

Bishop seeks international bombardment of Serbs

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said international military action could be justified "as a last resort" in Bosnia, but one Bosnian bishop said bombing Serb positions seemed the only way to end the fighting.

Their statements came the same week the U.S. Senate voted to lift the arms embargo on the Bosnian government to allow the Bosnians to defend themselves against Serb advances.

As he ended his mountain vacation in Les Combes, Italy, Pope John Paul said military intervention "remains the last resort."

"There has always existed the principle of a just war, which is defensive. Even this type of war is ugly, but it (war) is that way," the pope said.

Reporters asked his reaction to a July 21 decision by 16 European and North American countries to authorize NATO forces to bomb Bosnian Serb positions if attacks continue on U.N.-declared safe zones harboring thousands of Bosnian Muslims and Croats.

"If one attacks and wants to trample the right to life and the right to exist, then there is the right to defense," he said.

Pope John Paul said the Vatican was not advising the international community on how to proceed in Bosnia, but outlining the moral principles that should



RNS/Reuters
U.S. Army Ranger Lt. Col. Randall Banky, providing help to U.N. mission, prays during Sunday Mass at Sarajevo's Catholic cathedral July 30.

guide specific political and military decisions.

"Above all, we are concerned about those who are suffering, no matter which side they are on. And everyday we see how much they suffer, including through

the images on television," he said.

Auxiliary Bishop Pero Sudar of Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, said that after so much suffering and so many futile attempts at diplomacy, an international bombardment of Serbian positions seemed the only way to save the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"I think the only thing to do is issue a severe warning and then strike militarily," Bishop Sudar said in an interview with *Gazzetta del Mezzogiorno*, a newspaper in Bari, Italy.

Bishop Sudar, interviewed in Zagreb, Croatia, said the West had let many opportunities for a diplomatic solution slip away. The situation is so serious in Sarajevo and other cities proclaimed "safe zones" by the United Nations that "among us there is the conviction that everything done through diplomacy will not lead to anything. The people don't believe in it any more."

At the same time, the bishop criticized the U.S. Senate's vote to lift the arms embargo on the Bosnians, saying it would only make the carnage worse.

"The population has been so damaged, it is so full of hatred, that the possibility of using weapons could be an occasion to begin a vendetta," the bishop said.

"The only solution is to stop the Serbs," he said in the interview, pub-

lished July 28. "Diplomacy at this point really could accomplish very little."

"The only way out left is to destroy their weapons, their barracks and their arsenals, striking not to kill them but to make them understand that killing others will not be permitted," the bishop said.

A Franciscan priest from Bosnia also opposed the Senate action on the embargo.

"It will mean prolonging the war," said Father Franjo Radaman. "The quickest way to end the war is by disarming."

He said the United States could help by pressing European countries to block all support for the fighting, and in particular to patrol the Bosnian-Serb border and prevent entry of any more military supplies.

The United States could also help by putting pressure on Russia to stop providing arms and personnel to the Serbs, he said.

Father Radaman was interviewed July 26 in New York.

Meanwhile, in Germany, Thomas Bremer, a professor at the Ecumenical Institute at the University of Munster, has gathered a group of historians and religious leaders from Serbia, Bosnia and Croatia for semi-annual seminars on the historical context for the war in what was once Yugoslavia.

Bremer said international organizations such as the United Nations and the European Union want a cease-fire in places such as Bosnia.

"Our goal is to ensure that, after a cease-fire, a common and lasting basis for understanding can be built," he said.

The 25-member group has met in Croatia and Germany. Representatives from all the region's religious groups attended, except the Muslim delegation from Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Bremer said that delegation had last-minute problems with travel documents.

Agencies helping nation cope with heat

By Michelle Zotter
Catholic News Service

DETROIT — When the heat and humidity reach record levels, as they have all across the nation this summer, "the biggest problem is dehydration for all of us," says an instructor at a Detroit area Catholic university.

Health care professionals and care shelter organizers have been counseling that a constant supply of fluids are of the utmost priority for everyone, especially the elderly, the very young and the homeless.

People need to "try to stay in a balance" with fluids, advised Marilyn Goering, instructor in the physical aspects of aging with the gerontology department at Madonna University in suburban Livonia.

"With the normal changes in the aging process, we don't adapt as well. With the elderly, their circulation system might

not identify that they're hot," she added.

Goering said seniors might also have to cope with the consequences of disease — whether heart, respiratory or kidneys — which cause more problems in relation to the heat.

"It's tough," she said. "A lot of them have to take drugs which can alter how they relate to the heat ... The best way is fluids — give them water! Our bodies are 70 percent water. The older people get, as a natural occurrence, the less water they hold."

In the Detroit area at least one heat-related death was reported in Macomb County. Accompanied by extreme humidity, temperatures have remained in the upper 80s and were expected to reach the mid-90s.

Cities across the country were seeing record triple-digit temperatures, including Bullhead City and Coolidge, Ariz., where it reached 123 degrees. Chicago has recorded the most heat-related

deaths, 529 as of July 28.

Often the elderly who live alone and who are poor suffer the most because they "probably don't have air and proper ventilation, such as fans. If they live alone, they might not have anyone checking on them. But they need to get their fluids — check on someone who's older," Goering said.

Individuals who know older people should invite them to an air-conditioned restaurant or mall or to their home.

"With the older folks, they don't like to spend money, so they don't like to turn on their air conditioning. Some may not even have air conditioning," she added.

Symptoms to look for in the elderly are a lack of appetite, light-headedness, vomiting, weakness and headaches. Goering also said people need to avoid caffeine and alcohol because those deplete water in the body.

Seniors should drink eight to 12 full glasses of water a day, she added.

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