

# World, Nation, People . . . in Brief

Provided by NC News Service

## World

### Leader Admits 'Sinning'

Guatemala City — Saying that "we have sinned," Guatemalan President Efraim Rios Montt has announced an amnesty for guerrillas and promised to ease the state siege in his country. His remarks came six days after Pope John Paul II had sharply criticized violence and repression during his visit to Guatemala. Rios Montt said, "We know and understand that we have sinned, that we have abused power, and we want to reconcile ourselves with our people." See editorial, Page 17.

### Concern over El Salvador

Geneva — The United Nations Commission on Human Rights has expressed concern about violations of human rights in El Salvador and continuing reports of violence against non-combatants and widespread repression in Guatemala. By a vote of 23-6, with 10 abstentions, the commission approved a resolution that deplored the failure to heed appeals for an end to violence in El Salvador and said the situation in El Salvador demands that all parties work together toward a negotiated peace. A U.S. official on the commission called the resolution unbalanced.

## Nation

### CDA Joins Job Fight

Little Rock, Ark. — Saying that they can be a "source of accurate and pertinent information," the national board of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas has called on its members to assist in publicizing jobs and training programs in their communities.

The board's resolution encouraged the 1,600 courts of the Catholic Daughters nationwide to "bring in informed speakers on job opportunities so that you will be in a position to serve your fellow man in this manner."

### Two Baha'is Executed

Wilmette, Ill. (from Baha'i Office of Public Affairs) — Iranian authorities hanged two more members of the Baha'i faith last week in the southern city of Shiraz, Baha'i leaders have reported. Yadullah Mahmudnizhad and Rahmatullah Vafai were among the 22 Baha'is whose death sentences were approved by Iran's Supreme Court.

The executions follow, by only four days, a resolution by the U.N. Human Rights Commission expressing its "profound concern" for the welfare of Iran's 300,000 Baha'is and requesting the secretary general to continue his efforts to safeguard their human rights. Earlier this month, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams, testifying before the House subcommittee on human rights and international organizations, had appealed to Iran to "heed the voice of world public opinion" and refrain from executing the 22 condemned Baha'is in Shiraz.

### A Different Nuke Letter

Washington — A national group of Catholics who have questioned portions of the U.S. bishops' proposed pastoral letter on war and peace has issued its own letter urging "moral clarity" in the debate over nuclear arms.

The new letter, written by Catholic social commentator and author Michael Novak, defends several aspects of current nuclear weapons policy questioned by the second draft of the bishops' pastoral, particularly the "flexible response" policy in Europe. That policy allows for the possible first use of nuclear weapons in Europe to counteract Soviet aggression.

While the bishops called first use of nuclear weapons morally indefensible, the Novak letter argues that a "no first use" pledge in Europe would be "divisive and destabilizing" since the NATO alliance does not now have an adequate deterrent in conventional forces.

The letter also questions the advisability of a nuclear weapons freeze, argues that a policy of deterrence is an imperative moral good even if it can lead to evil, and sets the current nuclear weapons debate in the "concrete moral context" of a Soviet threat.

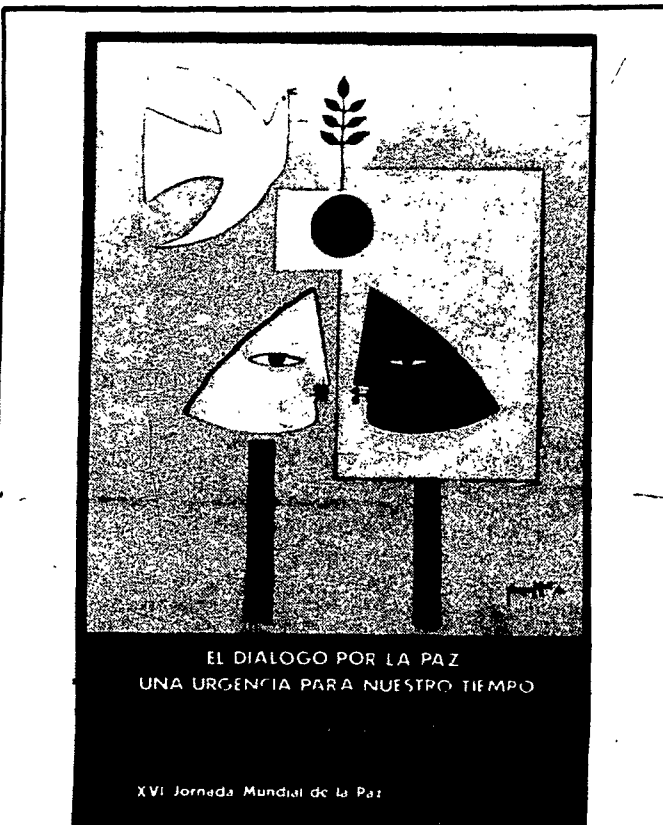
Among the letter's signers are Richard Allen, former National Security Adviser to President Reagan, commentator Patrick J. Buchanan, former Sen. James L. Buckley, and former Ambassador Clare Boothe Luce.

# Focus on Today's World



◀ Pope John Paul II talks with Cardinal Josef Glemp, Polish primate, shortly after his arrival in Rome after his eight-day visit to Central America. Cardinal Glemp said the pope is officially scheduled to return to Poland June 16-22. (NC photo)

▼ At St. Mary parish in Jackson, Miss., Vietnamese partake in the traditional Unicorn Dance as part of celebrating the recent Vietnamese New Year. The dance seeks good luck and prosperity. According to the tradition, these goals will be achieved if the unicorn eats the money on the pole. The unicorn was successful. (NC photo)



▲ The Archdiocese of San Salvador, El Salvador, has issued this poster as part of its campaign to end the civil war. The poster shows two opposing sides negotiating in hopes of achieving peace symbolized by the olive branch and dove.



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## the Saints *by Luke*

### ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW

BORN IN 1555, IN YORK, ENGLAND, MARGARET WAS THE DAUGHTER OF THOMAS MIDDLETON, A WEALTHY CANDLEMAKER.

SHE MARRIED JOHN CLITHEROW, A WELL-TO-DO BUTCHER IN 1571 AND WAS CONVERTED TO CATHOLICISM TWO OR THREE YEARS LATER. HER HUSBAND WAS FINED REPEATEDLY BECAUSE MARGARET DID NOT ATTEND PROTESTANT SERVICES. SHE WAS ONCE IMPRISONED FOR TWO YEARS.

ON HER RELEASE, SHE SET UP A CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND ARRANGED FOR MASS IN HER RENTED HOUSE, WHICH BECAME A HIDING PLACE FOR FUGITIVE PRIESTS.

IN 1584, SHE WAS CONFINED TO HER HOME FOR A YEAR AND A HALF, APPARENTLY FOR SENDING HER OLDEST SON TO DOUAI, FRANCE, TO BE EDUCATED. SHE WAS ARRESTED IN 1586, AND WHEN A SEARCH OF HER HOUSE REVEALED A SECRET HIDING PLACE WITH A MASS MISSAL AND VESSELS, SHE WAS CHARGED AND CONVICTED OF HIDING PRIESTS, A CAPITAL OFFENSE.

SHE WAS EXECUTED AT YORK BY BEING PRESSED UNDER AN 800-POUND WEIGHT ON MARCH 25, 1586. SHE WAS CANONIZED IN 1970 BY POPE PAUL VI AS ONE OF THE 40 MARTYRS OF ENGLAND AND WALES. HER FEAST IS MARCH 25.

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