



AP/Wide World Photos
Ethiopians seeking to unify their country demonstrate in the small village of Akaki on May 31. The demonstrators were showing their disapproval over efforts by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front to create a separate Eritrean state. The revolutionary group comprises two of the four rebel factions that took over the country.

Rebels topple Ethiopian regime

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said May 26 that he hoped peace talks between Ethiopia's warring parties would usher in a "new era of peace" in the embattled African country.

But events were outrunning the papal plea.

Two days later, troops of the Tigrayan-led Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front concluded a major offensive that brought down the Marxist-inspired government of President Mengistu Haile Mariam.

The peace talks ended abruptly. Rebel leaders took control of the capital, Addis Ababa, and the administration. A broad-based provisional government was sche-

duled to be established at a proposed conference by July 1.

Mengistu had earlier fled to Zimbabwe. The Ethiopian army, once Africa's largest, disintegrated.

"I ask you all to be spiritually close to those in Ethiopia who are praying for peace in their troubled country," the pope said during a Sunday blessing in St. Peter's Square.

Several rebel groups, with diverse regional aims, have been battling the Mengistu government for years. Their quick advance on the Ethiopian capital brought unexpected success, with the rout of the army, the surrender of the air force and the departure of the navy.

Title X ruling no obstacle for clinics, pro-lifers say

By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — It will be simple for Title X recipients to comply with the Supreme Court ruling that abortion be kept out of their family planning discussions, according to speakers at press briefing sponsored by the House of Representatives Pro-Life Caucus.

Family planning programs that receive Title X funds — even those predisposed to abortion — have many options other than abortion to discuss with patients, said Dr. William R. Archer, deputy assistant for population affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Also during the May 31 briefing, a physician and a nurse practitioner in obstetrics-gynecology in Northern Virginia told reporters that they have refused for years to refer for abortion or to counsel patients to have abortions.

Dr. Camilla Hersh said patients who tell her they are considering abortion almost always explain that underlying social or economic problems are involved.

"Most often, the woman does not want to have an abortion, but is desperate to have her problem solved," Hersh said.

Once the problems are explained, Hersh said she works with the woman on finding other solutions, including offering referrals to appropriate private or public agencies.

Diane Solano, a nurse practitioner for

her husband's obstetrics and gynecology practice, agreed that Hersh's methods work.

"Almost always the reason (a woman wants an abortion) is financial or social..." Solano said. "I offer many options, but I do not offer abortion."

Clinics that receive Title X funds could do the same, Solano said.

Although abortion-rights advocates contend that the Supreme Court ruling upholding the Title X restrictions would endanger some women's lives, Archer said recipients of government funds may still refer patients for emergency care, even if that treatment ultimately requires an abortion.

The ruling upheld the government's right to prohibit recipients of federal family planning funds from making referrals for abortions or discussing abortion as a means of birth control.

Archer said the Department of Health and Human Services "will work diligently" to be sure Title X grant holders refrain from discussing abortion as birth control out of services paid for by the government.

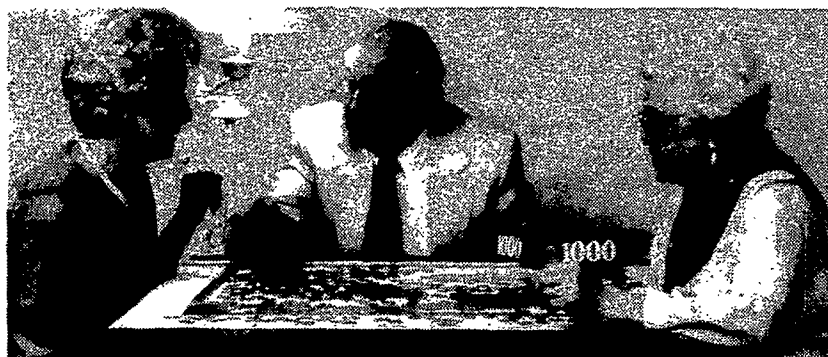
Family planning agencies that obtain other funds to continue abortion referral services may do so, as long as those efforts are kept financially, operationally and physically separate, Archer said.

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., said he was confident that legislative proposals to overturn the Supreme Court ruling would be unsuccessful.

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