

# Investigation of grave continues

By Rochelle Saidel  
Catholic News Service

SAO PAULO, Brazil — An international mission visiting Sao Paulo to observe and help with the scientific analysis of bones of disappeared political prisoners met privately with Cardinal Paulo Evaristo Arns to discuss the role of the church in the investigations.

The Sao Paulo archdiocesan justice and peace commission has been taking depositions to help forensic experts analyze the bones, which were discovered in

September in a common grave of about 1,500 people in Dom Bosco Cemetery in Perus, Brazil.

"We knew about the graves," Cardinal Arns told Catholic News Service after the meeting with the international experts. "We heard about Perus in 1971 and 1972. It was said secretly, but no one knew exactly what or where."

Cardinal Arns said many bones found in Perus were those of political prisoners, and he expected that more such graves would be discovered in other cities where there

was known torture during the military dictatorship, which ended in 1984.

"I see this as a continuation of 'Torture in Brazil,'" the book documenting torture and murder, published by the archdiocese in 1985, the cardinal said.

"That was a work of six-and-a-half years, and the work in the cemetery will prove it true," Cardinal Arns said.

"It will remind people of what happened. Most young people have forgotten the darkest years, from 1969 to 1976. It will

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AP/Wide World Photos  
**DESERT SHOWER** — Sergeant John Cox of Middletown, Ohio bathes in an Aussie-style shower set up at the 1st Cavalry Division camp in the Saudi Arabian desert Oct. 24.

## Congress sets national prayer day for Gulf crisis

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Congress has set Nov. 2 as "a national day of prayer" for U.S. armed forces and hostages in the Middle East and for their families.

The joint resolution passed the House Oct. 24. Passage in the Senate was assured Oct. 26 when the resolution obtained 56 co-sponsors, more than half the Senate membership. No presidential signature is required for a joint resolution.

"Our great nation has always devoted itself to prayer in times of crisis, and we should certainly commit this one day to pray for our troops in the Middle East, their families and the decision-makers on both sides of this present situation," said Rep. John J. Duncan Jr., R-Tenn., chief House sponsor of the resolution.

Duncan said the proposal was co-sponsored by 226 House members — "Republican and Democrat, liberal and

conservative, from every region of the country and of many faiths."

The resolution urges prayers Nov. 2 for "members of American military forces and American citizens stationed or held hostage in the Middle East, and for their families."

It also calls on Americans to "pray for President Bush, his advisers, the leaders of American military forces in the Middle East and the leaders of other countries ... that they retain the wisdom and courage to

bring about a just resolution to the Middle East crisis."

Prayers for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and his aides also are encouraged, so that "they remove their military forces from Kuwait, release all hostages unharmed from their current captivity, resist further acts of aggression against other countries, meet the conditions of applicable U.N. resolutions, and act prudently in the furtherance of peace."

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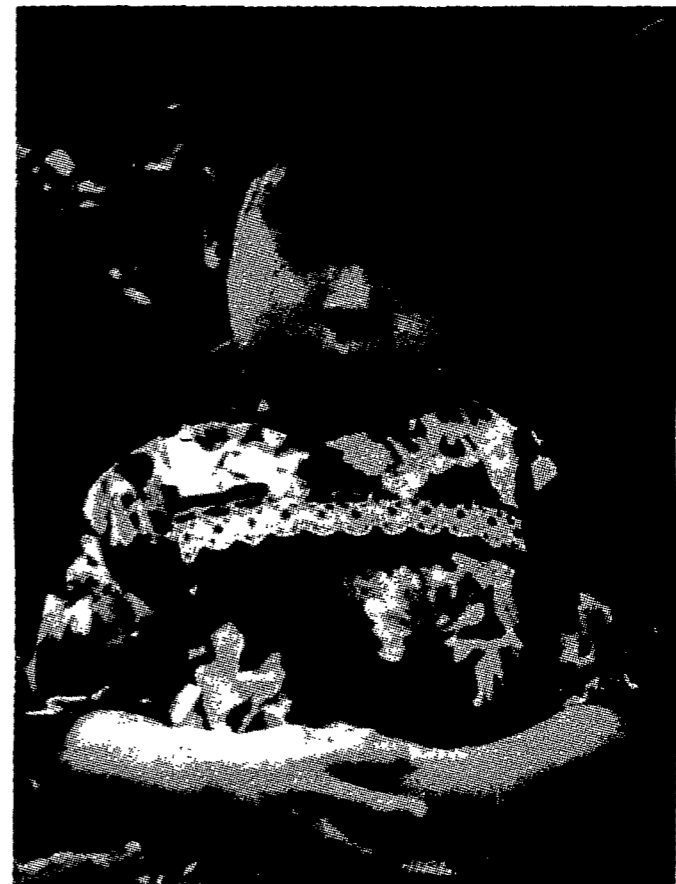
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