

No proof of apparitions, Yugoslavian bishops find

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

ROME — Yugoslavian bishops said after several years of study there is no proof that Marian apparitions have occurred at Medjugorje.

At the same time, the bishops encouraged better pastoral and liturgical services for the pilgrims who travel to the popular site in western Yugoslavia. They said this would help visitors avoid practices that are "not in agreement with the spirit of the church."

Their statement was drawn up at a meeting of Yugoslavian bishops in November and passed on to the Vatican for review. It was not made public by the bishops or the Vatican, but the Italian Catholic news agency ASCA published its translation of the communique Jan. 2. The contents were confirmed to Catholic News Service by church sources in Yugoslavia.

The sources said the statement was approved in a nearly unanimous vote, with 19 bishops in favor and one abstaining.

A Vatican doctrinal official said the statement sounded a clear note of caution to Catholics, but added that it was not a "definitive" pronouncement on the subject. Such a pronouncement, if it is made, will probably take years, another Vatican official said.

In the statement drawn up Nov. 27-28, the bishops recalled that the alleged apparitions, which began in 1981, have been the focus of studies at the diocesan and national level for several years.

"On the basis of research conducted so far, one cannot affirm that supernatural

apparitions or revelation are involved," the statement said.

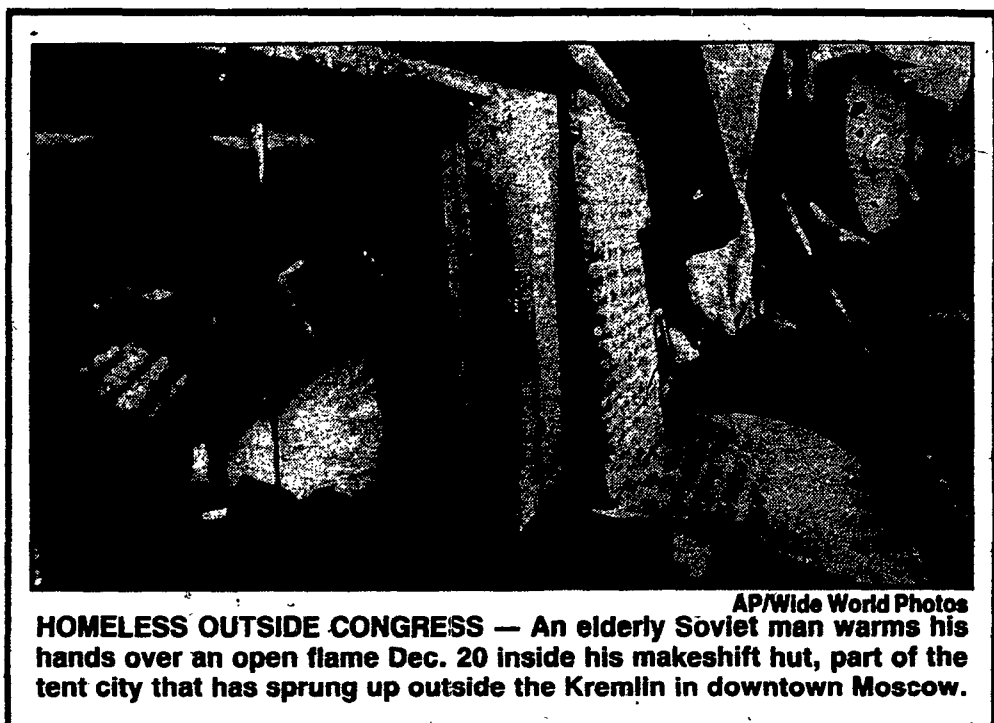
The continual flow of pilgrims to Medjugorje from various parts of the world, however, requires "the attention and care of the bishops," it said.

The statement suggested that the bishops' conference work with the local bishop to set up pastoral and liturgical programs for the pilgrims, who make the trip "motivated by faith."

In this way, it said, "phenomena and contents that are not in agreement with the spirit of the church" can be avoided.

A Yugoslavian bishop, who asked not to be named, said the statement reflected the view that, whatever the church's final

Continued on page 7



AP/Wide World Photos
HOMELESS OUTSIDE CONGRESS — An elderly Soviet man warms his hands over an open flame Dec. 20 inside his makeshift hut, part of the tent city that has sprung up outside the Kremlin in downtown Moscow.

Atlanta prelate didn't misuse funds, audit reveals

ATLANTA (CNS) — Atlanta archdiocesan funds were not misused for Vicki Long, said an archdiocesan-ordered independent audit released Dec. 20.

Bishop James P. Lyke, apostolic administrator of the archdiocese, announced the audit last August when questions about misuse of funds were raised following disclosures that Atlanta's Archbishop Eugene A. Marino had a two-year affair with Long.

The audit, which also covered three suburban Atlanta parishes Long was associated with, disclosed that from two of the parishes she had received assistance totaling \$6,450 — \$5,195 from the St. Vincent de Paul charity fund of St. John

the Evangelist Parish in Hapeville, and \$1,345 from the Good Samaritan fund of St. Pius X Parish in Conyers.

Father Michael Woods, who was pastor of St. John the Evangelist during the time covered by the audit, said last August that he had an affair with Long and had given her money from parish funds. The pastor of St. Pius X, Father John Walsh, said he helped Long over a two-year period but did not know at the time that she was receiving any other help.

In August Bishop Lyke reported that the archdiocese had set aside \$15,000 to pay directly to doctors or institutions for medical expenses incurred by Long, in accord with an archdiocesan policy to provide

such assistance whenever archdiocesan clergy are judged to have been inappropriately involved with someone.

The audit uncovered one other expenditure of archdiocesan funds for Long — an August 1989 bill from a florist for a fruit basket.

An office notation "illness" was written alongside the entry for Long on that bill. The bill from the florist included a number of other entries for complementary items sent to various people by Archbishop Marino's office during that month.

"The audit clearly shows that the archbishop did not use the funds of the Archdiocese of Atlanta to assist Vicki Long,"

Continued on page 7

SKILLED HANDS MEAN SKILLFUL TUNE-UPS AT DURFEE CHEVROLET-OLDS-GEO

Skilled hands and expert know-how! That's what you can count on with us! Let us tune up your General Motors vehicle with professionally trained technicians and the latest high-tech diagnostic equipment. We use genuine GM parts...including GM Goodwrench parts.

- Replace Plugs
- Replace PCV Valve
- Replace Fuel Filter
- Check Belts
- Check Distributor Cap and Rotor
- Check Ignition Wiring
- Set Ignition Timing
- Check Air Filter
- Check Auto Choke Linkage
- Set Idle
- Service Emission Controls

COMPLETE TUNE-UP

15% off

WITH COUPON
Offer good through 2/15/91

Complete Computerized Engine Analysis Check-up \$29.95
Normally \$49.95

DURFEE CHEVROLET-OLDS-GEO
5035 Ridge Rd. West 352-3434 • 352-3430

GM QUALITY SERVICE PARTS GM
Mr. Goodwrench

"For Someone Who Cares As Much As You Do"

1653 East Main St. Rochester

Community Care
OF ROCHESTER

- Home Care Aides
- Companions
- Community Health Nursing
- Private Duty Nursing
- Pediatric Nursing
- PRI Screening For Nursing
- Home Placement

288-7560
An Affiliate Of Visiting Nurse Service NYS Licensed Home Care Agency

Worldwide Marriage Encounter
Rochester Weekend Dates for 1991

JAN 18-20	NOTRE DAME	AUG 16-18	NOTRE DAME
FEB 15-17	EAST AVE INN	SEPT 20-22	EAST AVE INN
MARCH 15-17	EAST AVE INN	OCT 11-13	EAST AVE INN
APRIL 19-21	EAST AVE INN	NOV 8-10	EAST AVE INN
MAY 17-19	EAST AVE INN	DEC 6-8	EAST AVE INN
JUNE 14-16	NOTRE DAME		

Syracuse Southern Tier (Binghamton Area)

FEB 1-3	AUG 2-4	JANUARY 18-20	SEPTEMBER 20-22
APRIL 12-14	SEPT 27-29	MAY 3-5	
JUNE 7-9	NOV 8-10		

Please fill out the form, place in an envelope and mail to:
Rick & Jo Ann Scheffer, 997 Parma Center Road, Hilton, NY 14468
716-392-3202

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

WE'RE READY TO GO. Our registration fee is enclosed.

WE WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION.

Last Name _____ Weekend Date Preferred _____

His First Name _____ Her _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

His Faith _____ Her Faith _____

Parish/Church/Synagogue _____

Wedding Date _____ Phone # _____

Today's Date _____