic" behavior.

He criticized the pontiff

for visits to the United Nations, Israel and Colombia "in a manner that could be taken as offering support for guerrillas."



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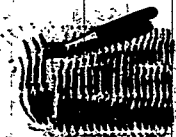
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