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Letter stirs Bosnia debate

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

A U.S. archbishop calling for international intervention in Bosnia-Herzegovina complained of being misinterpreted last week after his letter to Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher received considerable attention in the news media.

Archbishop John R. Roach, chairman of the International Policy Committee of the United States Catholic Conference, said he was not making a "general endorsement" of U.S. military intervention when he wrote a letter dated May 11 to the secretary.

The letter outlined four specific actions that the U.S. bishops believe should be taken to end the slaughter in former Yugoslavia. It was the fourth recommendation that drew most of the press' attention. Verbatim, it read:

"Full implementation and enforcement of a political

settlement in Bosnia and the cease-fire in Croatia, a step we recognize would probably require the use of U.S. troops."

Catholic News Service subsequently reported that: "In the highly charged political debate over Clinton administration overtures toward possible U.S. military intervention in the region, the USCC letter was reported in some places as endorsing such intervention without qualification.

"Catholic bishops tell Clinton God's on U.N. side in Bosnia," read the page one headline in *The Plain Dealer* of Cleveland.

But in a follow-up letter issued May 13, Archbishop Roach stated: "The letter clearly distinguish(es) between several limited military measures which we support to protect the innocent and halt the violence."

The May 11 letter also outlined three other actions in addition to the call for a cease-fire with U.S. troop in-

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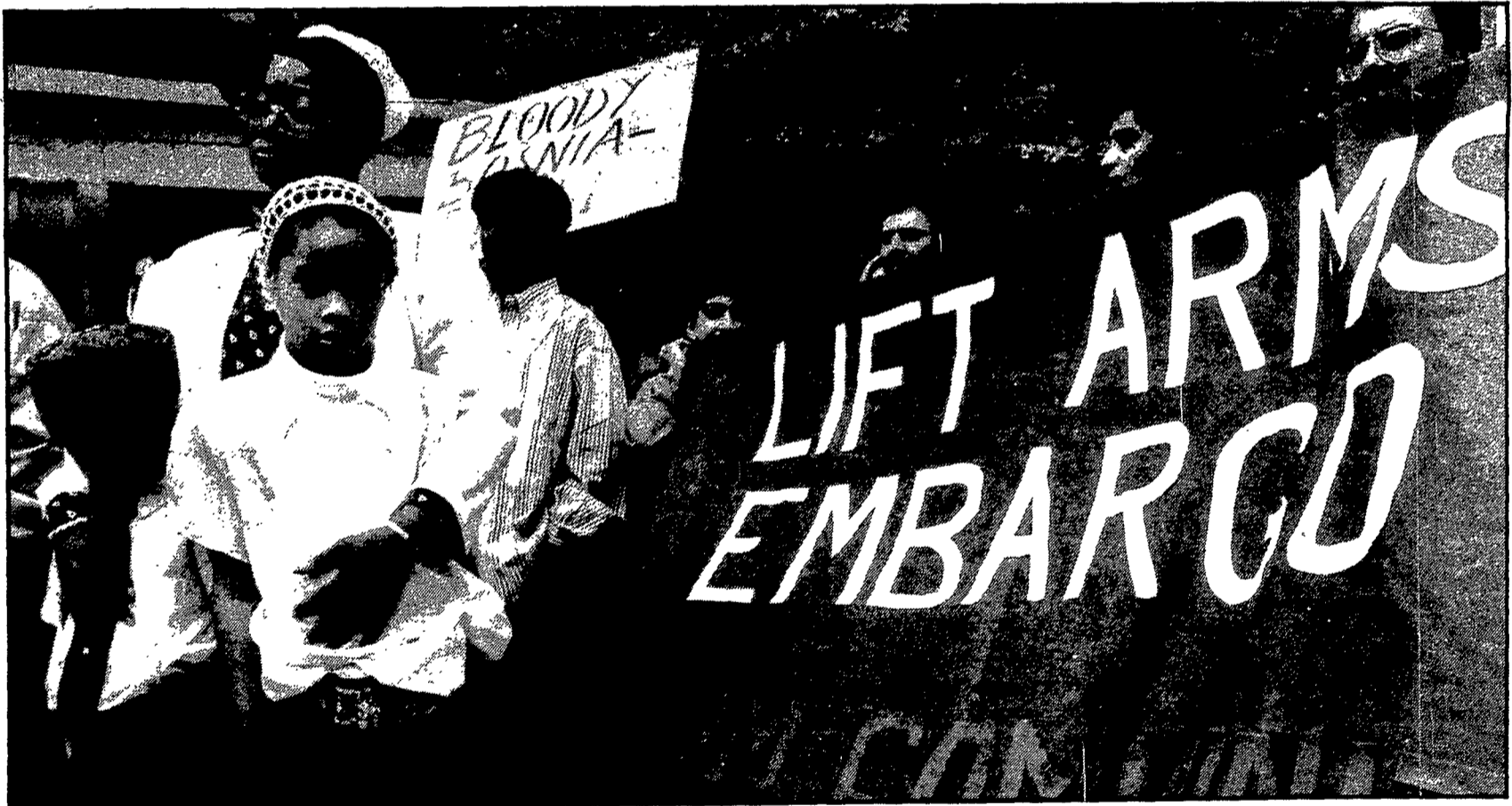


U.S. Congresswoman Louise Slaughter bows her head in prayer during the 'Rally of Support for Bosnia' at the Liberty Pole in downtown Rochester May 16.

INTERVENTION?

Photos by
S. John Wilkin
Staff photographer

Ameedah Mohammed holds her son, Ra-sheed, and daughter, Aneesah, during the rally in support of Bosnia. About 250 marchers then marched to St. Mary Church, where they heard speeches from Louise Slaughter, D-Fairport, Bill Paxon, R-Amherst, and Ted Weyman of the World Life Institute.



Speaker warns of potential world war

ROCHESTER — War in the former Yugoslavia could lead to war throughout Europe — and the rest of the world — unless the West takes measures to stem Serbian aggression soon, asserts Tedd Weyman, a research associate with the World Life Institute in Ottawa, Canada.

Weyman made his remarks at a "Rally for Bosnia" in St. Mary Church, 15 St. Mary's Place, on Sunday afternoon, May 16. The rally took place after hundreds of demonstrators marched from the Liberty Pole in downtown Rochester to the Catholic church.

Marchers expressed support for Bosnia-Herzegovina, which is currently fighting against Serb forces in the former Yugoslavia. Speakers at the rally included U.S. representatives Louise Slaughter (Dem.-28th District) and Bill Paxon (Rep.-27th District.)

The march was organized by the local Bosnia Task Force, comprising Christian, Jewish and Muslim religious and ethnic organizations — including the Diocesan Commission on Christian/Jewish Relations.

According to Linda Saiger of the Jewish Community Federation, no Bosnians actually serve on the task force. And although the task force had invited local Orthodox Christian leaders to join the rally, she noted that they were unable to attend. Most Serbs are Orthodox.

Of those who did speak, none was more impassioned than Weyman, a volunteer researcher with the World Life Institute, a not-for-profit research and service organization devoted to human rights, international security and environmental issues.

Weyman expressed no sympathy for the

Serb forces, pointing out that they are not waging a civil war against former countrymen but a war of conquest against neighboring nations.

"Some people here think we should be hearing from the Serbs," Weyman said, commenting on the absence of Serb representation at the rally. "That would be like saying we should give a voice to Adolf Hitler."

In his speech, Weyman maintained that most people in the West — including its leaders — underestimate the potential danger the Serb forces represent. The Serbs are waging an aggressive, genocidal war in a part of Europe rife with militant nationalist movements in former communist countries that are massively armed, he noted. Hence, the Serbs' actions could touch off

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