

# World, Nation, People... in Brief

Provided by NC News Service

## World

### Bishop Backs Council

London — Archbishop Denis Hurley of Durban, South Africa, president of the Southern African Bishops Conference, gave his support to the controversial South African Council of Churches as "a pioneer and pace-setter in the matter of Christian social concern." The archbishop expressed his support in testimony before a South African government commission investigating the Council of Churches' affairs and finances and its alleged connection with illegal anti-government movements.

### Irish Bishops Unhappy

Dublin, Ireland — The Irish Catholic Bishops Conference has expressed dissatisfaction with the government's draft of a constitutional amendment to prevent the legalization of abortion. In a press statement, the bishops acknowledged that the government draft is designed to insure that abortion cannot be introduced by a court decision, as happened in the United States. But they said that the amendment now proposed would not prevent the passage of a law that would allow abortion. The Protestant churches have expressed satisfaction with the present wording, which says that nothing in the Constitution would invalidate any laws against abortion.

### U.S. Missiles Protested

Comiso, Sicily — Some 300 people, including two American nuns, participated in a Way of the Cross procession Good Friday to protest the planned deployment of 112 U.S. nuclear missiles here. Sisters Muriel Witte and Ellen Gand, who live in Rome as general concillors of the Franciscan Order, were joined in the procession by local townspeople, priests, other nuns and representatives of several Catholic organizations. The procession was led by a cross representing two criss-crossed missiles, and each participant carried a poster which bore a quote in English from Archbishop Raymond G. Hunthausen of Seattle, Wash.: "Our nuclear war preparations are the global crucifixion of Jesus."

## Nation

### Advice on Namibia

Washington — The U.S. government should make a "constructive contribution to peace" in Namibia by supporting a cease-fire, withdrawal of South African troops and the holding of U.N.-supervised elections, said the administrative board of the U.S. Catholic Conference. The board added that negotiations for the independence of Namibia, also known as South West Africa, should not be tied to other issues in southern Africa. The 50 bishops who make up the board said they based their recommendations on a statement that the Southern African Bishops Conference issued last May which called for the same conditions that the administrative board supported. South Africa's white minority has ruled Namibia since World War I under a League of Nations mandate. In 1966, the U.N. withdrew the mandate and in 1971 the International Court of Justice declared South African rule illegal.

### KGB Evidence 'Forgery'

Washington — The State Department has called a memorandum allegedly detailing a plan to influence a papal election and contribute to destabilizing Poland "a clear forgery." The Soviet secret police, the KGB, alleges that Zbigniew Brzezinski, former national security adviser to President Jimmy Carter, developed the plan, which included persuading U.S. cardinals to vote for Cardinal Karol Wojtyla of Poland who was elected and became Pope John Paul II. The State Department said that Brzezinski never drafted such a memo and also said the Soviet allegations were "absurd and an insult to the Roman Catholic Church."

### Negotiating Tuition

Rock Island, Ill. — Alleman High School in Rock Island has initiated a plan for the 1983-84 school year which enables parents to negotiate with a school representative the amount of tuition they can afford. "We've taken away the cost barrier to attending Catholic school," said John Keeley, the school's director of development. Of the school's 820 students, 789 have negotiated an average tuition of \$877. Currently, the fixed tuition rate at Alleman ranges from \$700 for freshmen to \$775 for seniors; the actual per pupil cost is \$1,600. Keeley said, "Six students will be paying zero next year while 18 families" have negotiated to pay more than the average.

# Focus on Today's World

## Among Buddhists

Cardinal Timothy Manning of Los Angeles sits among Buddhists in the Thai Buddhist temple in North Hollywood. The Ven. Havanpola Ratanasara, right front, spoke on the Buddhist view of suffering and Cardinal Manning expressed the Catholic view. (NC Photo)



## Papal Kiss



Pope John Paul II bends to kiss the feet of one of 12 young boys whose feet he washed during Holy Thursday observances at St. John Lateran Basilica in Rome. (NC Photo from UPI)

## Sticks for Guns

In one of their twice-a-month training sessions, members of Nicaraguan militia practice combat skills using sticks for rifles. The volunteer group was organized to support the Sandinista government, now threatened by rebel factions. (NC Photo from UPI)

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Bishop Matthew H. Clark  
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Rev. Louis J. Hohman  
Episcopal Advisor

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