

World, Nation, People . . . in Brief

Provided by NC News Service

World

Lebanon Visit for Pope?

Vatican City — Pope John Paul II has reaffirmed his desire to visit Lebanon to encourage its citizens to work for national concord and independence.

The pope's reaffirmation came Jan. 8 during an audience at the Vatican as he received the credentials of Lebanon's new ambassador to the Holy See, Nasri Salhab. In mid-1982, during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the pontiff had expressed a similar wish to visit the Mideast nation.

Vatican Silent on Probe

Vatican City — Vatican officials refused comment on reports that the Holy See is conducting its own investigation of allegations that a Vatican bank adviser, Hermann J. Abs, was a Nazi collaborator.

Msgr. Jorge Mejia, secretary for Vatican relations with Judaism, declined to discuss charges by the Simon Wiesenthal Center of Yeshiva University in Los Angeles that Abs was "one of the leading bankers of the Nazi era." Abs, now 81, was an executive of a major German bank during World War II.

Nation

Third Draft Under Way

Washington — The committee of U.S. bishops preparing a pastoral letter on war and peace has begun writing the third draft and has again met with Reagan administration officials to clarify certain aspects of U.S. defense policy.

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago, chairman of the five-member committee, characterized the two-hour meeting with representatives of the State and Defense departments, the National Security Council and others as "constructive." More details on Page 4.

Opportunity for Pro-Lifers

Washington — The 10th anniversary of the Supreme Court abortion decisions, Jan. 22, can be an opportunity for pro-lifers "to unite our efforts to restore the maximum degree of legal protection possible for every human being at every moment of existence." Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York said in a letter to all parishes in his archdiocese. Cardinal Cooke is chairman of the U.S. Bishops Committee for Pro-Life Activities. More details, related stories, Page 1.

Cdl. Krol Faults U.S.

Philadelphia — Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia has faulted the United States for conceding "a propaganda victory to the Soviets" by rejecting a recent Soviet proposal for arms reduction.

Cardinal said the U.S. rejection raises the question of whether "so-called 'doctrinaire cold warriors' in the administration are delaying serious dialogue for disarmament and peace until after the United States achieves military parity or superiority."

He referred to an offer by Soviet Communist Party leader Yuri Andropov to reduce Soviet medium range missiles to the number maintained by Britain and France if the NATO allies would cancel plans to deploy U.S.-built Pershing II missiles in 1983 and to reduce long-range missiles and bombers by 25 percent if the U.S. would make a 10 percent cut.

Parental Info Pushed

Washington — Federal officials plan to go ahead with a new regulation requiring parental notification when girls under 18 receive prescription contraceptives from federally funded clinics, said Richard Schweiker, just two days before he resigned as secretary of Health and Human Services. The rule is supported by the U.S. Catholic Conference and opposed by Planned Parenthood, whose clinics receive federal family planning funds.

NCAA Tightens Standards

San Diego — Father Edmund P. Joyce of the University of Notre Dame spoke in favor of a National Collegiate Athletics Association proposal to strengthen academic standards for incoming athletes at the group's convention Jan. 11. Delegates approved the proposal even though some black educators said it would discriminate along racial, geographic and income lines.

Guatemalan Aid Resumes

Washington — The U.S. has decided to resume military aid to Guatemala, saying the human rights situation there is improving. The administration's prompted 78 congressmen to introduce legislation to block the aid, saying that "minimum human rights standards" do not exist in Guatemala. The U.S. bishops have steadily opposed such military aid.



Remembering Martin

Rev. Vernon Christopher King, above left, nephew of the late Martin Luther King Jr., and Rev. Frederick Douglass Kirkpatrick of New York appeared last Friday, Jan. 14, at the Divinity Schools as part of nationwide remembrances of the great civil rights leader. Rev. King is a senior at Morehouse College and is associate pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. Right, members of the Alvin Parris Singers perform at the Rochester Institute of Technology during student-sponsored program in the Ingle Auditorium. Speakers featured at RIT were John Walker, executive secretary of the Office of Black Ministries for the diocese, and Sister Toinette Eugene, PBVM, assistant professor of education, society and Black Church Studies at the Divinity Schools.



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

the Saints by Luke

ST. NATHALAN



NATHALAN WAS BORN IN TULLICHT NEAR ABERPEEN, SCOTLAND, OF A NOBLE FAMILY. THE WELL-EDUCATED SCOT WAS ALSO A MAN OF GREAT SANCTITY WHO FOUND HIMSELF DRAWN TO A LIFE OF CONTEMPLATION. HE SOON ABANDONED HIS COMFORTABLE LIFE TO BECOME A FARMER AS HE FELT THAT TILLING THE SOIL CAME NEAREST TO DIVINE CONTEMPLATION.

DURING A TERRIBLE FAMINE, NATHALAN, MOVED BY PITY FOR HIS SUFFERING NEIGHBORS, GAVE ALL HIS GRAIN AND EVERYTHING ELSE HE HAD TO THE POOR. ACCORDING TO LEGEND, NATHALAN HAD NO GRAIN LEFT TO SOW WHEN SPRING ARRIVED SO GOD TOLD HIM TO SPREAD SAND ON HIS SOIL. A GREAT CROP FLOURISHED IN HIS FIELD.

AT HARVEST TIME, IN A MOMENT OF ANGER AGAINST THE WORKERS IN HIS FIELDS, NATHALAN, SPOKE OUT BITTERLY AGAINST THE LORD. FEELING LATER THAT HE HAD OFFENDED GOD, HE BOUND HIS HAND TO HIS LEG WITH AN IRON LOCK AND KEY AS PENANCE AND THREW THE KEY INTO THE RIVER. AS THE STORY GOES, HE ONE DAY MET A NAKED BOY SELLING A FISH WHICH HE PURCHASED. OPENING THE FISH HE FOUND THE KEY WHICH OPENED THE LOCK ON HIS LEG.

THE POPE LEARNING OF THIS MIRACLE, SUMMONED NATHALAN AND MADE HIM A BISHOP. HE REMAINED IN ROME FOR MANY YEARS WHERE HE PRACTICED DIVINE CONTEMPLATION BEFORE RETURNING TO HIS NATIVE LAND. AT HIS OWN EXPENSE HE BUILT CHURCHES IN TULLICHT, BOTHELIN AND COLLE. HE DIED IN TULLICHT ON JAN. 8, 678. HIS CULT WAS APPROVED BY POPE LEO XIII IN 1898. HIS FEAST IS JAN. 19.

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