

New year brings hope in troubled countries

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As 1992 began, strife continued in Yugoslavia and the Middle East, but new hope for peace emerged in some of the world's trouble spots, including El Salvador.

Archbishop John R. Roach of St. Paul and Minneapolis, chairman of the U.S. bishops' International Policy Committee, praised key players in the negotiating process that led to the Dec. 31 signing of a peace accord for El Salvador.

"It is particularly heartening to know that 1992 will usher in a new beginning for the building of peace, and we pray that the years of war and violence will at long last give way to true peace, justice and reconciliation in El Salvador," Archbishop Roach said in a statement issued Jan. 3.

More than 75,000 people have died during nearly 12 years of civil war in the predominantly Catholic Central American country.

After about 20 months of negotiations, the Salvadoran government and leaders of the Salvadoran rebel group Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front arrived at several agreements. The agreements set forth programs of judicial reform, human-rights safeguards, electoral reform, a reduction of the armed forces, civilian leadership for the current militarized police and the conversion of the FMLN into a political party.

The peace plan is scheduled to go into effect with a Feb. 1 cease-fire.

Final details of the peace treaty were to be concluded by Jan. 10, but both sides agreed to accept a U.N. compro-

mise if they were unable to meet the deadline.

Meanwhile as the new year began, Vatican officials said the war in Yugoslavia and ongoing tensions in the Middle East continue to cause concern. But they said hopes for peace and justice are valid there and in other world trouble spots.

Interviews with Vatican officials were broadcast by Vatican Radio Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

"Many are the international situations that worry the pope as pastor of the universal church and Good Samaritan on the road of the world," said Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state.

"In the first place, there is the drama of Croatia, which continues with many deaths, floods of refugees and never-ending destruction," he said.

"Then there is the tension in the Middle East, which will not be resolved if the demand for justice long-awaited by those peoples is not met," he said.

The church is also concerned about continuing guerilla wars in Latin America, particularly in Peru, "where Sendero Luminoso is sowing destruction and death," Cardinal Sodano said.

"There are tensions in Asia, and above all, there is a lack of religious liberty in China. For all these populations we pray with the pope."

Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, told Vatican Radio about trips he made on behalf of the

pope in 1991 to Sudan, South Africa, Lebanon and Yugoslavia.

Sudan, which is torn by a civil war, is one of the poorest African countries, and the war and poverty there deserve more of the world's attention, he said.

"There is still much to do in South Africa," although the strict apartheid laws have been abolished, he said.

"Despite enormous difficulties," he said, Nelson Mandela of the African National Congress and President Frederik W. de Klerk are committed to designing a new constitution that will guarantee equality for all citizens.

The situation in Lebanon also improved in 1991, he said, but there are "many refugees who still do not dare to return because they are uncertain of their future in the country."

Speaking before Croatia and Serbia agreed to a 15th cease-fire Jan. 2, Cardinal Etchegaray said that although war in Yugoslavia continues, "we cannot lose hope. We must believe that finally the international community will be able to overcome every hesitation and promote the peace desired by all."

Two days later, Italian Cardinal

Fiorenzo Angelini, papal envoy to Croatia, told Vatican Radio that he hoped the cease-fire in Yugoslavia would lead to a lasting, negotiated peace between Serbia and Croatia.

Cardinal Etchegaray called the Middle East peace process "a timid start," but an important one for settling disputes in the region.

Interreligious cooperation is necessary there and in other places threatened by war and ongoing political tensions, he said.

Meanwhile, in the United States, a coalition of Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders urged U.S. presidential candidates not to destroy the "fragile" Middle East peace talks with "provocative campaign statements that might inflame issues and tensions."

In an open letter to candidates, the U.S. Interreligious Committee for Peace in the Middle East warned that the "delicate balance" of the peace process could be ruined in "the winds and passions of American election campaigns."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN APARTMENTS

Newly renovated in Irondequoit for Senior Citizens. Fall 1991 opening.

- 1 & 2 Bedrooms
- Handicapped accessible
- 24-hour maintenance
- Adult health/social center
- Available (provided by Independent Living for Seniors)

EOH
544-9100

CONIFER DEVELOPMENT

SPANISH CLASSES

Offered by:
Urban Services and Spanish Apostolate Offices of the Diocese of Rochester

NEW SEMESTER STARTING UP

Jan 13th through Apr. 6th

Classes Held at
Corpus Christi
80 Prince Street
(corner E. Main)

**For Information Call:
Tina Ortiz
(716) 328-3210 x329**



Dignity ... Sympathy ... Human Understanding

Alan E. Giltner Edward H. Dreier
Evelyn Dreier Taillie

Recently remodeled facilities to better meet your needs.

DREIER-GILTNER FUNERAL HOME, INC.

1717 Portland Ave. 342-8500

HEDGES MEMORIAL CHAPEL, Inc.

770 E. Main St. • Rochester, NY 14605
454-7070

One Location
Serving the Needs of Catholic Families throughout the Rochester Diocese for over 125 years

- Pre-paid burial plans available
- Pre-need counseling available without obligation
- Chapel facility on premises

James A. Aiello Christopher M. Lawrence



The Spring House
Since 1822

For the elegant wedding reception of your dreams.

Celebrate your special day in this historic, landmark Erie Canal inn noted for its hospitality, fine food and gracious dining for more than 150 years. Your guests will be at ease in the authentic Early American atmosphere of this stately mansion and enjoy the traditional food of the canal country. Gracious service has long been part of The Spring House tradition. And you'll be pleased by the moderate prices.

The Spring House also invites you to schedule your rehearsal dinner and showers in one of our private dining rooms. You can be sure of fine food, wine choices from a list that is one of the most extensive in the area, and attentive service.

For information, call (716) 586-2300, Tuesday through Sunday.

You can always count on The Spring House.

3001 Monroe Avenue (near Clover Street) (716) 586-2300