

Summit focuses attention on children

By Tracy Early
Catholic News Service

UNITED NATIONS — The largest number of top government leaders ever to gather in one location came to the United Nations Sept. 29-30 to focus world attention on the needs of children.

Organizers of the World Summit for Children counted 71 heads of state or heads of government in attendance, plus high-level delegations from many other countries.

The chiefs came from the Western world, the Third World and what was until recently known as the Eastern bloc. The Soviet Union's Mikhail Gorbachev was among the most prominent absentees.

Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, Vatican secretary of state and counted at the United Nations as a head of government, was among the 71 leaders, and at the end joined the others in signing a World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children.

Agreed upon in advance, the declaration began with an urgent appeal "to give every child a better future."

Outlining the "challenge," the world leaders declared that countless children suffer "as casualties of war and violence, as victims of racial discrimination, apartheid, aggression, foreign occupation and annexation, as refugees and displaced children, forced to abandon their homes and their roots, as disabled, or as victims of neglect, cruelty and exploitation."

In addition, the declaration said, "Each day, 40,000 children die from malnutrition and disease, including acquired immune deficiency syndrome, from the lack of clean water and inadequate sanitation and from the effects of the drug problem."

To meet the challenge, the leaders committed themselves to a 10-point program including support for the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, for health and education measures, for prevention of child abuse and for a global attack on poverty.

Special negotiation was required to get wording on family planning that the Vatican could endorse. With no reference to methods, natural or otherwise, the final language stated: "We will work to

strengthen the role and status of women. We will promote responsible planning of family size, child spacing, breast-feeding and safe motherhood."

Bishop James T. McHugh of Camden, N.J., who participated in summit planning sessions in Canada this summer, said before the summit opened that the Holy See found nothing unacceptable in the declaration's final wording on family planning.

James P. Grant, director of the U.N. children's agency, UNICEF, was the key personality behind the summit.

A key operating concept in UNICEF thinking was that much of the suffering and death afflicting children could be overcome with existing knowledge, and with relatively little money.

A video prepared for the conference said 8,000 children die every day from diseases existing vaccines can now prevent.

It also said that for an extra \$2.5 billion a year — less than the world spends each day on its military forces — medical programs could overcome the top five killers of children: dehydration, measles, whooping cough, tetanus and pneumonia.

"The decisive factor is political will," said Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in an opening statement.

At the summit, leaders used to speaking as long as they wanted at home accepted three-to-five-minute limits with grace.

Even with only five minutes or less, many of the speakers found ways to make points specific to their population.

Leaders such as President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia and President Zhelyu Zhelev of Bulgaria referred to recent moves to democracy in their countries and the consequent benefits for children.

Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon-Fournier cited the need for a



AP/Wide World Photos
Lenny Montalvo, 7, stands in a vacant lot near his South Bronx home in New York earlier this month. World leaders met at the United Nations Sept. 29-30 to debate the needs of children who are dying at a rate of about 40,000 per day worldwide.

"just solution to the problem of the debt." Zimbabwean President Robert G. Mugabe denounced apartheid and the terrorism ravaging Angola and Mozambique. Arab leaders made appeals for Palestinian children. And Kuwait Sheik Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah spoke of the suffering that recent events had brought to children of his nation.

Speaking in French, Cardinal Casaroli said that while there was concern about population growth in some regions, other regions were experiencing a decline in births, with consequent aging of the population and danger of decline for "ancient and noble civilizations."

The Cardinal noted that both trends need serious analysis, but solutions to whatever problems are found must be based on clear and firm moral principles. Solutions, he said, must avoid the danger of statism and its threat to the liberty and moral force of the people.

Contributing to this report was Kevin McLaughlin in Camden.

Free Educational Seminar

UNDERSTANDING LIVING TRUSTS

Featured Speaker: Norman J. Baratt, Attorney at Law

Some of the topics to be covered:

- why wills are no longer the best way
- dangers and pitfalls of joint ownership
- advantages of estate-planned living trusts
- health care decisions in New York State
- what durable "powers of attorney" accomplish
- disability and the trauma of "living" probate
- eliminating or minimizing income & estate taxes
- money saved by avoiding "death" probate
- controlling assets while sick and after death
- the proper way to fund a "living" trust
- settling estates in hours instead of years

Where: Station House Room, Depot Restaurant
41 North Main St., Pittsford

When: Six Choices - 9-11am, 2-4pm or 7-9pm
Tues., Wed., October 23 or 24

Attendance Limited. Call 383-5055 for reservations.

COUPON

Adam's Basin Farm Market presents...

HALLOWEEN HAYRIDES

OCTOBER 1st thru NOVEMBER 3rd

- 250 Acres of ghostly terror
- Witches & creepy crawlies
- things are waiting for you in the woods. We even have a headless horseman!
- Fun and fright for the whole family from 6:30-10:30 pm!
- FREE spooky pumpkins
- Also FREE "haunted haystack!"
- Daytime pumpkin rides available

CALL 352-6777 For reservations & information

OUR LOCATION IS:
On Rt. 31 (Spencerport Rd.), near Rt. 36 (Washington, Hinkleyville Rd.) in Adam's Basin.

50¢ off with this ad!

COUPON

AS SEEN ON T.V.

YOU CAN HEAR A PIN DROP WITH THE WHISPER 2000™

(Limited offer) ~~\$19.95~~ **\$8.95***

When you take a FREE Hearing Test
Special Offer on this listening device
Nationally Advertised at \$19.95

Recommended for:

- Movies • T.V. • Sporting Events • Plays

without disturbing others

For just \$8.95* purchase a Whisper 2000™ when you take a FREE hearing test. If necessary the WHISPER 2000 will be adjusted to conform to your hearing for best performance.

* must be 55 years or older - Offer expires October 31, 1990
Limit 1 unit per customer

PLEASE CALL FOR APPOINTMENT

CRANDALL HEARING INSTRUMENTS

CALL TODAY: 1-800-421-1012

Greece: 1577 Ridge Rd. West (716) 865-4311	Newark: 165 E. Union St. (315) 331-6161	Hornell: 40 Federation Bldg. (607) 324-4171
--	---	---

Hearing Tests are conducted for the express purpose of making the selection and adaptation of hearing instrumentation and not for the medical diagnosis of hearing loss.