

U.N.'s Waldheim

NO THIRD WAR... BUT

BY CARMEN J. VIGLUCCI

United Nations — Kurt Waldheim, secretary-general of the United Nations, told religion editors and publishers here last week, "I do not think we will have another world war."

"The big powers know that nobody can win," he continued, "there is overkill on both sides and they know it."

Waldheim addressed more than 150 newsmen from the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish press as part of a seminar sponsored by the United Nations Association of the United States.

Although the top official of the U.N. was optimistic about avoiding a world-wide conflict, he tempered the hope with reminders that "nations are not ready to cooperate, just look at your papers."

"Nations are not aware of the great dangers we are facing," he said. "They are still worrying about selfish national issues."

"I must tell you that governments and people do not think of long-term interests but rather of short-term interests."

He said that industrialized nations cannot

solve the problems of the world alone ... we need a global approach.

"The West," he said, "is manufacturing so much but the Western world is saturated with things and the Third World cannot afford them" that the manufacturing is creating waste. In the meantime, the Western world, he said, is plagued by inflation and unemployment.

While he expressed his opinion about the unlikelihood of a third world war, he said he is still afraid "that, whether it is the Mideast, or Cyprus, or other nations, because of

these disputes, the big powers will be forced to throw in one side causing confrontation. Therefore it is our (U.N.) duty to do everything we can to handle these problems."

He said that "the U.N. is criticized for not negotiating enough, such as in the Mideast, but I can only say that we work behind the scenes" and he referred to disarmament negotiations.

"We have not achieved a breakthrough as such but we need patience and perseverance and the U.N. has made a great contribution."

He began his talk at the U.N. Educational, Social and Cultural meeting room, by reminding all that "I come from a very Catholic country (Austria)" and was greatly influenced by the "religious thinking" of my parents "so I attach a great importance to what you are doing (as religious journalists)"

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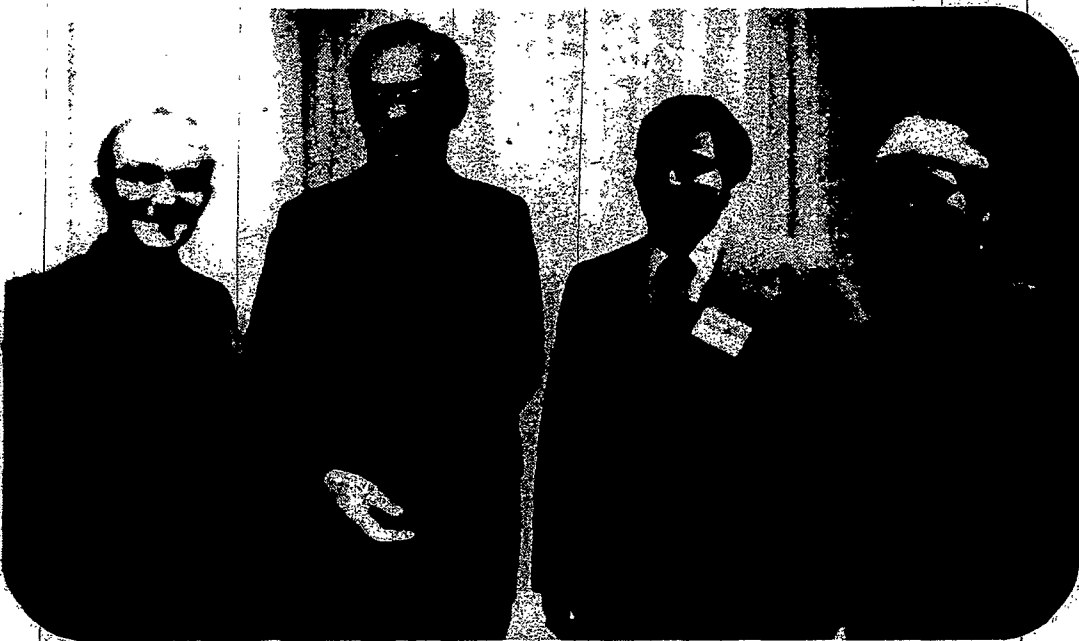
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Old Friends

Photo by Anthony J. Costello

While Father Joseph Reinhart, left, diocesan director of missions, was attending the annual convention of Holy Childhood directors last week in Washington Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, in town for the bishops meeting, paid him a visit. With them are Matthew R. Paratore, second from right, executive secretary of the International Liaison U.S. Catholic Coordinating Center for Lay Volunteer Ministries, of which the diocesan missions office is a member, and Father Francis W. Wright, national director of the Holy Childhood Association.

Share your most precious gifts with the Missions!

My dear Friends of the Missions,

Two thousand years ago, a Child was born into poverty. Laid in a manger, He gave the appearance of being the lowliest babe in the world.

BUT WISE MEN RECOGNIZED THAT HE WAS CHRIST and offered him their most precious gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.



PEOPLE OF WISDOM ALWAYS RECOGNIZE CHRIST WHEREVER HE MAY BE, EVEN IN THE LEAST LITTLE SLEEPING CHILD.

This Christmas, would you recognize Christ in the poor of the Missions, and offer them your most precious gifts of faith and hope and love?

The gift of **FAITH**. More than half the world's people cannot say with us the simplest of prayers: "I believe in God" because they do not know of Him or of His Son Who came to share our burdens, or of His Spirit Who warms our lives.

By sharing your faith with the Missions, you come bearing the greatest gift

of all. For faith is the gift that promises God's care today and His love forever. It is the gift of eternity.

The gift of **HOPE**. The people of the Missions are quite like us. They have dreams for themselves and for their children: healthy bodies, informed minds, employment, food on the table, adequate shelter. The Mission Church is often the only agency that offers hope of fulfilling any of these dreams.

Through its medical facilities, schools, training centers, agricultural projects and social programs, the Church is a real and active source of hope for a life of human dignity.

The gift of **LOVE**. Amazing as it may seem, your gift to the Missions this Christmas will tell millions that you love them.

They know that the fruits of your gifts (parishes, hospitals, schools and wonderful, serving people) are there because of your love.

Such knowledge draws these unknown friends close to you. And they say "thanks" the only way they know how, and the only way that really matters ... in prayer.

So please, my friends, I beg of you — recognize Christ in the poor of His Missions and share with them your most precious gifts of faith and hope and love.

Devotedly in Christ,
Fr. Joseph F. Reinhart

Director

Pope John Paul II, A Friend of Jews

New York — Pope John Paul II helped and was sympathetic to Jews and Jewish concerns while training for the priesthood in an underground seminary in Nazi-occupied Poland and later as a priest and Archbishop of Krakow in post-war Communist Poland, according to an analysis made public recently in Rome by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith's representative there, Dr. Joseph L. Lichten.

Dr. Lichten said he had prepared the analysis because, despite many articles on the new pope, details of his relationship with Jews have been "sketchy." In addition, some news accounts of the relationship came from the Polish news agency, Interpress, a propaganda arm of the Communist Polish regime, and probably the least reliable source of information about the topic.

The following is a portion of the text of Dr. Lichten's analysis:

"The facts are that

during the German occupation of Poland in World War II, the then Karol Wojtyla was active in an underground Christian democratic organization (UNIA) which had a record of helping Jews. It is because of this circumstance that he was placed on a blacklist of the Nazis.

"Further, during the Nazi occupation, Karol Wojtyla played a role in assisting Jews to find shelter and false Aryan identification papers. Toward the end of the war, he was hidden in the cellar of the palace of Cardinal Sapieha to avoid arrest by the Nazis and remained there until they left Krakow.

"After the war, when only about 500 Jews remained in Krakow out of a once flourishing Jewish community, Father Wojtyla helped organize the permanent care of the Krakow Jewish Cemetery. In 1968, As Archbishop of Krakow, he opposed the expulsion of the remnants of Polish Jewry from the country of their birth.

"It is of interest that

Cardinal Wojtyla knew Jews as a child, as a young man, and as an adult.... As a youth, the pope visited almost daily the home of his friend (a schoolmate, Jerzy Kruger) and other members of the Kruger family. His friend's father was chairman of the Jewish community in Wawowice.

"This friendship continued after the war and reached its peak recently when the two men had the occasion to renew their association. The pope met with his friend and the latter's family, and indicated that he was very pleased that he was photographed with them, 'my picture number 1,' the pope said.

"The pope has repeatedly supported the Church's 1965 declaration on religious freedom. In fact, in one of his major religious writings, he spoke positively and constructively about the declaration.... As such, we have every reason to expect that he will continue Catholic-Jewish relations in the spirit of this document."

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