

World & Nation

Capsules

Unda-USA favors network

Washington (NC) — Unda-USA, an organization of church broadcasters, has urged the U.S. bishops to support a new ecumenical cable television coalition scheduled to begin broadcasts this fall. The bishops are expected to vote in June on whether to join sponsorship of the Vision Interfaith Satellite Network. An ad hoc committee of bishops has recommended against the move.

Mission allocations rise

Vatican City (NC) — Vatican agencies have already allocated about \$120 million in missionary aid for 1988, according to Vatican officials. Further allocations are expected to bring mission spending to a record level. Allocations were made from 1987 contributions, which had exceeded the previous year's donations by \$20 million. U.S. Catholics gave more than \$50 million in mission aid in 1987, up \$3 million from the 1986 level.

USCC says policy hurts poor

Washington (NC) — Tactics being used by the United States to bring an end to Panama's military government are harming that country's poor, the general secretary of the U.S. Catholic Conference told Secretary of State George C. Shultz. The secretary, Monsignor Daniel F. Hoye, said Panamanian strongman Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega is "insulated" from the effects of U.S. economic sanctions and "those we seek to help bear the burden most directly." Monsignor Hoye also asked Shultz to consider the Panamanian bishops' April statement when making policy on Panama.

Bishops emphasize pastoral

Baltimore (NC) — Five years after the U.S. bishops issued their pastoral letter on peace, the need for a Gospel-based critique of the arms race is "more urgent than ever," the bishops of the Archdiocese of Baltimore said in a recent statement. "In the last five years, the arms race has accelerated and escalated to a point we could not even imagine in 1983," wrote Archbishop William D. Borders and Auxiliary Bishops P. Francis Murphy, William C. Newman and John H. Ricard.

Georgetown avoided precedent

Washington (NC) — Georgetown University decided not to appeal a decision requiring it to give equal treatment to homosexual groups on campus because the university felt it had a weak case that could have resulted in an unfavorable national precedent, according to university president Jesuit Father Timothy S. Healy. By choosing not to take the case to the Supreme Court, Georgetown ensured that the lower court decision's "binding authority is limited to the District of Columbia and is based on a broadly drafted statute peculiar to the district," Father Healy said.

Chilean police stop protest

Santiago, Chile (NC) — The Chilean military police known as *carabineros* used tear gas to break up a rally by Catholic priests, nuns and laity protesting the practice of torture by Chilean government agencies. Members of the Sebastian Acevedo movement against torture gathered outside a police barracks May 6, singing hymns and carrying placards bearing the names of Chileans whom they claimed had been tortured inside the barracks. No injuries were reported.

NCCB head seeks summit prayer

Washington (NC) — The president of the U.S. bishops' conference has asked people to pray that the upcoming summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will lead to a peace "based on order, justice and absolute respect for the freedom of human persons."



A young Indian holds a traditional flute and flag honoring Pope John Paul II's visit to Bolivia, while waiting for the pontiff to arrive at the site of an open-air Mass in La Paz on May 10.

Pope urges South Americans to end violence

Lima, Peru (NC) — Pope John Paul II urged Latin Americans to assume responsibility for solving some of their region's socio-economic problems, including drug trafficking and a burdensome foreign debt.

During a four-nation, 12-day visit to South America, the pope also repeatedly urged Latin Americans to reject violence as a solution to their difficulties.

In Bolivia May 9-14, he said economic solutions proposed by liberal capitalism and Marxist collectivism "have sacrificed many Christian values" with idealistic expectations or policies of violence.

"Latin Americans, the answer, the solution to overcoming this right-left division must be found in your human, social and Christian realities," Pope John Paul told crowds in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, May 13.

Many Latin American nations are burdened with a debt owed to wealthy industrialized nations, and Pope John Paul, in a speech to the diplomatic corps in La Paz, Bolivia, asked for an end to the "onerous weight of the foreign debt" on poor countries.

"The unevenness between the amount of this debt and the capacity to pay it, the difference between the sums lent to borrowers and the amount of repayment required by creditors are causing grave damage to many poor countries," he said.

In Peru, the pope also urged developing countries to examine loan conditions before borrowing money.

Examine "your true priorities, what is the financial and human cost of the loan," he said during his May 14-16 visit to Peru. Governments also need to examine "the direct and indirect consequences of a delay or stopping of payments," he said.

"Otherwise, the mechanism of credits and loans can become a burden and an unsupportable weight," he said.

In Uruguay May 7-9, the pope said economic problems should be solved by developing a "civilization of labor" that respects union rights and emphasizes dialogue as the road to overcoming problems. He also told unions to avoid class conflict and warned against using the Church to further partisan ideological causes.

The pope urged youths in Cochabamba,

Bolivia, May 11 not to be seduced by the "easy riches" of drug trafficking despite the difficult economic conditions they face. Bolivia, South America's poorest nation, is one of the world's principal producers of the raw material for cocaine.

In a May 13 outdoor Mass in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, the pope said it was "urgent to protect the young from using drugs and to fight the trafficking itself, because we are dealing with an activity which is in every way infamous."

He also criticized "drug trafficking and its domestic and foreign consequences, which tend to become generalized in various forms of corruption."

The pope also spoke of drug dealing in Peru, which he said has been "whipped for years by violence and terrorism."

People who deal in drugs are dealing in human freedom, because "it leads to the most terrible form of slavery and sows your soil with corruption and death," he said.

Strict security measures greeted the pope in Peru after guerilla groups attacked and killed several members of security forces in Lima and other cities. Groups of plainclothes

police trotted along both sides of the bullet-proof popemobile during motorcades.

During Pope John Paul's 48-hour visit to Uruguay, he celebrated two outdoor Masses, ordained priests and participated in other public ceremonies.

The last stop on the pope's trip was Paraguay May 16-18, where he was scheduled to meet South America's longest-reigning dictator, General Alfredo Stroessner.

While the pope was in Bolivia, the Paraguayan government canceled a papal meeting with Paraguayan civic leaders scheduled for May 17. The Vatican initially expressed "astonishment" at the unprecedented decision.

However, on May 13 Vatican press spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls issued a statement saying that "the pastoral visit of the Holy Father to Paraguay will develop as and how it was initially envisioned."

The statement said the issue was resolved at a meeting at the apostolic nunciature in Paraguay among representatives of the Paraguayan bishops' conference and the government.

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