

Bosnian prelate appeals for peace

ZAGREB, Croatia (CNS) — Bosnia-Herzegovina's top Catholic official has asked national and world leaders to act immediately to stop the massacre of civilians in his country.

Leaders must "use all morally admitted ways to stop this evil," said Archbishop Vinko Puljic of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. "Many children were left orphans," he added.

The archbishop spoke several days after a mortar shell landed on a crowded market Feb. 5 in Sarajevo. Sixty-eight people were killed and more than 200 wounded in the attack. Bosnia's Muslim government leaders blamed Bosnian Serbs besieging the city for the attack. Serbian leaders denied the accusations.

The statement was published Feb. 10 by the Catholic Press Agency of Zagreb. The archbishop was in Germany at the time of the mortar attack and issued his statement after returning to Sarajevo.

The short statement was issued on the same day a North Atlantic Treaty Organization 10-day deadline began for the withdrawal of Serbian heavy weapons from the Sarajevo area. NATO threatened air strikes against Serb positions if the 10-day ultimatum was not met.

The archbishop's statement did not mention the NATO threat.



AP/Wide World Photo

Subjected to slavery

A young Somali Bantu girl Jan. 24 puts on a scarf in the village of Sagaalad, located just west of Mogadishu. Bantus are being subjected to slavery by the majority ethnic Somalis after the rule of law was replaced by that of the gun following three years of civil war and anarchy.

Officials: Pontiff may make U.S. visit

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Vatican officials said that discussions are underway on a possible visit by Pope John Paul II to the United Nations in October which would include other stops in the United States.

Tentative plans would have the pope making brief pastoral visits to New York, Newark, N.J., and Baltimore, said the officials, who are in positions that put them close to papal trip planning. The officials asked to remain anonymous.

They described the prospect of a trip as a strong working hypothesis at the moment.

Archbishop Renato Martino, the Vatican's permanent observer to the United Nations, is studying details of the visit with U.N. officials, but no decision has been reached yet, the officials said.

Archbishop Martino declined to comment.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls also would not comment Feb. 10 on the possible visit, except to say that officially nothing has been decided. A final decision is expected by late March.

In Washington, Monsignor Robert N. Lynch, general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said Feb. 10 that although there had always been "rumors about the possibilities of the U.N.," he was surprised to hear the pope might visit other cities.

"I've heard absolutely nothing about it," he said.

Monsignor Lynch explained that a visit to the United Nations would be in the protocol area of Archbishop Martino and Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York. However, once the pope crosses the Hudson River into New Jersey, that visit would fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S. bishops' conference, Monsignor Lynch said. If that is the plan, the conference official said he would nor-

mally be informed of it.

Vatican officials said the trip would take place in mid-October, after the United Nations opens its 49th General Assembly at its New York headquarters.

The visit would come in the middle of a Synod of Bishops on religious life — a scheduling conflict that presents problems but not insurmountable ones, Vatican officials said. The pope, who presides over the synod's general deliberations, would be absent during a period of group discussions and voting, when his presence is not required, they said.

Pope John Paul visited the United Nations during his first U.S. trip in 1979 and used the occasion to appeal for world peace and the protection of human rights. In recent years, he has emphasized the U.N.'s growing role in defusing tensions and coordinating humanitarian relief in international trouble spots.

In a historic one-day visit to New York and the United Nations in 1965, Pope Paul VI delivered a plea for peace to the 20th General Assembly, telling world representatives: "No more war! War never again ... If you wish to be brothers, let the arms fall from your hands."

Noted author will speak on 'life issues and the family'

IRONDEQUOIT — Helen Hull Hitchcock, the founder of Women for Faith and Family, will speak on "life issues and the family," Friday, Feb. 18, at 7:30 p.m. in St. Thomas the Apostle School hall, 4536 St. Paul Blvd.

The presentation is sponsored by the parish's Pro-Life Group and the Irenaeus Study Center.

Hitchcock's St. Louis-based organization, founded in 1984, seeks to help loyal Catholic women in their witness to their families and to their world. She is the author *The Politics of Prayer; Feminist Language and The Worship*, and is the editor, illustrator and designer of *The Family Sourcebook for Advent and Christmas and The Fam-*

ily Sourcebook for Lent and Easter.

Hitchcock has made numerous TV and radio appearances on issues involving the Catholic faith, women and families. She is the mother of five children and the wife of historian and St. Louis University professor James Hitchcock.

Hitchcock will also speak about her organization at a women's brunch on Saturday, Feb. 19, at 10:30 a.m. again in the school hall. The brunch will be preceded by a 9:30 a.m. Mass in the church.

Reservations for the brunch are required and can be made by calling Mary Jo Maurer, 716/342-3216, or Dorothy Hayes, 342-4175. Baby-sitting will be available, and donations will be accepted.

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ABC executive says pope right about TV violence

NEW YORK (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's criticism of television as being too violent and harmful to society is largely on target, an ABC executive said Feb. 11.

"The pope is right. There is a lot of very violent television on all over the world," said Ted Harbert, president of ABC Entertainment, at a panel discussion of the International Radio and Television Society meeting in New York.

But Harbert also said the U.S. networks are unfairly charged with emphasizing violent and anti-social shows in their programming and not given credit for reducing violent scenes in network shows in recent years.

Other broadcast panelists said their rivals in the cable industry and in other non-network programming air more violence than they do.

In remarks released Jan. 24 at the Vatican, the pope said TV can cause harm "by propagating degrading values and models of behavior, by broadcasting pornography and graphic depictions of brutal violence."

TV can cast doubt on religious beliefs and present moral truths as relatives as relative, the pope said in his message for the May 15 observance of World Communications Day.

It can also spread "distorted, manipulative accounts of news events and current issues ... carrying exploitative advertising that appeals to base instincts and ... glorifying false visions of life that obstruct the realization of mutual respect, of justice and of peace," he added.

"Parents who make regular, prolonged use of television as a kind of electronic baby sitter surrender their role as the primary educators of their children," the pope said.

Those who work in the television industry, he said, must show respect for their audiences and for the families who make up a large part of that audience.

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