

World, Nation, People... in Brief

Provided by NC News Service

Moscow — The Moscow Helsinki Group, the leading human rights group in the Soviet Union, said it has been forced to end its activities because of pressure from the government. A statement said the decision was taken after one of the organization's three members still at liberty within the Soviet Union was indicted for slandering the government. Lawyer Sofia Kallistratova, one of the three members, was told she would be tried for slander based on publications of the Helsinki Group found during searches of her apartment.

Prisoners Concern Pope

Vatican City — Pope John Paul II expressed concern Sept. 8 for people imprisoned under martial law in Poland, especially those who are participating in hunger strikes. "With the greatest concern we think of those who in prison are going so far as hunger strikes," the pope said in Polish at his weekly audience in St. Peter's Square.

Cardinal Sin Denies Report

Hong Kong — Cardinal Jaime Sin of Manila, Philippines, has denied asking Filipino President Ferdinand Marcos to resign in favor of a "leader capable of obtaining the respect of the people." The cardinal made the denial in an interview with UCA News, a Hong Kong-based news agency which covers the Catholic Church in Asia.

Catholic TV Network Opens

Washington — "We are the tool in the hands of the bishops who are the evangelists of the Church," said Wasy M. Law, executive director of the Catholic Telecommunications Network of America which was scheduled to begin regular transmission of programs on Sept. 20. Initially, it is to transmit from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m., five days a week. So far the network has 29 diocesan affiliates.

Luther Move 'Significant'

Washington — Archbishop John R. Roach of St. Paul-Minneapolis, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, hailed the decision of three Lutheran denominations to merge as a significant step "in the broader movement of ecumenism." He said that "Roman Catholics join their Lutheran brothers and sisters in rejoicing at this new and important development." The Lutheran Church in America, the American Lutheran Church and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches had voted to form a new church of 5.5 million members that will be the third largest Protestant denomination in the United States.

Ecumenical Step Urged

Birmingham, England — The National Conference of Priests of England and Wales has urged the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches to give "urgent priority" to working toward mutual recognition of ministries. The priests followed the lead given by Pope John Paul II in encouraging closer relations with other churches through his historic visit to Canterbury on May 29. On that occasion, the pope and Archbishop Robert Runcie, primate of the world Anglican communion, established a new Anglican-Roman Catholic international commission with the task of resolving remaining doctrinal and practical obstacles to a reunion.

Soviet Rights Status 'Dismal'

Washington — Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas described the current status of civil and religious rights in the Soviet Union as "dismal," pointing to events such as the recent disbanding of the unofficial human rights monitoring group in Moscow.

In a speech to the National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry, Dole also said he has been encouraged by the "widespread interest" in the issue of freedom for Soviet Jews and other religious denominations in the U.S.S.R.

The senator is co-chairman of the joint congressional Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which oversees the implementation of the Helsinki Accords, a 1975 international agreement which outlines guarantees of human rights.

Names Make News

The first black bishop in the history of the Archdiocese of New York was ordained in St. Patrick's Cathedral Sept. 8. Auxiliary Bishop Emerson J. Moore, 44, has been pastor of Harlem's St. Charles Borromeo Parish since 1975 and will continue there. Bishop William Philbin has resigned as bishop of Down and Connor, Northern Ireland, the diocese which includes Belfast. His successor will be Bishop Cahal Brendan Daly of Armagh and Clonmacnois, a specialist in the problems of Northern Ireland. The "trailer priest," Msgr. Joseph G. Cassidy, has died at 84 in Atlanta. In 1981, he was awarded the Lumen Christi Award of the Catholic Extension Society as an "exemplary home missionary."

Focus on Today's World



▲ During his weekly general audience, San Francisco Mayor Diane Feinstein presents Pope John Paul II with a statue, left, of St. Francis of Assisi, made in the form of a cross from old handguns that were turned in. This year marks the 800th anniversary of the birth of the saint for whom San Francisco was named. Also at



the audience, right, the pope embraces Franciszek Gajowniczek, who was spared from death at the Nazi's Auschwitz concentration camp when Father Maximilian Kolbe stepped in to take his place. Father Kolbe will be canonized by the pope on Oct. 10. (NC photos)



▲ Lebanese President-elect Beshir Gemayel, pictured on Aug. 23 following his election, was killed Sept. 14 when a bomb destroyed the headquarters of the right-wing Phalangist party in Beirut (NC photo)



▲ At his Washington office, U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), left, receives about one-third of more than

the Saints *by Luke*

THOMAS WAS BORN IN 1488, IN CASTILE, SPAIN, NEAR THE BIRTHPLACE OF HIS PARENTS, VILLANUEVA DE LOS INFANTES, HENCE HIS SURNAME, HE SPENT 10 YEARS AS A STUDENT AND TEACHER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALCALA.

HE DECLINED THE CHAIR OF PHILOSOPHY AT SALAMANCA BUT JOINED THE AUGUSTINIANS THERE IN 1516. HE WAS PRIOR OF SEVERAL AUGUSTINIAN HOUSES, WAS NAMED PROVINCIAL OF ANDALUSIA AND CASTILE IN 1527 AND BECAME PROVINCIAL OF CASTILE IN 1533. HE SENT THE FIRST AUGUSTINIAN MISSIONARIES TO MEXICO.

THOMAS BECAME CHAPLAIN TO EMPEROR CHARLES V. HE REFUSED THE SEE OF GRANADA, BUT IN 1544 WAS APPOINTED ARCHBISHOP OF VALENCIA BY THE EMPEROR. HE QUICKLY SET ABOUT REFORMING THE ARCHDIOCESE, WHICH HAD BEEN WITHOUT A RESIDENT BISHOP FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY.

THOMAS WAS NOTED FOR AUSTERITY AND POVERTY AND HIS GENEROSITY TO THE POOR AND NEEDY. HE WORKED AMONG THE MOORS AND GAVE MONEY TO TRAIN PRIESTS FOR COLLEGES HE ESTABLISHED FOR CHILDREN OF CONVERTS AND FOR POOR STUDENTS. HE DID NOT ATTEND THE COUNCIL OF TRENT BUT WAS ACTIVE IN INFLUENCING THE SPANISH BISHOPS TO PROMOTE REFORM IN THE CHURCH IN SPAIN.

THOMAS DIED AT VALENCIA ON SEPT. 6, 1555 AND WAS CANONIZED IN 1658. HIS FEAST IS SEPT. 22.

ST. THOMAS of Villanova



80,000 letters from parents of Pennsylvania Catholic school children urging support of tuition tax credit legislation. Making the delivery is Henry Aschenbrenner, deputy director of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference. (NC photo)

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