

Fisher

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about war and political stability by Robert Holmes, professor of philosophy at the University of Rochester, and observations about war from the soldier's point of view by Robert Holloway of the Monroe County chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Other members of the panel were Rabbi Paul Saiger, executive director of Rochester's Hillel Foundation, and Michael Argaman, founder of Yesh G'vul, an Israeli peace movement.

Sonn said the United States entered the conflict without fully understanding the historical background of the situation in Iraq and the possible consequences of military action.

"The U.S. government was advised by virtually all experts in the field of Middle Eastern studies not to do this," Sonn said.

Those ideas were echoed by Abu Ghazaleh.

"The Pentagon did not want to go into the war," Abu Ghazaleh said. "It is the political bodies of the United States that made the decision."

"It seems that they had not studied the Arabs," Abu Ghazaleh continued. "They had not studied Arab history, Arab dreams."

She pointed out that even though the region is divided into separate countries, the people all consider themselves Arabs. Their dream, she said, is to be united as one nation.

Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait was opposed by most Arabs, Abu Ghazaleh observed, but when Western nations united against him, "all the emotions turned against the United States and Saddam Hussein became a hero. The fact that he is capable of defying the U.S. is in itself a plus for him."

Sonn pointed out that the roots of the current conflict date back to World War I, when the Arab people were ruled by the Ottoman Empire. The British and French promised the Arabs that if they rose up against the empire — an ally of Germany in that war — they would be allowed to form an independent Arab state after the war.

Following the war, however, the two European powers went back on the promise, establishing instead several countries under the influence — including Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Kuwait.

"Arab nationalist aspirations were betrayed," Sonn declared. "This radicalized the Arabs to some extent, bringing in secularist, socialist regimes in

Syria and Egypt, and later Iraq."

Thus, Sonn said, Saddam Hussein is, in a sense, a product of the actions of Great Britain and France — two members of the current coalition. Arab peoples, she said, view the coalition as just another instance of Western imperialism.

Abu Ghazaleh pointed out that the Arab peoples also regard U.S. opposition to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait as hypocritical in light of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands.

"We see it as a double standard in the treatment of the Palestinian question," Abu Ghazaleh said. "Nobody seems to have interfered with the occupation of South Lebanon."

"(The United States) claims to be there on principle of opposing the occupation of territory by force," Sonn noted. "What (the Palestinians and other Arabs) are experiencing is extreme frustration at the arbitrary application of justice in the Middle East."

The result, Sonn said, is that Arab support for Hussein may increase as the war continues.

"It seems pretty inevitable," Sonn remarked, "when you consider the fact that Iraq and Iran were mortal enemies for eight years, yet the majority of the Iranian people now support Saddam Hussein in the face of militarism."

Saddam Hussein continually links the Palestinian question to the war in the Persian Gulf, thus increasing the possibility of drawing other Arab nations or people into the conflict, Abu Ghazaleh noted. The Palestinian question is so important to Arab peoples that it is invoked repeatedly — sometimes sincerely, other times not — whenever a leader wants to arouse support, she explained.

Such support in the current situation may lead to a long and costly war. If so, the troops in the field and the people in the

United States, will be affected, Holloway observed.

"The war, regardless of when it's fought, will leave a lot of casualties — killed and (physically) wounded, but also psychologically wounded — something which has not even been addressed for the Vietnam veteran," Holloway said.

Holloway acknowledged that thus far in this war, peace groups have made a conscious effort to avoid criticizing the troops in order to forestall the kind of derision experienced by Vietnam veterans. "I went over (to Vietnam) knowing that the war was being questioned by people," he explained, "but it wasn't until I came back that I realized that it was being directed at the troops themselves."

Already, coverage of civilian casualties in Iraq is causing some people to question the war effort, Holloway acknowledged. "I don't think whoever got us into this thought (civilian deaths) would happen,"

Priest

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and feedbacks," Desmarais said.

The vice principal of the parish school also saw Father Moynihan as a man willing to listen to everyone in the parish, including its children.

"He was a very caring and loving person with all the children, and was very present in the school," Donna Gmelin said. She illustrated her point by noting that the pastor often visited classrooms and presided at school liturgies. "When he'd go to the kindergarten, it wouldn't be unusual to see him down on the floor with the kids," she remembered.

Charlie Lyons credited Father Moynihan with inspiring him to edit a parish newsletter — *Saint Joseph's Spirit* —

he said. "One truth about war is that innocent people get killed on both sides."

The United States had better be prepared to deal with the physical and emotional damage an extended war may cause — both to the troops and to the people at home, Holloway suggested.

In terms of the current situation, Sonn said the wisest course of action for the United States would be to urge a cease fire and to agree that once the situation in Kuwait is resolved it will support a conference on the Palestinian question. This would help to quell the rising tide of Arab anger against the United States, she said.

Although public sentiment seems to favor the war at this time, the mood could easily change, Sonn predicted.

"The U.S. populace has been severely and cruelly underestimated," Sonn concluded. "I think it will take two or three years, but I think people will recognize, 'Here we go again.'"

which highlights the accomplishments of lay parish volunteers.

"He asked me one day if I'd like to start this," Lyons said, explaining that it was characteristic of Father Moynihan to get parishioners interested in serving their community.

"In thinking about his 15 years at St. Joseph's, his genius was his ability to get people to come forward and get involved in the parish," Lyons said. "There was, I would say, an explosion of involvement of people at St. Joe's over the years."

Father Moynihan said his parishioners had "made me a better person, more patient, much more tolerant, much more tolerant."

"I've learned from them, I've been inspired by them, I've seen them at prayer, I've watched them grow, I've watched them blossom," he observed. "We're a very close community."

Pair

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when something's wrong in their marriage, they added that it's just as important to tell each other about what's right in their life together. Lois Wieloch remarked, for example, that through the intensive discussions on their Marriage Encounter weekend, the couple realized how important their faith in God was, and how their marriage could serve as a living symbol of the Lord.

"I think through my unconditional love, Fran ... can get an idea of how much God

loves him," she asserted.

The Wielochs said many young couples come away from an Engaged Encounter weekend with a heightened sense of their mutual beliefs about and in God. "There are a lot of couples who have discovered how important God is in their relationship," Lois Wieloch said of Engaged Encounter participants.

Her husband noted that the program encourages couples to serve their communities and God together in order to show others that healthy marriages are possible. When speaking of the "vocation" or "sacrament" of marriage, he tells couples that they "can be an example of Jesus' love

in the world."

To illustrate his point, Fran Wieloch cited couples bringing the Eucharist to shut-ins or teaching catechism classes in their parishes as examples of how husbands and wives can serve the community together.

One way the Wielochs hope to encourage older couples to serve the community is by promoting the idea of working on Engaged Encounter weekends. Currently, fewer than a score of couples are available to do the work necessary to make the program run, the Wielochs said.

Two presentation couples are needed for each of the 10 weekends that are scheduled for 1991. The weekends take place either at the Borromeo Prayer Center on Dewey Avenue in Rochester, or Keuka College, located south of Penn Yan in Yates County. Presentation couples spend the first two or three months of their association with the program on writing talks for their weekends, the Wielochs said, adding that "it's hard work."

Nonetheless, couples who volunteer to serve the program will have the satisfaction the Wielochs experience every time they do an Engaged Encounter weekend. "We know the beauty of a good marriage, and we want to share it with young couples," Lois Wieloch concluded.

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Deacon will lead tour of Vermont fall foliage

Holy Name of Jesus Parish, St. Martin's Way, Rochester, is planning a fall foliage tour and spiritual reflection in Vermont from Sept. 22-25.

Deacon Richard Lombard will lead the tour, which will include liturgies and public prayer services at the Weston Priory and sightseeing in the Green Mountains. For information, call Joan Perna at 716/865-9548.