

Friendly Reaction

Washington (NC) — The Canadian bishops, the American Friends Service Committee and the American Jewish Committee like the U.S. bishops' pastoral. The Catholic bishops of Canada praised the Americans for their "powerful leadership" in calling for an end to the arms race. "They have responded in a prophetic and courageous fashion," said Msgr. Dennis Murphy, general secretary of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"I am happy to see them take such a firm and enlightened stand," added Bishop Remi De Roo of Victoria, British Columbia.

The pastoral also pleased the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers) whose executive secretary, James D. Lenhart, said that the committee is "delighted to endorse solidly and to support the stand taken by the American Catholic bishops."

He described the pastoral as "another step toward peace and away from the nuclear abyss that threatens all humanity."

A spokesman for the American Jewish Committee also lauded the pastoral. "Thank God for the moral courage of the American Catholic bishops," said Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum, director of the committee's interreligious affairs unit. "While one need not agree with every aspect of their pastoral," he said, "I have not the least doubt that their action will constitute a historic contribution to advancing the supreme moral issue of this modern age — the saving of the human family from the terror of a potential nuclear holocaust."

“ Thank God for the moral courage of the Catholic bishops ”

- Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum

And just before the bishops' vote, George F. Kennan, professor emeritus at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J., and former U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, said that the pastoral "may fairly be described as the most profound and searching inquiry yet conducted by any responsible collective body into the relations of nuclear weaponry, and indeed of modern war in

general, to moral philosophy, to politics and to the conscience of the national state."

His comments were in an article published in The New York Times May 1, the day before the bishops met in Chicago to vote on the document.

In Milwaukee, the 150 delegates to the convention of the National Federation of Priests endorsed the pastoral.

Disarmament Topic

Two groups have already laid plans to promote discussion of the bishops' letter on disarmament.

In cooperation with the diocese and the Nuclear Disarmament Task Force, the Blessed Sacrament parish Human Development and Religious Education committees are sponsoring a nuclear disarmament program on three separate days at Blessed Sacrament School Hall, 534 Oxford St.

The sessions are scheduled from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Thursday, May 19, Thursday, May 26, and Thursday, June 2.

The public is invited and further information is available from 271-7240 or 271-3751.

In the meanwhile, the diocese has instituted two programs for those involved in the justice and peace ministry. The first took place yesterday at St. Charles Borromeo in Elmira; the second is scheduled at 9 a.m. today at the cathedral with Frank Winters, SJ, Georgetown University, conducting the program.



Bishop Walter Curtis of Bridgeport, Conn., hands his ballot to Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York who waits for them to be collected during the bishops' meeting in Chicago last week. (NC Photo)

Bishops Hailed for Pastoral By Scientists, Other Experts

Chicago (NC) - Nine scientists and defense experts congratulated the U.S. Bishops for their war and peace pastoral in a letter which appeared in the Chicago Tribune May 3.

The bishops met in Chicago May 2-3 to discuss the pastoral letter on war and peace. After considering hundreds of amendments they voted 238-9 to approve the document.

"We congratulate the Catholic Bishops of the United States for the clarity and comprehensive scope of their analysis of the problems of nuclear weapons and modern war as set forth in their proposed pastoral letter," the letter said.

"More important than our general agreement with their proposals is our belief that they have rendered an exceptional service to our

reintroduction of moral philosophy and ethics into the analysis of what's right and what's wrong with our thinking and actions concerning nuclear weapons and war. All of us are impressed by the experienced leaders in Europe as well as in the United States.

"Their procedures have been a model for others. Most important, however, is the experience they individually possess, and collectively represent, with regard to the application of moral principles of human life and problems."

Those who signed the letter are:

- McGeorge Bundy, National Security advisor under president Carter at the Salt II talks;
- Robert McNamara, Defense Secretary to

Presidents Kennedy and Johnson;

- Paul Warnke, chief U.S. negotiator under Carter at the Salt II talks;

- Sidney Drell, Stanford University physics professor;

- Stanley Resor, former ambassador to the mutual balanced force reduction talks in Vienna, Austria;

- Victor Weisskopf, Massachusetts Institute of Technology physicist who served on the Manhattan Project that developed the atomic bomb;

- Jerome Wiesner, former president of MIT and science adviser to Kennedy;

- Herbert York, physics professor and former chancellor of the University of California at San Diego;

- Herbert Scoville Jr., former science and technology director for the Central Intelligence Agency.



Bishops listen, make notes, and study the pastoral during debate at the recent meeting in Chicago. About 275 U.S. bishops participated in the two-day session. (NC Photo)

Bishop

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er, was not approved by the assembly.

The letter, he said, is an example of the bishops exercising their teaching authority and carries "several levels of moral weight, and people will have to understand the nuances."

He said that in the Diocese of Rochester, he expects the letter to be read and discussed in parishes and among parish staffs. In addition, the letter will have a place in school curricula, all to the end of "that change of heart," he said.

Garage Sale

There will be a benefit garage sale for the Michael Scott Scholarship Fund from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, May 14-15 at 356 Hollywood Ave., Brighton. Items for sale will include furniture, craft supplies, household items. All proceeds will go to the fund and the scholarship will be given to a qualifying child graduating in 1984 from Our Lady of Lourdes School.

Nuclear Freeze Wins in House 278 to 149

Washington (NC) — The House of Representatives May 4 called on President Reagan to negotiate a "mutual and verifiable freeze and reductions in nuclear weapons." The vote was 278-149.

The freeze endorsement came after the House narrowly approved an amendment by pro-Reagan forces declaring that the freeze would be revoked unless it was followed by negotiated arms reductions "within a reasonable, specified period of time." That amendment passed 221-203.

Despite the amendment, however, Reagan said he would not support the non-binding resolution. He reiterated his position that a freeze is not the right way to achieve arms control.

The freeze vote came after more than 40 hours of House debate on the resolution over

nearly two months. It has gone to the Senate, where its fate is uncertain.

The day before the freeze resolution was approved, the nation's Catholic bishops issued a major pastoral letter calling for "immediate, bilateral, verifiable agreements to halt the testing, production and deployment of new nuclear weapons systems."

When a draft of the pastoral issued a month earlier used the word "curb" instead of "halt," congressmen opposed to the House freeze resolution tried to use the draft as evidence that the country's bishops were opposed to a nuclear freeze.

But the bishops reinstated the word "halt," inserting a footnote saying that the principle they were endorsing should not be directly identified with any specific political initiative as such.