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Scientists Warn Pope on

NUCLEAR WINTER

Vatican City (NC) — Here is the English text of the report on nuclear winter given to Pope John Paul II by scientists who met under the auspices of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences Jan. 23-25. The document titled, "Nuclear Winter: A Warning," was given to NC News by the scientists.

Nuclear war would include among its immediate consequences the death of a large proportion of the populations in combatant nations. Such a war would represent a catastrophe unprecedented in human history. Subsequent radioactive fallout, weakening of the human immune system, disease, and the collapse of medical and other civil services would threaten large numbers of survivors.

We must now issue an additional warning: newly recognized effects of nuclear war on the global climate indicate that longer-term consequences might be as dire as the prompt effects, if not worse.

In a nuclear war, weapons exploded near the ground would inject large quantities of dust into the atmosphere, and those exploded over cities and forests would suddenly generate enormous amounts of sooty smoke from the resulting fires. The clouds of fine particles would soon spread throughout the Northern Hemisphere, absorbing and scattering sunlight and thus darkening and cooling the earth's surface. Continental temperatures could fall rapidly well below freezing for months, even in summertime — creating a "nuclear winter." This would happen even with

wide variations in the nature and extent of nuclear war.

We have only recently become aware of how severe the cold and the dark might be, especially as a consequence of intense and numerous fires ignited by nuclear explosions, and from attendant changes in atmospheric circulation. This would produce a profound additional assault upon surviving plants, animals and humans. Agriculture, at least in the Northern Hemisphere, could be severely damaged for a year or more, causing widespread famine.

Calculations show that the dust and smoke may well spread to the tropics and to much of the Southern Hemisphere. Thus non-combatant nations, including those far from the conflict, could be severely afflicted. Such nations as India, Brazil, Nigeria and Indonesia could be struck by unparalleled disaster, without a single bomb exploding on their territories.

Moreover, nuclear winter might be triggered by a relatively small nuclear war, involving only a minor fraction of the present global strategic arsenals, provided that cities are targeted and burned. Even if a "limited" nuclear war were initiated in a manner intended to minimize such effects, it would likely escalate to the massive use of nuclear weapons, as the Pontifical Academy of Sciences stressed in its earlier "Declaration on Prevention of Nuclear War" (1982).

The general results seem to be valid over a wide range of plausible conditions, and over wide variations in the character and extent of a nuclear war. However, there are

still uncertainties in the present evaluations, and there are effects which have not yet been studied. Therefore, additional scientific work and continuing critical scrutiny of methods and data are clearly required. Unanticipated further dangers from nuclear war cannot be excluded.

Nuclear winter implies a vast increase in human suffering, including nations not directly involved in the war. A large proportion of humans who survive the immediate consequences of nuclear war would most likely die from freezing, starvation, disease, and, in addition, the effects of radiation. The extinction of many plant and animal species can be expected, and, in extreme cases, the extinction of most non-oceanic species might occur. Nuclear war could thus carry in its wake a destruction of life unparalleled at any time during the tenure of humans on earth, and might therefore imperil the future of humanity.

The working group which prepared this report was composed of: Carlos Chagas, Brazil, chairman; Vasily Alexandrov, Soviet Union; Edoardo Amaldi, Italy; Dan Beninson, Argentina; Paul J. Crutzen, West Germany; Lars Ernster, Sweden; Giorgio Fiocco, Italy; Steven J. Gould, United States; Jose Goldemberg, Brazil; S.N. Isaev, Soviet Union; Raymond Latarjet, France; Louis Leprince Ringuet, France; Carl Sagan, United States; Carlo Schaerf, Italy; Eugene M. Shoemaker, United States; Charles Townes, United States; Eugene P. Velikov, Soviet Union; Victor Weisskopf, United States.



Campus Chaos

Seattle University student Laura Sauvage prepares to ambush student Eric Schwan with a quilt gun in a campus game called KAOS (Killing as an Organized Sport). The fad has drawn sharp criticism from officials of the Catholic school and has been ordered stopped. (NC Photo)

Pope: Dedicate World to Mary

Washington (NC) — Pope John Paul II has asked the bishops of the world to join him on March 24 or 25 in consecrating the world to Mary.

The prayer he proposed asks Mary to deliver the world from sin and hate, "from every kind of injustice," and "from nuclear war, from incalculable self-destruction."

The papal letter was dated last Dec. 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and was released Feb. 14 in the United States by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

It linked the act of consecration with the special 1983-84 Holy Year of Redemption.

Mary, God's mother, "in a most particular degree experienced this salvific power" of the redemption, the pope said.

He said he was "profoundly convinced" that an act of consecration to Mary "corresponds to the expectations of many human hearts, which wish to renew to the Virgin Mary the testimony of their devotion and entrust to her their sorrows at the many different ills of the present time..."

Pope John Paul sent the bishops a three-page model prayer of consecration, "Act of Entrusting to Our Lady," adapted from the prayer he offered during his visit to Fatima, Portugal, on May 13, 1982.

But he left it to individual bishops to choose "the way which each of you considers most appropriate" to renew their consecration to Mary along with him.

March 25 is normally the Feast of the Annunciation, but this year it falls on Sunday and is superseded by the Third Sunday of Lent, so the feast is celebrated March 24. The pope suggested either day as appropriate for the act of consecration.

The prayer speaks of Mary as Mother of Christ and Mother of the Church who is "wholly united" with Christ's redemption.

It asks her to deliver individuals and nations from evil, famine, war, sins "against the life of man from its very beginning," and hatred, among other things.

It asks Mary to reveal to the world "the infinite saving power of the redemption: the power of merciful love."



Fifty years after Sister Mary Jean Dorcy began making paper cuttings in the Dominican School Convent in Seattle, her work continues to be in demand. She has created more than 3,000 silhouettes and has written and illustrated 18 books, mostly for children. (NC Photo)

Officials Assail Cubans Si-Haitians No Plan

By Stephen Overman
NC News Service

Catholic resettlement officials criticized a tentative proposal by the Reagan administration to offer about 125,000 Cuban refugees legal status while excluding 25,000 Haitians who came to the United States under what the officials said were similar circumstances.

Some resettlement officials voiced support for a bill

introduced in early February by Rep. Peter W. Rodino Jr., D-N.J., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. That bill would grant permanent residence to both Cubans and Haitians who arrived the United States before Jan. 1, 1982.

The administration's proposal would give permanent residency status to Cuban refugees from the 1980 Mariel boatlift under

the Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966. The refugees could then apply for U.S. citizenship after two-and-a-half years.

The measure also would permit the refugees to bring their families still in Cuba into the United States.

Both Cubans and Haitians refugees are now classified as "entrants, status pending." Bishop Anthony J. Bevilacqua of Pittsburgh, chairman

of the U.S. bishops' migration committee, Feb. 7 criticized the practice of detaining Haitian asylum seekers while their cases are pending.

Rodino protested to Attorney General William French Smith that any program to admit Cubans should include Haitians because they entered the United States "under similar, if not identical, circumstances" as the Cubans. He said to treat the

two groups differently would "violate fundamental fairness."

Immigration and Naturalization Commissioner Alan Nelson said in an interview with the Miami Herald that although the administration would like to treat Haitians the same as Cubans, INS was restricted by the "Cubans only" wording of the 1966 act.

James M. Hoffman, U.S.

Catholic Conference assistant director for immigration affairs, said Feb. 14 that because the 1966 act does not relate to a class of people, but specifically to Cuban nationals, "there's no way to use it in connection with the Haitians."

"That's why the Rodino bill is welcomed," he said. "He is recognizing the similarities. It's great that he's

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