

APARTHEID

The World Is Homing In On S. African Racism

By Liz S. Armstrong

Washington (NC) -- As the world focused on the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Anglican Bishop Desmond M. Tutu of South Africa, apartheid -- the South African segregationist system he opposes -- claimed the attention of U.S. politicians and Catholic bishops.

The latter included Auxiliary Bishop Emerson J. Moore of New York, who was arrested while protesting apartheid in a demonstration at the South African consulate in New York Dec. 5. It apparently was the first time that an American Catholic bishop had been arrested in an act of civil disobedience.

Bishop Tutu, who met with President Reagan Dec. 7, received the Nobel prize honoring his peaceful opposition to apartheid, in Oslo, Norway, Dec. 10.

In his acceptance speech, the black bishop said the prize gave hope to the "millions who are voiceless, oppressed, dispossessed, tortured by the powerful tyrants, lacking elementary human rights in Latin America, in Southeast Asia, in the Far East, in many parts of Africa and behind the Iron Curtain, who have their noses rubbed in the dust."

The Anglican cleric, who had earlier described the Reagan administration's policy of "constructive engagement" with South Africa as "immoral, evil and totally un-Christian," met with Reagan at the White House Dec. 7.

"Constructive engagement" is the U.S. government's policy toward South Africa of friendly ties coupled with

quiet admonitions against white supremacy. Bishop Tutu said that "the policy has worsened the situation of blacks in South Africa."

During the meeting, Reagan and Bishop Tutu said later, the two agreed that apartheid is "repugnant" but disagreed on "constructive engagement."

The bishop advised Reagan to seek an end in South Africa to violence, forced removal of blacks from their communities, "banning" of political activists under a form of social ostracization, and house arrest. He also asked Reagan to urge amnesty for political prisoners and the calling of a national convention to devise a new structure for society in South Africa.

Reagan, who said some of Bishop Tutu's suggestions were being considered carefully, defended "constructive engagement" and said "we are going to continue with that policy. I have to disagree with him that the situation has worsened. We have made sizable progress there in expressing our repugnance on apartheid."

Reagan cited as evidence of progress the South African government's announced release of 16 labor leaders from detention, five of whom still faced charges. The South African ambassador later said the release was not influenced by "constructive engagement."

Other developments involving apartheid included:

- Statements by 35 Republican conservatives in the House and two Republican senators that they reject apartheid and believe the U.S. government must do more to oppose it.

- Continuing protests and arrests around the country, including Bishop Moore's arrest in New York and the arrests at the South African Embassy in Washington of Dominican Sister Mary O'Keefe, board member of the National Coalition of American Nuns, and two children of the late Sen. Robert Kennedy, D-N.Y.

- Release of a letter from Bishop James W. Malone of Youngstown, Ohio, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, to Reagan criticizing "constructive engagement" as a means of convincing South Africa to allow independence for neighboring Namibia, a strife-torn land controlled by South Africa.

- Release of a report from the Southern Africa Catholic Bishops' Conference citing accusations that the government had committed atrocities, including rape and murder, while quelling riots in black townships.

- Criticism of apartheid by Catholic Archbishop-designate Stephen Naidoo of Cape Town, South Africa, who is of Indian descent and thus a member of one of the South African government's designated non-white ethnic categories.

- A meeting between the Rev. Jesse Jackson, a black Baptist minister and political activist, and Archbishop Pio Laghi, Vatican pronuncio in the United States, to discuss apartheid and other subjects.

- Support for Bishop Moore's civil disobedience by Archbishop John J. O'Connor of New York, who also said the U.S. Catholic Conference's Committee on Social Development and World Peace, which Archbishop O'Connor chairs and to which Bishop Moore belongs, will deal more visibly with African affairs in the future.

- A front-page editorial in the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, calling Bishop Tutu one of the "prophets of peace" in the modern world. It also said the apartheid system "violates the most elemental human rights."

March for Life Units Start Here

The March for Life to protest the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision which legalized abortion will take place again this year on the anniversary date, Jan. 22,

in Washington, D.C.; and buses will leave from three different areas in the diocese bearing demonstrators to the event.

In Rochester a departure

program will begin 6:30 p.m., Jan. 21 at Guardian Angels Church, 2061 E. Henrietta Road. The program will feature a showing of the film "Silent Scream" and prayers led by a number of area clergy: Johnathan Bernis, Bethel Full Gospel Church; members of the Queen of the Americas Guild; Father Charles Adams OFM, Church of the Assumption of Our Lady, Fairport; Rev. Emelio Sebastian, Golden Heights Christian Center, Brockport; Father George Rosenkranz, Our Lady of Victory Church; Rev. Robert A. Kulzer, Faith Temple.

The buses will depart at 10:30 p.m. The cost for the excursion is \$25 per person. Reservations and sponsorships are arranged by contacting Dee Dries, chairperson, 88 Beldon Dr., Rochester, N.Y. 14623; (716) 334-7562.

In Waterloo, buses will leave 11 p.m. from St. Mary's Church, 25 Center St. The departure will be preceded by a 10 p.m. Mass.

Bausch Award Winner Named

Patricia Ryan, a senior at Nazareth Academy and the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Gerald Ryan of Elmgrove Road, has been awarded the 1984 Bausch and Lomb Science Award.

According to Sister Elaine Englert, "The award is made annually to the senior with the highest scholastic standing in four years of study of the sciences." Miss Ryan is eligible for one of several \$1,000 scholarships to the University of Rochester that are given each year to the Bausch and Lomb winners.

Thanks Given

Father Gennaro Ventura, pastor of Holy Ghost Church, recently thanked all who contributed to the parish's 1984 Adopt-a-Student program. A release announcing the thanks stated: "The success of this annual Adopt-a-Student Program is a source of encouragement to all of us who are involved in the education of the youngest members of our family.

Reservations and sponsorships are arranged through Kathi Peters, 17 Huff St., Waterloo, N.Y. 13165; (315) 539-8006. The cost is \$25 per person.

In Apalachin, buses will leave 11:45 p.m., from St. Margaret Mary Church, 174 Pennsylvania Ave. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be observed throughout the day of the departure, as an occasion for prayer for the unborn and safety of the travellers. The cost is \$25 per person. Reservations and sponsorships are arranged through Joe Watson, 8 Van Riper Road, Apalachin, N.Y. 13732; or by phoning the church, (607) 625-3191.

All buses are scheduled to return by midnight, Jan. 22.

Pope Meets With Bishops From U.S.

Vatican City (NC) -- Pope John Paul II held a 40-minute meeting with officials of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops Dec. 6, including conference president Bishop James W. Malone of Youngstown, Ohio.

As is customary with private meetings, the Vatican released no details of the exchange. Accompanying Bishop Malone were Vice President Archbishop John L. May of St. Louis and General Secretary Msgr. Daniel F. Hoye.

Bishop Malone told National Catholic News Service that the meeting was one of the two regular visits which the NCCB leaders make to Rome each year "to discuss issues of concern to the life of Catholics in the United States." He declined to give further details.

According to a Vatican source, who asked to remain anonymous, the Americans and Vatican officials discussed a study of religious life in the United States; the joint retirement study of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and the Conference of Major Superiors of Men and the NCCB; and the NCCB proposal that the bishops give greater study to the question of religious life.

Sarah Child



All in the Family

Christmas — Not Yesterday, But Tomorrow

A friend writes, "Somehow I cannot get into the Christmas spirit this year."

I take this to mean that she is taking no pleasure in the shopping, the baking and the other preparations that go into this joyous holiday.

I empathize. It is a malady that hit me often enough beginning when I was first in college. I had come home and offered to babysit my sister and brother so that my parents could go to Midnight Mass together.

It was a terrible evening for me as I sat alone, my gaze moving from the lighted splendor of the Christmas tree to the flickering votive candle under the statue of the Sacred Heart. Depression and self-pity engulfed me as I tried to figure out why I was so sad.

It was quite a few years later that I spent another Christmas like that -- this time I was married and the mother of a small daughter.

Certainly not alone, I still felt bereft because it was the first year I was unable to be with my extended family: parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins, brothers and sisters. On at least one Christmas, 37 of us had sat down to dinner together. Three of us, including a toddler, was not quite the same thing.

Experts tell us that a great deal of the depression and sadness we feel on holidays is because we are told we should be ecstatically happy and carefree, as if we can summon up those emotions on demand. When we can't, it makes us sadder than ever, particularly if we believe everybody else is.


Another reason for feeling blue is that we try to recapture the fantasy time of our childhood when Christmas was mysterious, magical, full of surprises and dreams fulfilled.

If I have learned anything over the years, it is that nothing ever stays the same and that if we expect it to be, we are only leaving ourselves open to unhappiness.

Christmas is not the same now as when I was young. It is not even the same as when our children were very young. But it is good. No, better than good. We learn that friends are family, too. We savor the beauty of the season wherever we find it: trumpets at Midnight Mass, a snatch of "Jesu Bambino" on the radio or television, the face of a child on the knee of a mall Santa.

There is mystery and magic but a different kind. The gift from the store is superseded by the Gift from above. And if Christmas eludes us it is because we are still searching for yesterday instead of tomorrow.

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