

Vatican Official Urges 'Total Disarmament'

By ROBERT JOHNSON
Religious News Service

New York—The Vatican's top diplomatic negotiator made a strong call here for "total and general" disarmament in the world, the "elimination of the causes of violence," and efforts to establish a new international order for peace that "corresponds to a solid, even if very courageous, realism."

He said that "realism" might be recognized in the fact that "man is condemned to peace if he does not want to be condemned to catastrophe," and indicated that the United Nations is the best hope for implementing such a new international order for a lasting world peace.

Archbishop Agostino Casaroli told a gathering of church leaders and U.N. diplomats and workers that in international life today a "leap of quality" is necessary, one that is "analogous to the process which carried mankind progressively forward from primitive barbarity... up to the modern state." He added that the U.N. was "born in such a spirit and for such a purpose."

Archbishop Casaroli, secretary of the Council for Public Affairs of the Church, was the principal speaker at an ecumenical service (Jan.

23) marking Pope Paul's World Day of Peace observance, held at Holy Family Church near the United Nations. The service and subsequent reception were sponsored by the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the U.N. and Holy Family parish.

Other participants included Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York, Archbishop Iakovos, Dr. Claire Randall, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, and Kurt Waldheim, secretary General of the U.N.

Dr. Waldheim echoed the archbishop's plea for disarmament in brief remarks to the gathering, calling the Pope's appeals for peace "nothing less than appeals to reason." Yet, he said that continuing regional confrontations — in the Mideast, Cyprus and South Africa, for example — "all invite unrest and instability" in the world.

Observing that \$380 billion a year goes into armaments rather than to food, housing and health care for the disadvantaged, he said the major powers are making "no progress" in reducing armaments, but instead are increasing them.

He charged that the arms race is not only "stopping economic and social

development," but is accelerating the danger of increased regional conflicts, and ultimate worldwide disasters.

Speaking on this year's theme of World Peace Day, "No to Violence, Yes to Peace," Archbishop Casaroli traced the long struggle of mankind for world order, noting that man has progressed considerably but is still threatened with burial "beneath his own triumph."

Observing that the greatest threat to man is from man himself, the Vatican diplomat said it is the "abuse of force against the good rights of others" that is the ultimate source of conflict, not only among individuals but among nations.

Archbishop Casaroli pointed out that a preoccupation with security has caused major powers to escalate their arms potential which "besides imposing a heavy burden on world economy, perpetuates a psychology of insecurity," instability, fear and the possibility that "acts of desparation" will be provoked.

He said mankind must be aware of what Pope Paul has called "the absurdity of modern war" and the "supreme irrationality of war" — an irrationality that

entrusts the decisions of justice to a confrontation of forces. "All states," he added, "ought to be convinced that it has always been and is today even more their moral obligation... to renounce decisively every temptation to resort to force or violence..."

"It is the old problem of mutual distrust which... is at the basis of the fragility of international life, with the suspicions, the reservations, the games of cunning, which are interwoven in the history of international life..." Because of this, nations are led to the conclusion that the only security of a state is based on its arms capability, he said and that peace would be endangered by any other attitude.

In contrast to this, said

Archbishop Casaroli, Pope Paul declares that modern man must continue to seek the possibilities of peace and "cannot shrink from the challenges" created by his own progress, especially in the area of armaments.

He said the three major challenges of the age are the implementation of "total and general" disarmament, "the elimination of the causes of violence," and the establishment of a new world order "which will permit the solution of its problems by peaceful means... and assure respect for rights..."

Stressing that the U.N. was created to facilitate such a world order for peace, the archbishop acknowledged that it has not yet lived up to the difficult demands of history.

But he declared: "It must not be weakened; but rather be strengthened and improved."

"On this day, wishing to exorcise the menacing spectre of violence from within the states and from their relations with one another," he said, "we pray for world peace but at the same time also for the instrument in which the world reposes its trust for its safeguarding and enrichment with positive contents of cooperation and progress."

He urged that "mankind be freed at last from the ancient slavery of war" so it can devote itself to the "dutiful battle against ignorance, poverty and sickness and thus extend ever further its peaceful sovereignty in the universe."

U.S. Bishops Unit Backs Pope's Disarmament Plea

Washington, D.C. (RNS)—The 48-year-old bishops' Administrative Board of the U.S. Catholic Conference echoed Pope Paul's call for peace and disarmament in a statement here, declaring that "the spectre of technological warfare is a unique menace of the age" and that the arms race "must be stopped."

Reflecting upon "the meaning of peace in a world still marked by multiple forms of violence," the USCC board said the "dangers of the arms race are a concern and a challenge to the whole human family." And it called upon the nation's Catholics to contribute to informed public discussion of disarmament and related questions.

Citing Pope Paul's recent "no to violence, yes to peace" declaration to the world, the bishops also noted the Vatican's 1976 intervention at the United Nations when it said the arms race is to be "condemned unreservedly" as a danger, an injustice and a mistake.

The bishops, meeting in Washington to set up an agenda for the Spring meeting of the entire bishops' conference in Chicago, said "all the members of the universal Church are called to witness to the Gospel of Peace."

They pointed out that for the Church in the U.S. the dangers of the arms race have special significance. "No nation has a more

critical role in determining the delicate balance between the dangers of war and the possibilities of peace. It is an illusion to think that the U.S. bears this responsibility alone; but (it) is a more dangerous deception not to recognize the potential for peace that our position in the world offers us."

Pointing to upcoming United Nations and SALT discussions on disarmament in 1978, the bishops said it is not their purpose to engage in a detailed analysis of issues to be raised. But, they added, it is their intention to identify them as two instances of political debate in which the moral issues of the arms race can be articulated.

Psychiatric Care Found Inadequate

Mental health facilities in this area are not what they should be, the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency says.

Many of the patients in psychiatric hospitals do not need 24-hour care, and at the same time, many who live in the community cannot get the services they need, the agency reported last week, after a two-year study.

"The study estimates," the report says, "that only one-third of the existing 1,651 psychiatric and alcoholism hospital beds in Monroe County would be necessary if other types of institutional and supervised residences, and a full array of treatment services to

rehabilitate and maintain the mentally disabled were available in the community."

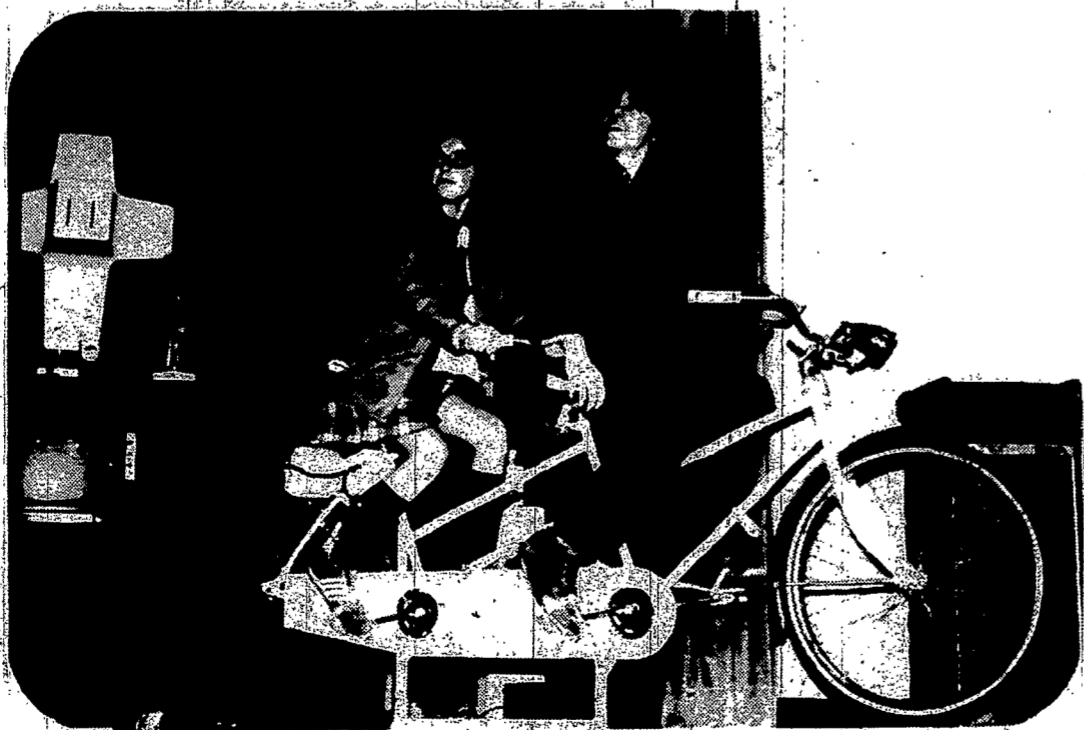
The study was funded by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. James Sorrentino, project coordinator, said the problems "pinpointed" are common throughout the country. The trend here and elsewhere, he noted, is to discharge patients into their own communities, but "little planning has been done to meet the clinical needs of the patients and determine the impact on the community."

The study indicated, he said, "a need for more supervised residences in Monroe County, to serve three times as many clients as they can now accommodate."

The study report is available at the FLHSA office, 360 East Ave., Rochester 14604

TWO CONCERTS

The choirs of Holy Trinity, Webster, and the Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word will sing together this Sunday at the latter church and again next Sunday at Sacred Heart Cathedral. They will perform A German Requiem, by Johannes Brahms, at 7 p.m. March 12 and at 3 p.m. March 19. The directors are Thomas Crawford of Holy Trinity and Timothy Albrecht of Incarnate Word. Soloists will be Margaret Hackett, soprano, and John Oliver, baritone. The public is invited. There is no charge.



Ways to Power

Wilma Goetting's seventh and eighth grade classes from Our Lady of Mercy elementary school were among the 700 area school students who participated in the program, Energy Today and Tomorrow at the Rochester Museum and Science Center. Above, two of her students Renee Hokula and Mark Stetzel peddle their way to "power". The event, sponsored by the New York State Power Pool, was designed to give students a clear understanding of feasible power sources available for the future along with ways to curb energy usage now.

WARNING

Both the City of Rochester and the RG&E are asking parents and teachers to caution children against tampering with streetlight fixtures. The recent heavy snows have brought the streetlighting poles within easy reach of youngsters. "These systems carry high voltage, are extremely dangerous when contacted, and cause severe injuries and fatalities," an announcement from the RG&E states.

FOOD NEEDED

An urgent call for canned goods and fresh vegetables has been issued this week by the St. Joseph's House of Hospitality. The foundation of the Rochester Catholic Worker community provides food and shelter to the poor men and women of the central city.

Awards

Continued from Page 1

yet been announced. Joan M. Smith is Raparound editor.

According to the press association, the general excellence honor was for the Courier-Journal's "news content, makeup, format, use of typography and appearance, feature story use and special columns, editorial page content and makeup, quality and use of photos and ad placement."

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