

Pope condemns bombing of building in Argentina

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II condemned as "abominable" last week's bombing of a building housing two Jewish organizations in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Haiti religious oppose any foreign invasion

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Members of Haiti's religious orders, open critics of the country's military-backed coup government, say they also oppose any foreign invasion.

Compiled from Catholic News Service reports.

Sinn Fein calls peace plan too confusing

LETTERKENNY, Ireland (CNS) — Britain and Ireland pondered their next step after the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, said it could not accept as is an Anglo-Irish blueprint for peace in Northern Ireland.

Sinn Fein delegates, at a special meeting in the small Irish border town of Letterkenny July 24, in the party's first formal reply to the joint peace declaration, said it was incomplete and contradictory.

But they said it could be a first step. "We are all agreed that the declaration is a step, not a solution," Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams told the assembly.

Outside Irish republican circles, this was seen largely as a rejection despite Sinn Fein reluctance to call it one.

But Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds said the reply was hardly a surprise and added, "some positive signals have emanated from the convention."

Resolutions on the peace plan approved by the meeting failed to mention an end to the Irish Republican Army's 25-year violent struggle to end British rule in the province.

This has been set down as an major condition for talks with Sinn Fein on Ireland's future, which the plan offers.

In a statement the previous week related to that issue, Adams said there was little hope that the IRA will call a cease-fire soon in its campaign to oust Britain from Northern Ireland.

Speaking in a British Broadcasting Corporation television interview July 21, Adams said he did not believe that a truce was imminent.

"I can only tell you that I have heard no talk of a pending IRA cease-fire," he said. "That is my clear understanding."

Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring stressed the condition for Sinn Fein's inclusion in talks would never change.

"They must renounce violence and then and only then can they take part in any discussion or dialogue with either government," he told reporters.

British Prime Minister John Major's office said it would read the text of Sinn Fein's resolutions before commenting.

He and Reynolds have waited months to see if Sinn Fein, fighting to unify Ireland, would accept their plan as a framework for peace.

Now they may concentrate on getting the main parties in the province around a table to talk peace — an initiative which is also full of obstacles.

Spring said he hoped this could be achieved by the autumn and Reynolds added, "(We) will not be waiting on any decisions by paramilitary organizations."

The Downing Street Declaration, launched in December amid high hopes it could halt 25 years of political and sectarian strife in which more than 3,000 have died, will stay on the table, officials said.

In the declaration, Britain acknowledged for the first time, the possibility of a united Ireland and the Irish Republic offered to relinquish its constitutional claim to the North, partitioned in the 1920s, as part of an overall settlement.

Study: Middle class would pay most without coverage

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Middle-class families who currently have health insurance would pay significantly higher health care costs under a system that does not include universal coverage, according to a new study commissioned by the Catholic Health Association.

The study by health care pollsters Lewin-VHI Inc. was released July 18 at a Washington press conference by Sens. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., and Patty Murray, D-Wash.

A reform plan that includes insurance market reforms and subsidies for persons under 200 percent of poverty level but does not require universal coverage would still leave 22.3 million people uninsured and would force families mak-

ing between \$20,000 and \$75,000 to spend more on health care, the study said.

Nearly 60 percent of all American families fall within that income bracket, according to Murray.

In contrast, the study said, a universal coverage plan that includes cost controls and employer contributions would lower health-care spending for every currently insured U.S. household earning less than \$100,000 a year.

"Insurance reforms, without universal coverage, cause higher premiums because coverage would be extended to older adults and people with pre-existing conditions — people who typically consume more health care — without the

offsetting factor of extending coverage to all of the presently uninsured, many of whom are young and healthy," said William Cox, CHA vice president, at the press conference.

"The failure of incremental reform can already be seen in New York state, which enacted insurance reforms without universal coverage, and insurance premiums shot up 18 percent in the first year," he added.

Rockefeller said health reform plans that do not include universal coverage are "not reform (but) ... a sham."

"Today, thanks to the Catholic Health Association, we have more information that makes the consequences of nonuniversal proposals all too painfully clear."

ROCHESTER ITALIAN FESTIVAL JULY 29 - AUGUST 6 IRONDEQUOIT MALL FESTIVAL TENT Route 104 - North Goodman Street. Includes program for Ferragosto Mass and Festival in Honor of MARIA SS MADONNA DEI MIRACOLI in Italian Sunday, July 31st, 1994. Features Gene Ferrari, Nik and the Nice Guys, and Enrico Farina.

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