

Prelate's letter stirs debate over intervention in Bosnia

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involvement. Those actions were:

- Establishment of safe havens in Bosnia, as a temporary measure, to protect civilians from "ethnic cleansing."
- More concerted measures to protect civilian populations in besieged cities, to protect fleeing refugees, and to ensure the delivery of aid to the needy;
- Continued enforcement of economic actions.

The letter endorsed the right of the international community to "disarm the aggressor," because the Serbs have primarily targeted civilians. However, the letter also extensively detailed the conditions under which such actions may be taken.

Most of those conditions seem to be based on traditional just-war criteria, including non-combatant immunity from attack, and proportionality — the concept that a military measure taken to right a wrong should not prolong or widen a war, nor undermine conditions for a just peace.

Following the news media feeding frenzy over the alleged first genuine endorsement of U.S. military action in Bosnia by an influential body in this country, John L. Carr, the USCC secretary for Social Development and World Peace, complained that the press has ignored the bishops' feelings on Bosnia for months until the archbishop's letter

appeared.

"This is the 30th statement on Bosnia in the last two years," he told the *Catholic Courier*.

Nonetheless, Carr acknowledged that the growing attention on the region has heightened the debate regarding intervention.

"At a certain point, the question arises when doing nothing becomes worse than doing something," Carr said.

When asked whether the bishops were being selective in focusing on Bosnia, given that war, starvation and genocide also threaten millions in other nations such as Sudan and Angola, Carr noted that the bishops have called for measured intervention in those nations as well.

Reaction to the letter from one observer in the Rochester diocese ranged from praise for its concern to concern over its suggestions.

In a phone interview from a retreat house in Oregon, Monsignor William H. Shannon, a noted local and national writer and commentator on peace and war issues, said Archbishop Roach's letter means "we cannot simply ignore this situation."

"It shows our concern as a Christian church to oppose the kind of violence and genocide going on there," he added.



AP/Wide World Photos
Soldiers carry an elderly Serb after the man and 70 others arrived at the Serb-held territory near the village of Satorovici on April 29. Serbs were exchanging 31 Muslims from Bijeljina for 72 Serbs from Tuzla.

Nonetheless, the priest wondered whether intervention might lead "to another Vietnam." He also expressed skepticism that any "non-combatants" could be immune from war given modern weaponry.

"Even conventional weapons mean a large number of civilians will be killed as we saw in the Iraq war," he said.

Monsignor Shannon believes that the war in the former Yugoslavia highlights the need for a "world government" that could hold nations accountable for aggression and genocide. He also said that nations must begin to actively train themselves in non-violent conflict resolution given the threat of militant nationalism in today's world.

1962 Mass

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Father Thomas P. Mull, priest consultant for the diocesan Office of Liturgy, explained that Bishop Clark's decision to permit the Tridentine Mass was made following consultation with a number of groups in the diocese, including the Liturgical Commission and the Priests Council.

Part of the process involved studying how the Tridentine Mass was received in other dioceses, Father Mull explained. None of the dioceses contacted reported any significant problems, paving the way for Bishop Clark to issue his decision.

"I think ultimately it was a matter that there was a group of people that requested it legitimately, and there really wasn't any reason not to allow it,"

Father Mull said.

One of those people seeking the Tridentine Mass' reinstatement was Dominic Aquila, who will be the altar server at the June 6 Mass. Aquila had written Bishop Clark and diocesan officials numerous times about returning the Tridentine Mass. In June, 1992, he filed a petition with the Vatican on behalf of people who wanted the diocese to grant permission to celebrate the Mass.

"We are greatly pleased Bishop Clark has decided to grant permission," Aquila told the *Catholic Courier*. For him to grant it is a true act of pastoral concern.

Aquila noted that he had already been contacted by several individuals who had joined schismatic groups and who are now interested in coming back to the Roman Catholic Church after Bishop Clark's decision.

Speaker warns of escalating war

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explosions elsewhere, he asserted.

He likened the Serb military and political leadership to the Nazis, arguing that the Serbs could eventually go to war with the neighboring countries of Albania, Bulgaria and Hungary, all of whom claim ethnic ties with regions of former Yugoslavia.

If the Serbs move into Macedonia, they risk war with Greece, he added. Nonetheless, Greece is generally pro-Serb and Turkey is pro-Bosnian, hence creating another potential for war should those two nations choose sides in the conflict. Both countries belong to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the anti-communist military bloc set up by the West following World War II, and both countries have fought each other before.

Weyman dismissed the peace efforts made by such Western powers as Britain, France and Canada as useless and, indeed, counterproductive, to the Bosnians' cause. The Bosnians want arms, not outside intervention, he argued, and the general arms embargo in the area simply aids the Serbs in killing off the poorly armed Bosnians.

Weyman also called the United Nations' troops in the former Yugoslavia "hostages" of the Serbs because they can do little to stop Serb aggression; they need Serb permission to operate; and they failed to stop the Serbs from executing a Bosnian leader.

The Serbs have threatened to attack U.N. troops should the Western powers try to intervene substantially, he added, a threat that renders the troops ineffective.

In a phone interview from his Ottawa office on Monday, May 17, Weyman stated that such Western powers as Britain, France and Canada have apparently blundered so many times in attempting to stop the Serbs that it appears as if they really want the Serbs to

defeat the Bosnians. He speculated that most Western countries would prefer that the Serbs control the region, noting that democracies often tolerate brutal governments when they serve the West's own ends.

Weyman would have encountered little argument from Paxon who also likened a Serbian leader to Hitler after he met him during a fact-finding mission to the former Yugoslavia. The Serb leader dismissed a congresswoman's accusations about systematic rape and torture of Bosnian women and children lightly, Paxon noted.

"Just because a man beats his wife doesn't mean he doesn't love her," the Serb leader reportedly told the U.S. congresswoman and Paxon.

Paxon, as did Weyman, called for a lifting of the arms embargo, and he denounced both former President George Bush and President Bill Clinton for not responding to the Serbs' aggression. He echoed Weyman's contention that the Bosnians do not want U.S. troops, but he did call for U.S. and/or NATO air strikes against Serbian targets.

Slaughter also called for a lifting of the arms embargo. A co-sponsor of legislation that would extend aid to Bosnian women and children who have been raped and tortured by the Serbs, Slaughter expressed disgust and outrage at Serbian atrocities, which have also included the castration of thousands of boys and men.

"It is way past time the bodies of women and girls are used to settle old scores," she said.

Rally participants were urged to write their representatives concerning the war in Bosnia. But Saiger noted that the Bosnia Task Force included pacifists and supporters of military force, so the task force did not encourage any specific course of action for the U.S. government to take in former Yugoslavia.

Obituary

Dr. Theodore Neubert; scientist

Dr. Theodore Neubert, a Rochester native and well-known nuclear science researcher, died on March 27, 1993, at 76. He lived at the Thompson Nursing Home in Canandaigua for the last three years of his life.

Dr. Neubert was a former parishioner of St. Monica Church, 831 Genesee St. After he was graduated in 1935 from the Aquinas Institute, 1127 Dewey Ave., he obtained a chemical engineering degree from the University of Rochester. He later earned a doctorate in physical chemistry from Brown University in Rhode Island.

In addition to serving at the United States Naval Research Lab, Dr. Neubert as a group leader for the Manhattan Project, a division assigned the task of producing the atomic bomb. Among his honors received were a listing in the 1984 *Who's Who*, and an

Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

He is survived by three sisters: Joan Neubert of Victor, Rosemary Neubert of Greece, and Geraldine Hyder of Gulfport, Fla.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Dr. Neubert was celebrated on March 30 at St. Patrick's Church, 115 Maple Ave., Victor. Interment was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

According to Rosemary Neubert, her brother made bequests to St. Patrick's Church as well as Our Mother of Sorrows Church, 5000 Mt. Read Blvd.

Memorial contributions in Dr. Neubert's memory can be made to the Alzheimer's Disease Association, 46 Prince St., Rochester, 14607; or the Thompson Nursing Home, Canandaigua, 14424.