

Cardinal Takes On Filipino Leaders

Manila, Philippines (NC) — Cardinal Jaime Sin of Manila has accused the government of Filipino President Ferdinand Marcos of arrogantly using power to serve its own purposes, including sponsorship of a film festival featuring what he called "pornographic movies."

He also said Marcos has stifled dissent so that a climate of fear pervades the nation, reaching even into Catholic institutions.

"It is clear," he said, "that there is a climate of fear pervading our country. The people now prefer to think no evil, see no evil and hear no evil."

He said that at a recent meeting of a Catholic organization, someone suggested passing a resolution condemning the presentation of sex-oriented, uncensored films at the movie festival, being run under the auspices of First Lady Imelda Marcos.

"He was shouted down with cries like, 'but this is a project of the First Lady,' 'that would be subversive,' or 'we will all get into trouble,'" the cardinal said.

He said that if such material as the festival films did not disgust people, "there is



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Mrs. Marcos had said earlier that "pornography is in the mind" and that "I am

sorry that cheap pornography has affected some very fragile senses, but this is part of growing up." She said that even the Vatican has nudes in Sistine Chapel paintings and that "pornography is not in sight or in vision. Pornography is in mind or heart."

Arts Council Ignores Senate's Directive

New York (NC) — The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights has criticized the tax-supported New York State Council on the Arts for "refusing to be subject to the legitimate requests of (its) funding body."

The league made the assertion after the council refused to comply with a directive from the chairman of the State Senate's Special Committee on the Culture Industry to withhold public funding from projects that might offend members of religious, ethnic or racial minorities.

The committee chairman, Sen. Tarky Lombardi Jr., issued the directive in response to league complaints that an arts council grant had helped to meet production costs of "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You," which the league calls "a virulently anti-Catholic play."

Mary Hays, executive director of the council, told Lombardi that his directive

would not be implemented because the council's attorneys said it raised constitutional questions. Moreover, she said, the senator's directive is "moot" because the 1983-84 funding guidelines had already been distributed.

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Pope to Visit Poland in June

Rome (NC) — Pope John Paul II will visit his native Poland this year, beginning June 18. That announcement was made by the bishops of Poland in a letter read to all Catholic churches of that country on Jan. 30.

The pope's visit, which has been scheduled since the Fall of last year, had been cast into doubt when, during his

Charismatic Meeting Set

An all-day leadership seminar has been scheduled by the diocesan Office of Charismatic Liaison from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 12, at the liaison office, 33 Monica St.

audience of Jan. 12, the pontiff announced that he was entrusting to Mary the decision as to "if and how" the trip should take place.

No formal invitation has yet been extended to the pontiff by Poland's Communist government, but signs point to the government's intention of welcoming him.

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Cdl. Samore Dies; Papal Mediator

Rome (NC) — Cardinal Antonio Samore, who represented Pope John Paul II in mediating the Argentine-Chilean dispute over the Beagle Channel for more than four years, died Feb. 3 of a heart attack.

The 77-year-old cardinal was admitted to Rome's Clinica Villa Flaminia on Feb. 1 after complaining of heart pain. He died at about 8 a.m., two days later.

His death on the day after the pope had created 18 new cardinals brought to 137 the total members of the College of Cardinals.



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