

World & Nation



At a Red Cross distribution center in Abeche, Chad, drought victims place their bowls in lines on the ground as they await distribution of the daily soup.

Continued efforts may spare famine victims, cardinal says

By Greg Erlanson
Vatican City (NC) — Millions of Ethiopians threatened by famine might survive, thanks to international solidarity and continued relief efforts there, French Cardinal Roger Etchegaray has reported.

The cardinal said the international community must not slow its efforts, but redouble them.

Cardinal Etchegaray, president of the Pontifical Justice and Peace Commission and *Cor Unum*, the Vatican's umbrella relief organization, recently spent 10 days in Ethiopia meeting with government, church and relief officials as a special emissary of Pope John Paul II.

The visit, which concluded January 31, included a meeting with Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam, to whom the cardinal delivered a private letter from the pope.

In a statement released February, Cardinal Etchegaray said the "courageous people" of Ethiopia not only need immediate aid, but also development assistance. Such assistance would "allow the country one day to take control of

its own destiny thanks to its human and spiritual resources," he said.

Having visited three of the hardest-hit regions — Eritrea, Harar and Tigre — the cardinal said the thousands of deaths which marked the 1984-85 famine might be avoided this time.

"The alarm was given in time and, thanks to international solidarity, all can still be saved," he said. "But the least interruption in supplies would entail the most awful catastrophe," he added.

When the cardinal began his fact-finding trip, the Vatican announced a \$2 million donation in relief aid to Ethiopia to be sent by the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, a New York-based relief organization overseen by the Vatican's Congregation for Eastern-rite Churches.

The Italian Catholic newspaper, *Avvenire*, reported from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, that Cardinal Etchegaray met with Mengistu and other high government officials January 29.

The cardinal gave the Ethiopian message from the pope. In turn, *Avvenire* reported, the president expressed his gratitude for the efforts of the Catholic Church in his country.

Last May the pope appealed to the Ethiopian government to allow Catholic missionaries involved in development and relief projects to continue their work.

In the past, the government had pressured church agencies to reduce their foreign staffs and had threatened not to grant residence permits to missionary personnel.

In an interview with the newspaper, Cardinal Etchegaray said his visit has no political significance. He described his mission as humanitarian, adding that he came to comfort the local church.

In his Vatican statement, the cardinal said he was happy to find the Catholic Church "well inserted in the social and educative fabric of this great country rich in religious traditions."

Famine now threatens an estimated 5 million people. An earlier wave of famine in 1984 resulted in the deaths of as many as 1 million people.



NC Photo
 An Ethiopian mother, who has left her husband in the famine-stricken African country, feeds her child in a Somali refugee camp.

Findings on Waldheim should spur more controversy over pope's visit

By Agostino Bono
Rome (NC) — Austrian President Kurt Waldheim's decision to remain in office after a critical government-sponsored study of his World War II record as an officer in the German army enhances the prospect that Pope John Paul II's trip to Austria in June will be controversial.

The study, conducted by an international panel of historians, did not find proof he committed war crimes but said Waldheim knew of atrocities and did nothing to stop them. The Vatican issued no public comment Feb. 9, the publication date of the document.

Waldheim was quoted as saying he was happy for a "clear statement saying that I am not guilty of war crimes and that knowledge is not a crime."

Pope John Paul is scheduled to meet the Austrian president three times during the June 23-27 trip, according to the preliminary itinerary.

These plans for new pope-Waldheim meetings already have drawn sharp Jewish protests and follow stinging Jewish criticisms of

a 1987 meeting at the Vatican which severely strained Catholic-Jewish relations.

The state visit by Waldheim to the pope last June 25 also drew a protest demonstration outside the Vatican by 150 people, some of whom were concentration camp survivors.

Vatican officials note that current plans do not call for the pope to meet privately with Waldheim during the trip. At each event Waldheim is scheduled to be one of many dignitaries meeting the pope, they say.

Current plans call for the pope and the president to meet at airport arrival and departure ceremonies and at a state reception for the pope attended by diplomats and Austrian officials.

Austria and the Vatican have diplomatic relations, making such encounters between the pope and Waldheim protocol formalities.

The preliminary itinerary reported last January by Vatican Radio listed the pope as meeting the Austrian president but did not name Waldheim.

The Vatican Radio report of the planned pope-Waldheim meetings in Austria drew

quick reaction from many Jewish leaders who asked the pope to confront Waldheim on his past and on the Holocaust, the murder of 6 million Jews by the Nazis.

The pope should "take confession from Mr. Waldheim" and give him the "moral courage" to "publicly admit his past and withdraw from public life," said Seymour Reich, president of B'nai B'rith International, last January.

The Vatican defended the 1987 meeting, Waldheim's first international state visit, because Waldheim was received as the elected representative of the Austrian people, who are mostly Catholic.

At issue in the controversy is whether Waldheim was involved in war crimes as a lieutenant in German army intelligence in the Balkans, Yugoslavia and Greece. The accusations have been made by the World Jewish Congress and other Jewish organizations. Units he was attached to were involved in sending thousands of Jews, Italian soldiers, partisans and Allied troops to their deaths.

A report issued by the Austrian foreign ministry last year exonerated the president. It said he was on leave when his unit committed the crimes, was posted at a distance from their locales, or had no duties involving such activities.

The historians' study was independent of the foreign ministry report.

The United States said Waldheim would be denied entrance into the United States if he came as a private citizen because of his war record, but the U.S. government has not released the lengthy report upon which the decision was based.

The accusations, which Waldheim has denied, led the Austrian government to appoint an international commission of historians to examine Waldheim's record for alleged criminal involvement.

The commission presented its findings to the Austrian government Feb. 8. The findings were made public Feb. 9.

Waldheim "went along with unlawful acts and thereby made it easier for them to be carried out," said the commission report.

Logos
 book store

BIBLICAL MEDICAL
 EQUIPMENT
 FOR MEN

THE STREET OF SHOPPES —

"WHEN ITS FEELINGS THAT COUNT"
LENT HAS JUST BEGUN

Logos is ready for it with the best in lenten reading from Paulist Press

Featuring: The Serendipity New Testament
 The Serendipity Bible Study Book enables the user to lead a bible study without having to spend hours in preparation. It also has material for guided quiet times.

- Study questions for each New Testament section with a heading
- 48 Bible studies on Christ's life
- 10 topical study courses for general study from the Gospels
- The same 10 topics for advanced study from the Epistles

St. Patrick's Day is March 17th
 St. Joseph's Day is March 19th

When you're at Logos, remember your special someone with a card or gift.

1600 Ridge Road West (716) 663-5085

HICKS & MCCARTHY
 In The Heart Of Pittsford Village

FRIDAY'S SPECIAL
 Fish Fry
\$5.75

Open 7 Days a Week
 Mon-Sat 7:00am-8:00pm
 Friday till 10:00pm
 Sunday till 3:00pm

23 South Main Street • Pittsford