

# World, Nation, People . . . in Brief

Provided by NC News Service

## Philosophy Attacked

**Detroit** — Rep. Mary Rose Oakar (D-Ohio), in her talk to the convention of the National Conference of Catholic Charities here, attacked what she called a government philosophy which values weapons over people. Throughout the Oct. 5-10 convention, speakers and participants voiced concern over the Reagan administration's social and economic policies which have cut back on social programs at a time of high unemployment and inflation. Ms. Oakar criticized budget cuts which slashed programs, particularly for the elderly and children, insisting that "the money is there for social programs. But the priority in Washington today is military buildup," she said. "We are the arms merchants of the world. But how has our giving military aid helped Iran or the poor of El Salvador, where the weapons were used by the military to kill people, including our own missionaries?"

## Abortions Not Insured

**Washington** — Abortions might not be covered under the health insurance plans of federal workers next year as the result of legislation quietly enacted by Congress Oct. 1. Buried deep within the temporary spending measure that will fund the federal government until December is a provision whose effect is to prohibit any newly negotiated federal health insurance contracts from including abortion coverage except in cases where the life of the mother is in danger. But the measure expires Dec. 17, at least two weeks before any new federal health insurance policies would go into effect. That means that Congress will have to re-enact the prohibition, something federal employee unions vow they will fight.

## Retraction Refused

**New York** — A Jewish newspaper published in Brooklyn has refused a demand by a Catholic civil rights group that it retract the assertion that Pope John Paul II, by meeting with Yasser Arafat, was responsible for the massacre of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. "He (the pope) shook this chief terrorist's hand knowing full well there was blood on his hands, thus opening the door for more anti-Semitism in the world," said the Jewish Press in its Oct. 8 issue. "Instead of retracting (the Sept. 24 editorial linking the pope to the massacre) we are shocked to know that there are people who cannot see the difference between right and wrong," the Jewish newspaper added.

## Vatican II Anniversary Noted

**Vatican City** — Pope John Paul II praised the Second Vatican Council on Oct. 11, the 20th anniversary of its opening session. The pope's words came in a prayer he read in the Vatican grottoes, underneath St. Peter's Basilica, in front of the tombs of Popes John XXIII and Paul VI. Pope John XXIII convoked the worldwide meeting of 2,860 bishops, which opened on Oct. 11, 1962. Pope Paul VI, whose pontificate began the following year, presided over the remaining sessions of the council, which closed Dec. 8, 1965. In his prayer before the tombs of his predecessors, Pope John Paul II asked the Holy Spirit "that the works of the council . . . might be constantly fulfilled; that it may continually become a reality, year after year, day after day."

## Pontiff Declares 'Duty'

**Vatican City** — Pope John Paul II, declaring he has a "right and duty" to visit Poland next year, said Oct. 11 that his native land "does not deserve to be driven to tears and desperation." In off-the-cuff remarks before more than 10,000 Poles and people of Polish descent in the Paul VI Audience Hall, the pope said he hoped to visit Poland "during the jubilee year of the madonna of Czestochowa," which ends in September 1983. "It is my duty and my right, as bishop of Rome and as a Pole, to make this trip," he added.

## Vatican Denies Meeting

**Vatican City** — The Vatican denied Oct. 7 that Pope John Paul II had met with the late Roberto Calvi, former president of the Banco Ambrosiano, or that the pope had planned to entrust the Vatican's financial dealings to the controversial Calvi. In a lengthy discussion with journalists on the tangled dealings between the failed Banco Ambrosiano and the Vatican bank, Father Romeo Pancioli, director of the Vatican Press Office, criticized an interview by La Stampa, daily newspaper of Turin, Italy, with Calvi's widow, Arla, who lives in a suburb of Washington. In the interview, Mrs. Calvi said her husband, whose hanging death in London in June was ruled a suicide by police, had been told by the pope during a meeting at the beginning of this year that the pope "would entrust the Vatican finances to him (Calvi) to put them back in order."

## Names Make News

**Cardinal Carlos Carmelo de Vasconcellos Motta** of Aparecida, the oldest member of the College of Cardinals, died at the age of 92. Cardinal Motta, who was ordained a bishop in 1932, was hospitalized for arthritis at the time of his death. . . **Coadjutor Bishop Roger Heckel** of Strasbourg, France, former secretary of the Pontifical Justice and Peace Commission, died Sept. 26 after a brief illness. He was 60. . . **James L. Buckley**, former Conservative Party senator from New York, has been named president of Radio Free Europe-Radio Liberty. He will take his new post at Radio Free Europe's headquarters in Munich on Nov. 1.

# Focus on Today's World



▲ Nestled among the Montserrat Mountains, the shrine and monastery of Montserrat will be the site of a visit from Pope John Paul II on Nov. 7. Within the

shrine is the statue of the black madonna of Montserrat, right, patroness of the Catalonia region of Spain. (NC photo)



▲ Father James Grant poses with the "pope's stone," a replica of a stone given by Pope Pius IX in 1854 to America to use in the interior of the Washington Monument. The original stone was reportedly stolen shortly after it was sent to the United States. (NC photo)



▲ Franciszek Gajowniczek, 82, of Poland kisses the ring of Pope John Paul II at the end of the canonization ceremony for St. Maximilian Kolbe in St. Peter's Square recently. Father Kolbe took the place of Gajowniczek in a Nazi death cell at Auschwitz during World War II. (NC photo)



► In Washington, four-year-old Socheat Long presents flowers to Notre Dame University President Father Theodore M. Hesburgh and gets a hug in return. During the convocation ceremony marking the end of National Higher Education Week, Father Hesburgh was presented the 1982 Jefferson Medal at the Jefferson Memorial. (NC photo)

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