

World, Nation, People . . . in Brief

Provided by NC News Service

World

S. Africa Assails Churches

Cape Town, South Africa -- A government commission has criticized the South African Council of Churches' involvement in political issues and said it was sympathetic to terrorist organizations through support of black liberation movements. The five-man commission, which sat for 27 months under the chairmanship of Supreme Court Justice C.A. Eloff, also said the church council exercised poor control over the millions of dollars it budgeted between 1974 and 1981. The commission report noted that a state of tension between the council and the white-minority government had developed over the years, with the two holding irreconcilable views on social justice.

Priest's Transfer Protested

Warsaw, Poland -- The transfer of a pro-Solidarity priest from his parish in an industrial suburb of Warsaw, has sparked protests by the parishioners. On Feb. 20 more than 2,000 people attended a Mass at the parish church in Ursus to protest the transfer decision of Cardinal Jozef Glemp, primate of Poland. Previously, nine parishioners began a hunger strike to protest the transfer of the priest, 40-year-old Father Mieczyslaw Nowak, to a rural parish 65 miles away. At the Mass parishioners shouted, "Let's write to our pope," Polish-born Pope John Paul II. They asked the Virgin Mary to intercede for Father Nowak's return.

Nation

Wilson Step Closer

Washington -- The Senate Foreign Relations Committee Feb. 22 approved the nomination of William Wilson to be the U.S. ambassador to the Holy See. On a 9-1 vote, the committee moved the nomination ahead toward a vote by the entire Senate. Senate action was not expected until at least Feb. 28, a committee staff member said. Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., cast the only negative vote in committee. A day before the vote, he had said President Reagan should withdraw the nomination because of citizen opposition to the establishment of formal U.S. ties with the Holy See.

Bishop Urges Africa Aid

Washington -- Auxiliary Bishop P. Francis Murphy of Baltimore urged the United States Feb. 21 to take "immediate action" to send emergency food aid to famine-stricken Africa. Representing the U.S. Catholic Conference at a news conference in Washington, Bishop Murphy said the U.S. bishops support legislative and private efforts to provide emergency relief to 24 African countries which have suffered severe drought over the past several years. An estimated 150 million people face the risk of starvation and prospects for the June harvest are not good, according to Bread for the World, a private organization which sponsored the conference.

Oldest Bishop Dies

Indianapolis -- Retired Archbishop Paul Schulte of Indianapolis, 93, who had been the oldest living U.S. bishop, died Feb. 17 at the St. Augustine Home for the Aged in Indianapolis, where he has lived since his retirement in 1970. Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara of Indianapolis said Archbishop Schulte's years as archbishop of Indianapolis "were among the most challenging ever to confront a churchman. Firmly rooted himself in the traditions of pre-Vatican II Catholicism, by the time his ministry ended, the spirit of change and the newness of post-council Catholicism were everywhere." He had led the Archdiocese of Indianapolis for more than 23 years.

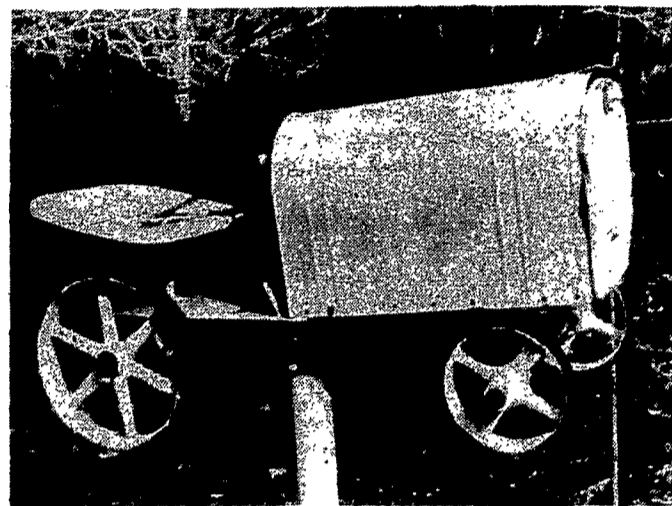
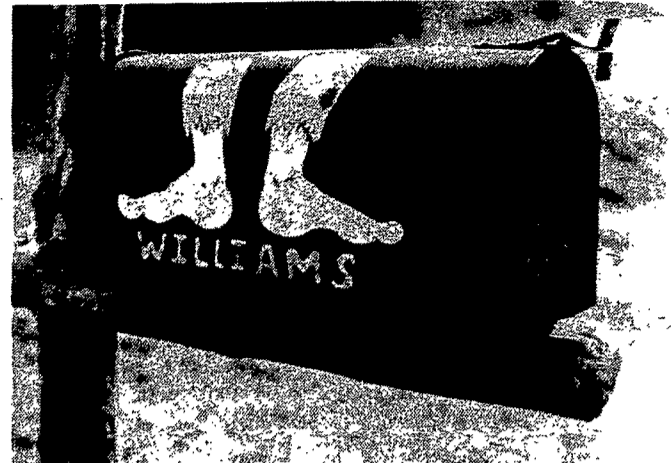
Reagan Seeks Latin Aid

Washington -- President Reagan Feb. 17 asked Congress for \$8.9 billion in U.S. military and economic aid to Central America over the next five years. The legislation seeks to counter leftist advances in Central America by sharply increasing the amount of aid poured into the region. Specific measures include resuming military aid to Guatemala, relaxing conditions on arms shipments to El Salvador and assisting internal police forces. The U.S. bishops have opposed Reagan's proposals for increased military aid in the region. The proposal was scheduled for hearings in Congress, but was expected to be met with some resistance.

Sees 'Red' in Bishops Letter

Caldwell, N.J. -- The U.S. bishops took "a Red position" in their pastoral letter on war and peace, Soviet dissident Alexander Ginzburg said Feb. 16. The bishops "took the position of the Soviet Union and of unilateral disarmament," Ginzburg said. The pastoral letter, issued last May, explicitly rejects unilateral disarmament. Some critics have argued that it effectively champions that position, however, by virtue of its critique of any use of nuclear weapons and the restraints it seeks to impose on U.S. nuclear deterrence policy.

Focus on Today's World



A drive through North Carolina shows that mailboxes do more than receive the mail. A pink ribbon atop one lets everyone know that little Maria has joined the Brown family while bare feet on the Williams box identifies the home of "Feeto" Williams. (NC Photo)



Vernon McLean, 6, and his mother Merrill with their two dogs in their Nottinghamshire, England, home. Vernon asked his local newspaper to advertise for a new father for him; his own died last year. Vernon feels a new father should love him and his "Mum," would have to like animals, fish, play football and help him with karate. (NC Photo)

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the Saints *by Luke*

ST. CASIMIR of Poland



CASIMIR WAS BORN OCT 5, 1458, AT THE ROYAL PALACE IN CRACOW, POLAND, THE THIRD OF 13 CHILDREN OF KING CASIMIR IV OF POLAND AND ELIZABETH OF AUSTRIA. HE WAS TAUGHT BY FATHER JOHN DLUGOSZ AND FROM CHILDHOOD WAS ATTRACTED TO A LIFE OF CHARITY.

AT AGE 13, CASIMIR REFUSED TO LEAD AN ARMY AGAINST KING MATTHIAS CORVINUS OF HUNGARY TO SEIZE THE HUNGARIAN THRONE, AS HIS FATHER AND THE HUNGARIAN NOBILITY DEMANDED, BECAUSE HE BELIEVED THE CAUSE WAS UNJUST. HE WAS THEN CONFINED IN THE CASTLE OF DOBZKI. CASIMIR RESISTED ALL EFFORTS TO MAKE HIM CHANGE HIS MIND. HE ALSO RESISTED HIS FATHER'S EFFORTS TO HAVE HIM MARRY, PREFERRING TO DEVOTE HIMSELF TO PRAYER AND STUDY. HE SERVED AS VICEROY WHILE HIS FATHER WAS OUT OF POLAND FROM 1479 TO 1483, BUT HE KNEW THAT HE NEVER WANTED TO BE KING.

CASIMIR WAS ONLY 25 WHEN HE DIED, ON MARCH 4, 1484, WHILE ON A VISIT TO LITHUANIA. KNOWN FOR HIS PRAYER AND HIS DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED MOTHER, HE LOVED THE HYMN, "DAILY, DAILY, SING TO MARY." THIS HYMN IS CALLED THE HYMN OF ST. CASIMIR BECAUSE HE WANTED TO HAVE A COPY OF IT BURIED WITH HIM. HE WAS CANONIZED BY POPE ADRIAN VI IN 1521. HE IS THE PATRON OF POLAND AND LITHUANIA. HIS FEAST DAY IS MARCH 4.

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