

World, Nation, People . . . in Brief

Provided by NC News Service

Warsaw, Poland — If Poland's communist government officially disbands the independent trade union Solidarity, grave social disruptions may soon follow, according to Archbishop Jozef Glemp, Poland's Catholic primate. He expressed the fear Sept. 29 while speaking to a group of American journalists in Warsaw. If Poland's Parliament formally dissolves Solidarity, said the church leader who heads the archdioceses of Gniezno and Warsaw, there would be a need for the re-creation of the independent union in another form. Poland's Parliament is considering a new trade association law and is expected to act on it in mid-October. On Sept. 25, a ranking official of the Polish Communist Party said that the formal dissolution of Solidarity is highly probable.

Postal Rate Hike Delayed

Washington — Non-profit mailers, including the Catholic press, were spared another hike in postal rates for at least two more months when the House and Senate approved a stop-gap spending bill for the new federal fiscal year. The bill, which temporarily funds almost the entire government until Congress approves a series of regular spending bills, orders continuation at existing levels of a postal subsidy that reduces second-, third-, and fourth-class mail rates for non-profit groups. Congress last summer ordered restoration of a portion of the subsidy after earlier cuts had resulted in mail rate hikes up to 150 percent and more for non-profit groups. Last summer's congressional action was due to expire Sept. 30, the end of the federal fiscal year.

Genetic Selection Denounced

Vatican City — The Vatican's daily newspaper Sept. 30 criticized sperm banks which seek to produce new geniuses from Nobel prize winners. An editorial in the newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, called such genetic selection "racist" and compared it to Nazi attempts to produce a race of supermen. The editorial took as its point of departure a series of articles published earlier in the week in the daily La Stampa of Turin, Italy. That series discussed the ramifications of a sperm bank in the United States managed by millionaire industrialist Robert Graham and Nobel biology laureate Herman Mueller. The bank has as its aim the production of geniuses from the donated sperm of Nobel prize winners.

Priest, Aides Charged

Manila — An Australian Catholic priest and four lay aides face subversion charges after soldiers found a grenade, bullets and subversive documents in a raid on a parish office on Negros Island, 350 miles south of Manila, the Defense Ministry said Sept. 28. The ministry said soldiers raided the parish office of Columban Father Brian Gore in Orignao village Sept. 23 after intelligence reports that guerrilla leaders of the New People's Army were to meet with the priest. (At Maryknoll headquarters in New York, a nun who knew Father Gore in the Philippines, said she would be "very surprised if they ever found grenades and bullets at his parish convent." The military, she said, is used to stop meetings and break up organizations of workers. "The military calls subversives those who are simply helping people to organize for their rights," she said.)

Catholic Group 'Shocked'

Milwaukee — A Jewish newspaper's contention that Pope John Paul II is responsible for the recent massacre of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon caused "shock and outrage" for a Catholic civil rights group. The Jewish Press, a weekly newspaper published in Brooklyn, charged in a front page editorial Sept. 24 that by meeting with Yasser Arafat the pope had "sent a signal" to Christian forces in Beirut that "murder for a cause is to be applauded." The editorial also remarked that the Phalangists who participated in the massacre "as devout Christians, followed the guidelines set by the prince of their church and as good disciples engaged in the massacre of their opponents." The Catholic League, headquartered in Milwaukee, demanded a retraction of the editorial, which was headlined, "The pope shares the blame for the Palestinian massacre." The Phalangist party, accused of carrying out the massacre, is led by Maronite Catholics.

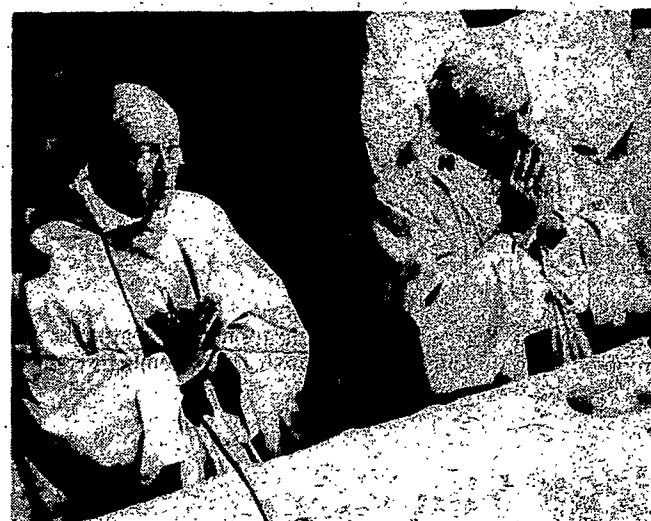
Embezzler Charged

St. Paul, Minn. — A man allegedly swindled funds from St. Peter Claver Church here was arrested in St. Louis on charges of fraud by wire. James William Reed, 32, also known as Jason James Reed, was charged following an FBI investigation for transferring \$13,000 in parish funds to the bank account of an acquaintance in Pompano Beach, Fla. About \$89,000 is missing from parish funds. Judge David Noce, U.S. magistrate, on Sept. 27 ordered Reed to be returned to Minnesota for a preliminary hearing on the fraud charges. Father Timothy Kernan, former pastor of St. Peter Claver, said he was contacted by Reed shortly after becoming pastor in June 1981. Reed, he said, claimed to be an officer with Bank of America and offered to place parish money in high-yield investments, mostly overseas.

Focus on Today's World



▲ In Buenos Aires, a volunteer ladles soup for children at one of dozens of emergency soup kitchens that have sprung up throughout Argentina. Triple-digit inflation and 18 percent unemployment have forced many families to eat their only meal each day at these centers. (NC photo)



▲ Pope John Paul II celebrates Mass with Cardinal Paul Gouyon of Rennes, France, during beatification ceremonies in St. Peter's Basilica for Sister Jeanne Jugan of France, Father Salvatore Lilli of Italy and seven Armenians. (NC photo)

◀ A madonna and child by 18th century Italian painter Giovanni Battista Tiepolo has been chosen as one of five designs for the 1982 Christmas stamps. The stamp will be issued Oct. 28 in Washington while a block of four contemporary snow scenes with children will be issued the same day in Snow, Okla. (NC photo)

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▲ Sister Chryzostoma Gierczak of the Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver in St. Paul, Minn., works at her convent's linotype machine. She sets type on the aging machine for Bibles and catechisms which are translated into hundreds of dialects and languages for the order's African missions. (NC photo)