

War statement

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probably needs to be demonstrated." He then pointed to the recent release of Western hostages from Iraq as a possible sign of Saddam's willingness to talk peace.

"The release of the hostages ... should be read as thoroughly as possible," by the West, Bishop Clark added.

Bishop Burrill acknowledged that the United Nations has given the allies the authority to wage war against Iraq, thus fulfilling the just war criterion that a "legitimate authority" sanction a war. Nonetheless, "even if one can make the case that (war with Iraq) is done with a U. N. resolution, that does not fill other conditions of a just war," he said.

Bishop Burrill also commented that the Persian Gulf crisis should encourage people to wonder whether it's possible to wage a "just war" in modern times, given the technology available with which to wage war. He pointed to the experience of U.S. forces in Vietnam and Soviet forces in Afghanistan as examples of what he saw as the futility of modern warfare.

"It may be that we're in a point in history where war is not a viable option," he said. "The work of peace must be a more viable option."

The two bishops emphasized that they supported servicemen and servicewomen in the Persian Gulf region, but called upon them to consider their role in a possible war with Iraq.

"(The statement) calls on (Episcopal and Catholic soldiers) and, as well, all human beings, to wrestle with the issues involved," Bishop Burrill said.

Bishop Burrill added that the decision to become a conscientious objector to war "has always been a moral option," but said that he "could never decide that that is the moral option of anyone else."

Bishop Clark asserted that calling for a peaceful settlement in the Persian Gulf crisis was a sign of support for U.S. military personnel. "I don't know anybody who wants war," he said.

The bishop also stated that aggressive nations like Iraq should be constrained by economic and not military means.

Following the press conference, Monsignor William Shannon, professor emeritus of Nazareth College and a consultant on the drafting of the statement, speculated that liberating Kuwait from Iraq through violence could widen the conflict throughout the Middle East.

Monsignor Shannon pointed to Denmark's non-violent resistance to German occupation during World War II as a way in which a nation can resist an aggressor in modern times.

The Roman Catholic diocese has sent out information packets on the Persian Gulf crisis to pastors throughout the diocese. The packets include:

- An article from *Commonweal* magazine in which the author, Father J. Bryan Hehir, raises several questions about U.S. plans to wage a possible war against Iraq, including the potential for civilian deaths in bombing raids.

- Copies of two pamphlets explaining the church's stance on conscientious objection and how one can attain it.

- Monsignor Shannon's article on just war theory reprinted from the Dec. 6 edition of the *Catholic Courier*.

- Copies of liturgical prayers of the faithful for military personnel in the Persian Gulf and their families.

- A prayer for President George Bush and Saddam Hussein. Families should be encouraged to use the prayer at meals or other times.

- Two petitions, the first calling for President Bush "to exhaust all means of dialogue to resolve the crisis," and the other calls on the signers' congressional

representatives to urge the president "to place before Congress the question of military involvement by the United States in the Persian Gulf." Pastors were asked to collect signatures and mail the petitions before Jan. 2.

Father John A. Firpo, director of the Catholic diocese's Division of Social Ministry, said that his office will be monitoring the parishes' response to the information packets.

The statement by the two bishops and their clergy concluded by quoting statements by Pope John Paul II and the

Lambeth Anglican Bishops' 1988 Conference:

"Today, the scale and horror of modern warfare — whether nuclear or not — make it totally unacceptable as a means of settling differences between nations," the pope said during a 1982 speech at the bombed-out Anglican Cathedral in Coventry, England.

The Anglican bishops' statement echoed the words of the Holy Father: "War as a method of settling international disputes is incompatible with the teaching and examples of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Diplomat

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it necessary to fight for love and survival," he said.

Ewing observed that Abdulla is a man of strong convictions. "I sensed that he cared about his country and his people," said Ewing, who is also senior class president.

The Aquinas senior admitted that the diplomat helped change his views about U.S. military involvement in the Persian Gulf. Ewing said he initially did not support the

deployment of troops in Saudi Arabia.

"I felt that the gulf crisis was contributing to the high price of our gas, and I didn't think it was our problem, that my fellow Americans should be there risking their lives," he admitted.

Abdulla told the students that they represented tomorrow's leaders, and that they should never hesitate to stand up for what they thought was right.

He concluded the panel discussion with an open invitation to Aquinas students.

"When Kuwait is liberated, I invite you all to a good party," Abdulla said.

Workers finish construction at Holy Childhood School!

ROCHESTER — Workers recently completed construction of a 22,000-square foot addition to School of the Holy Childhood.

The addition houses two woodworking areas, an expanded production center, a loading dock and a multi-purpose room. The additional space provides the school with "the capacity to train and employ up to 50 percent more handicapped people in a safer and more organized workplace," according to a written statement by Sister Seraphine Herbst, the school's executive director.

A not-for-profit and non-denominational

agency, School of the Holy Childhood provides education, vocational training and sheltered employment to mentally handicapped children and adults.

To finance the construction, the school sponsored a \$1.1 million capital campaign fund drive which is about to come to an end. The school is still accepting donations for the drive.

Information concerning contributions can be made by calling 716/359-3710, or sending a check to: School of the Holy Childhood, 100 Groton Parkway, Rochester, N.Y., 14623-4589.

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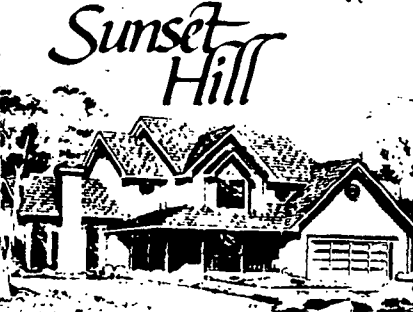
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