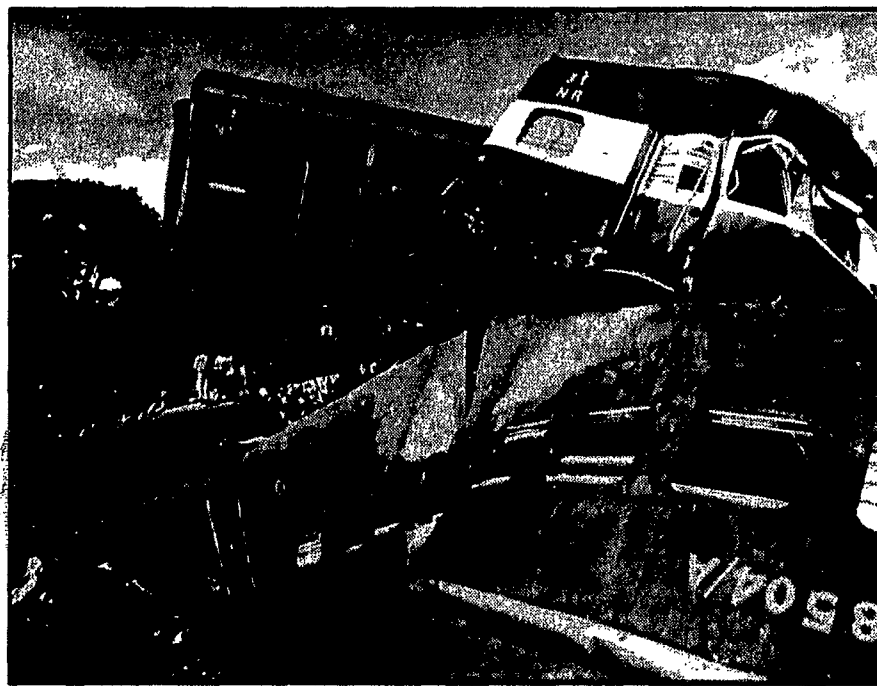


WORLD & NATION

Fatalities high in India crash



Reuters/CNS



The wreckage from two passenger trains that collided head-on sits piled on tracks in Gaisal, India, Aug. 2. Pope John Paul II sent his condolences to the families of victims. At least 220 people died; more than 300 were injured.

Diplomats aim for Balkan stability

By Lynne Weil
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Two diplomats represented the Holy See to an international Balkan peace conference, while the Vatican continued to monitor the situation in the region.

The Vatican announced July 31 that it had sent a delegation to the previous day's summit in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, at the request of the Council of Europe, which coordinated the meeting.

Archbishop Faustino Sainz Munoz, nuncio to the European Union, and Msgr. Mario Cassari, the interim charge d'affaires at the nunciature in Sarajevo, represented the Holy See at the summit.

The gathering included heads of state and government and top cabinet officials of 40 countries.

They endorsed a Balkan stability pact and announced several measures to support the region's economy — including an pledge by U.S. President Bill Clinton to promote investment in the area and to seek congressional approval for lower trade tariffs on some Balkan exports.

Yugoslavian President Slobodan Milosevic was not invited to the gathering.

Cardinal Vinko Puljic, head of the Sarajevo-based archdiocese that covers much of Bosnia-Herzegovina, told reporters on the eve of the meeting that it should be followed up with a permanent institution in Sarajevo to administer peace-promoting programs.

Cardinal Puljic also co-authored an appeal to the meeting's participants with

Bishop Franjo Komarica of Banja Luka, in the Serb-administered part of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The statement, published Aug. 2 in the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, advocated the rights of thousands of displaced people in Bosnia who were still displaced more than three years after the end of the civil war in their country.

The two church leaders said only 500 of the more than 200,000 people who lost property in the Serb-administered area had been allowed to return to their homes, while 33 Catholic Church properties that had been "usurped" during the conflict had not been restored to the church.

Cardinal Puljic and Bishop Komarica said the Balkan stability pact summit "represents a new hope for the thousands of people who have been deprived of their rights."

Vatican Radio called the summit "a conference of high symbolic value" that produced "ambitious objectives" in its final declaration, including conditions for economic and financial aid tied to democratic development.

In a commentary broadcast July 31, the radio service said Clinton "offered the whole region his recipe for pax Americana," or American peace.

On Aug. 1, Vatican Radio aired an interview with a gynecologist who took part in a church-led initiative in Albanian refugee camps for displaced people from Kosovo.

Dr. Giancarla Rondinelli, who is Albanian but works at a Catholic hospital in Rome, said she was particularly concerned for Kosovar women trying to

keep their families together.

"The last few months have prompted great pain and strong emotions," she said. "It is unthinkable that, at the end of this century, certain things can happen that really leave a bitter taste in one's mouth."

Parishioners to 'play' in Albania

A team of six Presbyterians and one Catholic will spend Aug. 16-Sept. 7 working — and playing games — with refugee children in Albania.

"We are going there simply to bring maybe a little bit of joy to the lives of children in extreme conditions," explained Donna Watkins of St. Michael's Parish, Lyons. The parish will bless her and her mission at the 10:30 a.m. Mass Sunday, Aug. 8.

The group, a "Kids' Care Team" sponsored through the Presbyterian Church USA, will be led by the Rev. Nancy Birdsong, pastor of the Geneva Presbyterian Church. Other area members are Rick Pinckney, deacon at the First Presbyterian Church of Lyons; Joyce Lohr, of Seneca Falls Presbyterian Church; and Rich Simington, of the United Presbyterian Church of Hornell.

Their first job will be to "provide wholesome entertainment, recreational activities, games and play-therapy" to the Kosovar refugee children and youth, according to the Presbyterian Church USA. They also may help screen and refer children who need further attention for trauma.

"This is not something that will be a

Teresa

Continued from page 1

The frail priest said he could not reveal everything he told the inquiry team because he was sworn to secrecy.

The postulator for the cause, Missionaries of Charity Father Brian Kolodiejchuk, told UCA News that witnesses would be questioned to gather evidence concerning Mother Teresa's holiness.

The team has some 100 witnesses listed for questioning, and the inquiry team will line up interviews according to witnesses' age and health, he said, adding that "Father Cukale was allowed first because he is dying of cancer."

The witnesses' evidence will be transcribed and signed and the testimonies recorded for posterity, said Father Kolodiejchuk.

The inquiry will also be held in London, New York, Rome and San Diego, said Father Kolodiejchuk, adding that the evidence would be studied later in Rome.

Archbishop Henry D'Souza of Calcutta formally opened the cause July 26 and administered the oath of office and secrecy to the investigators. He predicted to a French news agency that the process will move quickly, adding that "we have a jump start of four years already."

When Mother Teresa's cause came up for consideration, Pope John Paul II waived the usual five-year waiting period before a canonization process is allowed to begin.

quick fix," Rev. Birdsong said. "We are helping kids make the initial stages of recovery."

The church and co-sponsors Youth With a Mission, and Albanian Christian University students will be working under the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. The team may work with adults also, and may stay in Kosovo as well as in Albanian refugee camps.

"The two main requirements are a love of children and flexibility," the Rev. Birdsong said.

Watkins was recruited through her work for the Lyons Lunch Program, sponsored by the Lyons Interfaith Council of Churches and located at the Presbyterian Church of Lyons. The program serves more than 100 people per week and provides them with companionship.

Participants in the Kids' Care Team will each spend about \$2,000 for the trip, and the team also will purchase play-therapy and recreational supplies. St. Michael's Church is accepting contributions, which should be made payable to Kids' Care Team. The Presbyterian Church, 24 Park Place, Geneva, NY 14456, also is accepting contributions.

— Kathleen Schwarz

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