

# People and Events Of the World and Nation

## Pope Speaks of Need For Peaceful Solution To Crisis in Poland

Castelgandolfo (RNS) — Pope John Paul II added his voice to the plea of the Polish Catholic bishops that the crisis in his homeland be solved through peaceful negotiations.

"The events of the past year have proved that the Poles are capable of resolving these difficult things peacefully, without violence and without bloodshed," the pontiff said to Polish pilgrims at his summer residence for his blessing.

"Too much Polish blood was already shed during the last war for one to now be able to speak or think of new Polish bloodshed," the pope said.

The pope cited a communique drawn up by the Polish bishops conference the week before his Sept. 20 address. It stressed the need for the peaceful resolution of issues and, the pope read, "Despite the growing uncertainties and fears of the last few months, hopes are raised by the unanimous desire to change social and economic life in our nation, a desire which unifies the entire nation."

"This desire for change," the pope said, "is based on same principles of social morality which finds its foundations in Catholic social teachings."

## State Department Fails to Make El Salvador Point

Washington (RNS) — Following a state department briefing on Central America, the U.S. Catholic Conference reaffirmed its strong opposition to U.S. military assistance to the ruling junta.

Bishop Thomas C. Kelly, conference general secretary, said the social action agency of the American bishops remained convinced of the need for a political solution to El Salvador's civil strife.

Bishop Kelly said the "background briefing" meeting at the State Department involved an exchange of views on Central America between State Department officials and church leaders — Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox — with specific attention to El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua.

He said the discussion made it clear to him that there were still "very significant differences of perception and policy between the U.S. government's present approach in Central America and much of what we at the USCC hear and know from the Church in that troubled land."

Regarding the Catholic conference's opposition to the Reagan administration's policy of military assistance to the Salvadoran junta, Bishop Kelly said:

"We remain convinced that military assistance from any source, either to the El Salvador government or to the opposition forces, is not a useful contribution to resolving the civil war."

## Vatican Denies It Beatified Priest Who Belonged to Masons

Vatican City (RNS) — The Vatican Saturday reiterated its opposition to the Masonic movement in a declaration released by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

The declaration came in response to a press report that the Roman Catholic Church beatified an 18th Century French priest who belonged to the Masons, in contrast to general policy.

"That report, the way it was presented to the press, with evident benevolence toward the Masons, is at least questionable," the Vatican communique said.

"The lengthy investigation (of Father Giovanni Maria Gallo, a martyr killed Jan. 21, 1794, in Laval and beatified in 1955) which preceded the beatification revealed no proof suggesting Masonic membership," the Vatican stated.

## Cardinal Defends Self; Criticized In Catholic Press

By Religious News Service

Cardinal John Cody defended himself before a rally of black school children in Chicago against a newspaper's charges that he had illegally diverted tax-free Church funds to benefit a relative.

"I certainly will assist in every way in solving doubts that have been cast on me, on my role as a shepherd and as a citizen of this great metropolitan area," he said, speaking for about six minutes to 3,000 black parochial pupils assembled by their teachers at a rally for the beleaguered Church leader.

The cardinal also received further support from Archbishop John R. Roach, president of the National Council of Catholic Bishops, who expressed sympathy for the Chicago archdiocesan leader and for his flock.

"The allegations in news stories of the past week from Chicago have caused great pain to Catholics there and throughout the country," Archbishop Roach said in Washington, D.C. "Because of the legal question, I cannot make any substantive comment but I can say that my heart goes out to the Church in Chicago and to Cardinal Cody, whom his brother bishops have known for many years and esteem today as a man of integrity, principle and dedication to the Church."

But the cardinal was less than praised by the Catholic press. Cardinal Cody has characterized the newspaper charges an attack on the Catholic Church.

"This was precisely the wrong response to make," editorialized the Jesuit weekly America.

"To a nation that retains vivid memories of a president resisting impeachment by pleading national security and executive privilege, the cardinal's words were ill-advised and inevitably sounded offensive."

In Kansas City, the lay-operated Catholic Reporter urged Cardinal Cody to give information sought by a Chicago grand jury to "an impartial group of respected citizens and through them make the information to all interested parties. Then all will know how their money has been handled — good or bad."

Another suggestion that the cardinal employ intermediaries came from Father John Reedy, author of a syndicated column (page 12). The cardinal, Father Reedy writes, "might ask some of his fellow members of the hierarchy — or the apostolic delegate — to set up quickly a group which would be given access to all the facts, which would promptly issue a public report on those issues which are of legitimate concern to the Catholics of the Archdiocese of Chicago."

## Outrage Expressed Over U.S. Veto In U.N. Action

A coalition of Church and civil rights leaders expressed outrage at the United States veto of a United Nations Security Council resolution that condemned South Africa for its incursion into Angola.

They denounced the move and the U.S. policy it represents as "an affront to citizens of all countries which are committed to peace with justice."

In Atlanta, the Rev. Joseph E. Lowery, head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, spoke for the conference and the coalition when he said, "The failure of the U.S. to support the U.N. resolution aligns the U.S. with racist oppression and military aggression in Southern Africa."

The African Methodist Episcopal and Christian Methodist Episcopal Churches of Georgia, the American Muslim Mission and the American Friends Service Committee opposed the fiery condemnation of the U.S. vote. — *Melinda Green, RNS*

### COUNCIL TRAINING

Workshops for parish council leaders and chairmen will be held from 2 to 4 p.m., Oct. 3, at St. Patrick's in Elmira; 7:30-9:30 p.m., Oct. 7, at St. Charles Borromeo in

Rochester; 2-4 p.m., Oct. 17, at St. Mary's, Dansville. The sessions are conducted by Judith Ann Kollar, executive secretary of the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

### Deadline

The deadline for submitting news to the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday preceding the following Wednesday's publication.



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