

Death in Guatemala Spurs Local Action

The death of former Rochesterian Veit Nikolous Stoscheck (who adopted the name of Kai Yutah Clouds) in Guatemala has rallied a number of groups and individuals including diocesan peace and justice activists.



STOSCHECK

The complaint centers on alleged U.S. State Department inaction following the mysterious murder of Stoscheck on Oct. 10 or 11. His body was found Oct. 11 in Antigua about 20 miles from where he was seen to be beaten and forced into a car.

A fear has been voiced by members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), with whom Stoscheck was allied, that the murder may have been carried out by

Guatemalan secret police or by terrorists supported by government and commercial interests.

Stoscheck worked briefly for the Politics of Food program of the Rochester Peace and Justice Education Center.

The local group last week asked concerned citizens to question the State Department and elected officials on why Stoscheck's body has not been returned for autopsy, why there was no official U.S. investigation in Guatemala, why there has been no official protest nor official public announcement.

The group is also championing questions on the relations between the U.S. and Latin American nations in which human rights violations are recorded.

Civilian President In El Salvador

San Salvador, El Salvador (RNS) — Napoleon Duarte, a 55-year-old Notre Dame-educated engineer, has become his country's first civilian president following a new government crisis brought on by the recent murder of four American missionary women.

member-civilian-military junta that ruled the country since the ouster 14 months ago of rightist Gen. Carlos Humberto Romero.

The choice of Duarte won high praise from U.S. Ambassador Robert E. White, who termed him "a true democrat" and "an excellent and popular leader, highly respected nationally and internationally."

The Dec. 2 murders of the lay mission worker and three nuns outraged U.S. public opinion and caused a suspension of \$25 million in foreign aid. It also led to the dispatch of a fact-finding team which has since returned with a report that there is "circumstantial evidence of possible security force involvement" in the women's deaths.

In Washington, meanwhile, a spokesman for the Department of State reported that El Salvador had named a committee to investigate the deaths of the four American women religious and has asked and been given technical assistance by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The spokesman said the Central American regime would also allow impartial observers to monitor the investigation.

Restoration of the suspended U.S. aid has been conditioned on a full government investigation of the killings and pledges both to punish those responsible and to carry out already promised social and economic reforms.

William Rogers, a member of the special U.S. investigating team, reported that no clear-cut evidence of government or military complicity in the murders had been found.

Duarte, leader of El Salvador's Christian Democratic party, has been a member since March of a five-



New Delegate

Archbishop Pio Laghi, the Vatican's representative to Argentina since 1974, shown with Pope John Paul II in an earlier Vatican visit, was named by the pontiff as the new apostolic delegate to the United States on Dec. 10. Archbishop Laghi was the apostolic delegate in Jerusalem from 1969 to 1974, and succeeds Belgian Archbishop Jean Jadot, who recently took up a new post as head of the Vatican's Secretariat for Non-Christians.

Blue Army Instructional Material

The Rochester Chapter of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima has available a selection of various types of media for use by parish groups or in the classrooms. Among them are:

Filmstrips and cassettes — The Holy Shroud, Behold Your Mother (four tapes), St. Bernadette of Lourdes, Father Kolbe, Origin and Nature of the Rosary, How to Say the Rosary, Christ in His Own Land.

Tapes and cassettes — To Teach As Mary Did, Bishop Sheen Retreat Talks.

16 mm movies — Father Peyton — 15 Mysteries of the Rosary, Our Lady of Guadalupe.

For information, Mrs. John Leary, 621-8106; Mrs. Francis Kelly, 586-1664.

Single Parents

Psychologist Dr. Sally Pearne will discuss "How to Get Along with Your Adolescents" during the next meeting of the Single Parent Group, Jan. 7 at 7:30 p.m. at Third Presbyterian Church.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Compiègne Christmas

Christmas of 1944, asleep in my memory for years, came awake by a recent letter from Willy Frenken of Muenchen-Gladbach, who had been a 17-year-old German prisoner of war at our POW stockade at Compiègne, France.

Eight days before Christmas that year, I was stationed near Munich, then a city of rubble. Abrupt orders came from Headquarters: "Report to Air Depot, Compiègne, France, Dec. 21." Quick packing, and off to Compiègne by Jeep. On the 21st I arrived, reported in, was assigned a billet, and left to fend for myself. In the service there always was a group of young soldiers, usually former altar boys, who adopted their priest. They helped him not only in religious services, but also by scrounging for needed materiel. One enterprising lad even got me a Jeep, stolen from another air base and found abandoned near our camp. They were a chubby Sgt. "Tiny" Tierney of Rhode Island, Roger Marcous of Maine who spoke French, and Jim Curtin of Scranton, a student at the Jesuit King's College before being drafted.

Christmas was four days near. With a couple of soldiers we drove to the nearest French church. The priest loaned us a processional cross, acolyte candlesticks, a censer and incense, and a Sanctus bell. Back at the field we arranged for the use of the base theater for Midnight Mass. We checked out a record player and Christmas records to play during Mass. I trained the serving crew with the rigor of a First Sergeant. For two days penitents lined up for confessions with a heartiness rarely found in parishes.

At 11:30 Christmas Eve, the theater began to fill. A light haze of cigarette smoke from the evening cinema rested in the semi-dark theater. A mild odor of alcohol perfumed the "church." At midnight, Tiny rang the Sanctus bell. Everyone had been provided with a Father Stedman Sunday Missal. The procession started from the back of the theater in the dim light: cross bearer, acolytes, censor bearer, lector, celebrant, onward to the shabby stage-sanctuary to an unadorned table which became the altar of Sacrifice. The record player had been set to play "Adeste, Fideles," but, by some astonishing miscue, the record got shifted and the Christmas procession wound its way to the unlikely melody of "Coming in on a Wing and a Prayer."

Probably only congregations of refugees or prisoners or orphans are more pathetic or more beautiful than a military congregation at Midnight Mass. The darkness of the night, thoughts of home united with a deep faith and reverence for the Mass all formed a peculiar amalgam of holiness.

I have assisted at many beautiful Midnight Masses in parish churches in my 45 years of priesthood. But I think that the crudeness of

our theater, the clumsiness of the ritual, even the haze in the theater at our Compiègne Mass, all gave special joy to the Heart of Christ. For here, well-meaning men, torn from home and loved ones, were united with them and with the whole Church, celebrating the birth and death and resurrection of Christ, with a virile, unaffected devotion. God bless them all!

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THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

EDWIN SULEWSKI FUNERAL DIRECTOR
 Grief has several stages. At first, there is often an attempt to deny the death — disbelief that it could have happened at all. Then there may come a period of anger and resentment — even feelings of desertion. Genuine grief usually follows these emotions — it is important that the bereaved be spared the time-worn phrases that have little meaning for anyone.
 Probably more than in any other situation, the less said to a grieving person, the better. You cannot explain death away — and the grief they feel must be worked through by each person, in their own time. Expressing your own feelings of love or respect for the deceasees, listening when the bereaved want to talk — will encourage a release of the emotions and thoughts which is essential to recovery from grief. Your presence, and your friendship, are the best of help of all.
 Many questions about handling grief can be answered personally by our staff — call any time.
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