



Two girls pass a Bogota bank destroyed in a bombing linked to drug traffickers. Cardinal Maria Revollo Bravo and four Colombian politicians have asked the drug lords to suspend drug cocaine and free their kidnap victims.

## Cardinal joins politicians in plea to drug traffickers

BOGOTA, Colombia (CNS) — Colombia's major drug traffickers, The Extraditables, said Jan. 17 that they would end their trade and a campaign of violence in return for unspecified legal guarantees.

The drug cartel's response came two days after Cardinal Mario Revollo Bravo of Bogota and four Colombian politicians urged the cartel to suspend cocaine exports and free their kidnap victims in return for less harsh treatment by society.

The drug cartel's statement, which was broadcast over radio stations in Medellin and was read by a woman who said she had just been released by the group, offered to halt cocaine exports and turn over arms and drug laboratories "in the moment that we are given constitutional and legal guarantees."

The statement did not specify what

"constitutional and legal guarantees" the drug lords were seeking.

Cardinal Revollo joined former presidents Alfonso Lopez Michelson, Julio Cesar Turbay and Misael Pastrana, and the head of the Patriotic Union Party, Diego Montana, in the statement broadcast Jan. 15 on radio and television and aimed at the Extraditables, a gang of cocaine traffickers that has been at war with the nation since August. The gang assumed its nickname because U.S. authorities were extraditing several Colombian drug traffickers.

Cardinal Revollo and the politicians said that if the Extraditables accepted their call to free hostages and immediately suspend cocaine shipments abroad, society "would see these gestures that you take as worthy of a treatment less rigorous than if you continue carrying out criminal actions."

Interior Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds said the government should not respond to the statement since the document was addressed to the Extraditables, not the administration of President Virgilio Barco.

Colombian Army Gen. Harold Bedoya said Jan. 16 that the Extraditables were working on a proposal of their own in response to the offer by Cardinal Revollo and the politicians. The drug lords were drawing up an offer to halt exports of cocaine and free hostages in return for a pardon from the government.

The Extraditables are suspected in a string of assassinations and a wave of recent kidnappings, including the abduction of the son of a prominent member of the Barco administration.

The Extraditables declared "total war" on the nation Aug. 24, days after Barco launched an all-out offensive when gunmen assassinated Sen. Luis Galan, the Liberal Party's leading presidential candidate.

Although the initiative was not officially sanctioned by the Barco government, it was expected to carry political weight because all of the major political parties in Colombia and the Catholic Church made the plea.

Barco's government has maintained a hard line against the drug lords and repeatedly rejected offers for dialogue with the Extraditables, a group identified with the well-known Medellin cartel.

## Archbishop forms panel to review catechism draft

By Jerry Filteau  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Cincinnati Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, has formed a top-level committee to review the Vatican draft of a planned Catechism for the Universal Church.

The committee will be made up of six chairmen of committees of the NCCB-U.S. Catholic Conference.

Heading the ad hoc committee on the catechism is Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb of Mobile, Ala., chairman of the NCCB Committee on Doctrine. Other members are the heads of committees on liturgy, ecumenism, pastoral concerns, canon law and education.

The committee is to consult with theologians and other scholars in preparing its report. Staffing is to be provided by the six committees' offices at NCCB-USCC headquarters in Washington.

Mercy Sister Sharon Euart, NCCB-USCC associate general secretary, has been named staff coordinator of the project.

Monsignor Robert Lynch, NCCB-USCC general secretary, informed the U.S. bishops about the new catechism committee in a memo mailed Jan. 12. The memo was released to the press Jan. 16.

Accompanying the memo was a copy of a letter from Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and head of the Vatican commission in charge of the catechism project. In the letter, which was addressed to Archbishop Pilarczyk, Car-

dinal Ratzinger requested "that your episcopal conference, through the agencies and organs proper to it, undertake a study and express an evaluation of" the draft catechism.

The proposed Catechism for the Universal Church is to be the first such document written in the Catholic Church since the Roman Catechism, which was issued by Pope Pius V in 1566, three years after the Council of Trent.

The draft of the new catechism was sent to individual bishops throughout the world in December. Published in five major languages, the document's English version is 434 pages long.

The Vatican asked each bishop to review the draft and submit criticisms and suggestions to the catechism commission in Rome by the end of May. The commission then is to revise the document in light of the bishops' responses.

In his memo to bishops, Monsignor Lynch said the work of the conference's interdisciplinary committee "in no way contravenes or interferes with" the Vatican's request that each bishop respond to the draft individually. "Rather," he said, "it is to be hoped that this conference effort may assist some bishops in preparing their own responses."

Monsignor Lynch said the committee had a telephone conference call the second week of January to work out procedures for consultation and development of a report.

"The process will include asking experts in the various fields of theology, Scripture, ecclesiology, liturgy, canon law and edu-

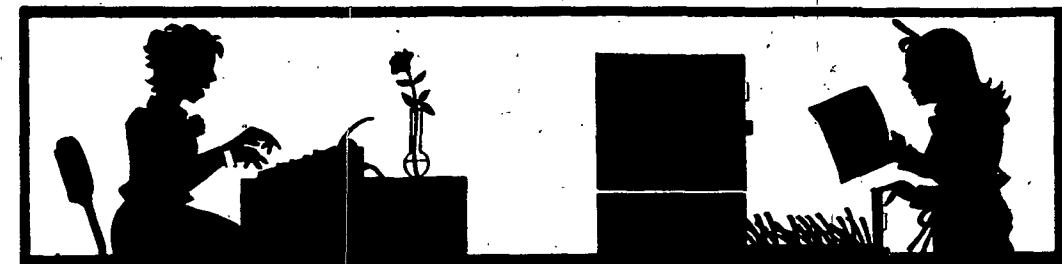
cation to review the text," he said. "The ad hoc committee plans to prepare a document that will assist bishops in their individual reviews of the text and in a conference response."

He said the committee would give a report on its work to the NCCB Administrative Committee when it holds its spring meeting in March. The committee, which consists of about 50 bishops and meets at least twice a year, is the NCCB's highest decision-making body between general meetings of all the nation's bishops.

The NCCB does not have another plenary meeting until November, making it impossible for the bishops to hold a general discussion of the draft catechism before the Vatican's May 31 deadline for responses.

Originally Pope John Paul expressed hopes that the catechism would be completed by the 1990 Synod of Bishops so that it could be presented to that body as a way of marking the 25th anniversary of the close of the Second Vatican Council. Sources familiar with the project say that plan has been scrapped, however, because it will be impossible to finish the work by then.

Some bishops have already expressed dissatisfaction with the short period allowed for consultation on such a major document.



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