### wyorld & nation

## 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 highlevel 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.

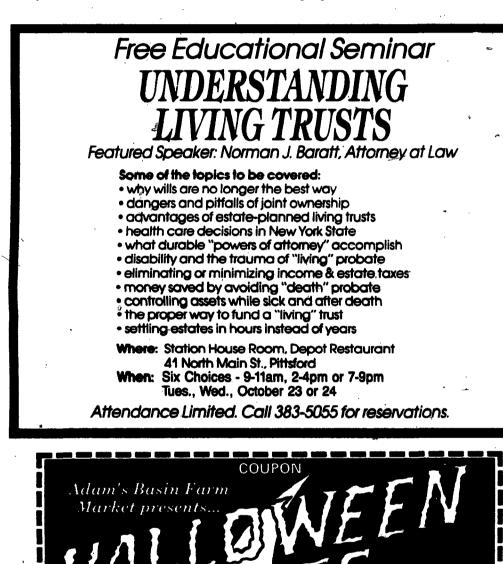
Agreed upon in advance, the declaration began with an urgent appeal "to give every child a better future."

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 Montaivo, 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 Alahmad 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.



# B

By Ag Catho VA' Synod moved in the streng bacy. Alt obliga most discus sions sable Oth month were: • 7 cant r • ] years • 1 gram tellec 🗊 Syı views Soi mode the r sever tellec Ot prog touch paris

prob

clusi

give

plura

chan

beca

prob

tions

"do

said

La

Se

Af

#### **OCTOBER 1st** thruNOVEMBER 3rd

horseman'

Funl and fright for the whole family from 6 30 10:30 pm<sup>2</sup>

FREE spooky pumpkins

 Also FREE 'haunted haystack!" Daytime pumpkin rides available.

CALL 352-6777 Lor reservations & information

#### **OUR LOCATION IS:**

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

COUPON

50¢ off with this ad!



### 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 PLEASE CALL be adjusted to conform to your hearing for best FOR APPOINTMENT performance.

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

#### CRANDALL HEARING INST 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 adapt of hearing instrumentation and not for the medical diagnosis of hearing loss.

**Catholic Courier**