

Size, humor contribute to success of Anglican negotiator

By Robert Nowell
London (NC) — Not many people noticed in February 1980 when Anglican Archbishop Robert Runcie of Canterbury appointed a tall, bearded layman as his assistant.

But a year later, people began noticing Terry Waite's diplomatic gifts when he successfully negotiated the release of three British Anglican missionaries and four Iranian Anglicans detained in Iran.

In 1984 he helped gain the freedom of four Britons held as hostages by Libyan leader Col. Moammar Khadafy. Last September, he helped negotiate the release of the Rev. Benjamin Weir, a U.S. Presbyterian minister.

The 46-year-old Waite currently has been trying to secure the release of four American hostages in Lebanon, including Servite Father Lawrence Martin Jenco, Catholic Relief Services' director in Beirut.

"If that man had not gone into church, we could have used his talents," said a senior British diplomat.

Some have attributed Waite's success as a

negotiator to his size and manner. At 6-foot-7 and 224 pounds, he is called a "mountain of a man," but he is also referred to as the "gentle giant."

Others attribute his success to his sense of humor.

"Get Terry Waite into a full room of people, whether it is in Africa, Asia or the Caribbean, and I guarantee he will have them all chuckling and relaxing within five minutes," said a fellow church worker.

Archbishop Runcie also has noted Waite's sense of humor.

Addressing the Church of England's synod in mid-November, the archbishop told of how Waite had whispered into his ear during an unusually long service: "I'd just like to tell you that since we started this service, there's been a coup. You've been replaced at Canterbury by Colin Buchanan."

Buchanan is a well-known theologian, recently appointed suffragan bishop of Aston in Birmingham, England.

Waite "has enormous courage and a

tremendous ability to get through to people of all kinds," said his wife, Frances. The two have four children -- twin daughters age 20; another daughter, 19; and a son, 14.

Waite's "manner is very warm and human," said one American journalist. He has "self-confidence without being overbearing."

The son of a village policeman, Waite grew up in northwestern England.

He joined the Grenadier Guards, one of the British army's crack regiments, but had to leave because he was allergic to the dye in the khaki uniforms.

He joined the Church Army, the Church of England's version of the Salvation Army, and studied at its college in London. As a Church Army officer, he worked from 1961-64 with the Church of England's board of education. From 1964-68 he was director of lay training in the Anglican Diocese of Bristol, England.

In 1968 he went to Africa as an adviser on training and development in the Anglican

province of Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. From 1969-71 he also coordinated a relief project in the southern Sudan.

On one occasion during the crisis that followed former Ugandan President Idi Amin's expulsion of Ugandan Asians in 1972, Waite and his wife -- then eight months pregnant -- were held at gunpoint.

From 1972-79 he worked as a consultant for the Catholic Church in Africa. The archbishop of Canterbury's office said he did missionary and development work. William Norgren, ecumenical officer for the U.S. Episcopal Church in New York, said Waite also served as a consultant for renewal of religious orders in light of teachings of the Second Vatican Council.

In 1979 he returned to England, and the next year he was made an aide to Archbishop Runcie.

Contributing to this story was Tracy Early in New York.

Mercy sophomore makes stunning volleyball debut in victory over HAC

By Kevin Myers
 Debuting Tuesday, Nov. 19, as Mercy High School's only sophomore varsity volleyball player, Kim McDonald served for seven consecutive points. The following Friday, McDonald proved her debut performance against Monroe was not a fluke, by blistering 10 consecutive serves past Harley-Alendale Columbia.

McDonald last week filled the void that had been left in the varsity lineup when two Mercy players were restricted from play due to academic probation. And she continued to earn rights for that position Friday, Nov. 22, as Mercy went on to beat HAC 3-1.

In a match of one-sided scores, the outcome of each game was determined by which team was most "psyched up." Mercy broke for the first time this year a harmful pattern that has plagued them throughout the season. "We always come out steaming," Mercy coach Nancy Wunder said, "but we often fizzle out later in the match."

But this time, Mercy played with intense emotion throughout most of the match, complemented by Mercy's "string of powerful servers." "When our serves are in," Wunder said, "it's very difficult ... to beat us."

McDonald's 10 consecutive points on service came in the first game of the match, putting the emotional advantage in Mercy's favor. The spikers won the game 15-3.

But in the second game, it appeared that Mercy once again would fall into its traditional rut, as emotion exploded from HAC's side of the net. Despite a time-out pep talk by Wunder, Mercy was pounded 15-2.

The Mercy girls were determined to win the match regardless of history, and bounced back from the loss to dominate the remainder of the match. A team effort in the third game was highlighted by a string of

serves by Tricia Reid, and spikes set up by Reid and captains Kris Wandtke and Michelle Rinere.

In the fourth game, Katie Fitzsimmons caught an unorganized HAC team defenseless, as she blasted 10 consecutive serves over the net for the game and the match.

Mercy's record is currently 1-3 in their league, and they face undefeated City-Catholic rival Cardinal Mooney Monday, Dec. 2.

Mercy's JV volleyball team also scored a convincing victory over the HAC-team in consecutive sets: 15-8, 15-0, 15-7.

Christmas Buffet

The Catholic Daughters of America will celebrate its Annual Christmas Buffet Tuesday, Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m., at St. Phillip Neri's School Hall.

Members are asked to bring their own place settings and a dish to pass.

A \$3 grab bag and monthly meeting will follow the dinner.

For information, call Eleanor Cook, (716)544-2942.

Nazareth Academy Dancers

Nazareth Academy dance instructor Mary Ellen Campbell, and two Nazareth students, Rita Zingaro and Maureen McAviney, will perform four dances to the music of the Greece Symphony Orchestra Sunday, Dec. 8, 4 p.m. at the St. Charles Borromeo Church.

Ralph Zecchino will direct the orchestra in the program entitled A Day for Dancing.

For additional information, call Sister Carol Cimino, (716)458-8583.

Christmas Tea

The Business Women's Group of the Catholic Women's Club will offer a traditional tea Sunday, Dec. 8, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., at the A.A.U.W. Clubhouse, 492 East Avenue, to benefit the Carmelite nuns.

Catholic Women's Club members will bring food and household items in Christmas wrappings for the nuns.

Chairperson of the tea is Mrs. Melbourne Porter.

Senior Crafters Needed

The Elder Craft Shoppe, sponsored by the Regional Council on Aging, is looking for crafters over 55 years old.

Proceeds from the craft sales go predominantly to the senior crafters themselves.

Qualified persons interested in joining the shop, located at the Village Gate Square, 274 North Goodman Street, should call John C. Briggs, (716)454-3224.

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