

WORLD & NATION

Proposed message condemns terrorism, roots

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops heard a preliminary presentation Nov. 12 on a "Pastoral Message on the Aftermath of Sept. 11," which calls the use of force to root out terrorism "legitimate" but asks for a host of nonmilitary solutions to issues that could be seen to spark terrorism.

"No grievance, no matter what the claim, can legitimate what happened on Sept. 11," said the proposed message, submitted by the bishops' Committee on International Policy.

"Without in any way excusing indefensible terrorist acts, we still need to address those conditions of poverty and injustice which are exploited by terrorists," the proposal said, adding, "It is wrong to use religion as a cover for political, economic or ideological causes."

The proposed message, which was to be debated and voted on Nov. 15, said there is a duty to preserve the common good. The message acknowledges "the right and duty of a nation and the international community to use military force if necessary to defend the common good by protecting the innocent against mass terrorism. Because of its terrible consequences, military force, even when justified and carefully executed, must always be undertaken with a sense of deep regret."

The effect of the military campaign on Afghan citizens "must be monitored on an ongoing basis," it adds. "At the same time, there is a special need to maintain and fortify our efforts to do everything possible to address the longstanding humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan."

Maintaining a strong military is but one component of national security, the proposed message said.

"In a world where one-fifth of the population survives on less than \$1 per day, where some 20 countries are involved in major armed conflict, and where poverty, corruption and repressive regimes bring untold suffering to millions of people, we simply cannot remain different," it said.

"The Aftermath of Sept. 11" outlines ways to make the world more just.

In the Israel-Palestine conflict, "we support the state of Israel and the establishment of a state for Palestine," it said.

In Iraq, "the horrendous suffering caused by the U.N. embargo should be brought to an end. The goal is not to reward Iraq's irresponsible behavior, but to relieve a morally intolerable situation where innocent civilians suffer for the actions of a regime over which they have no control."

On the first day of their meeting, the bishops heard preliminary presentations of proposed statements on the church's outreach to Asian and Pacific Catholics and on solidarity with Africa and a proposed revision of their plan for pro-life activities.

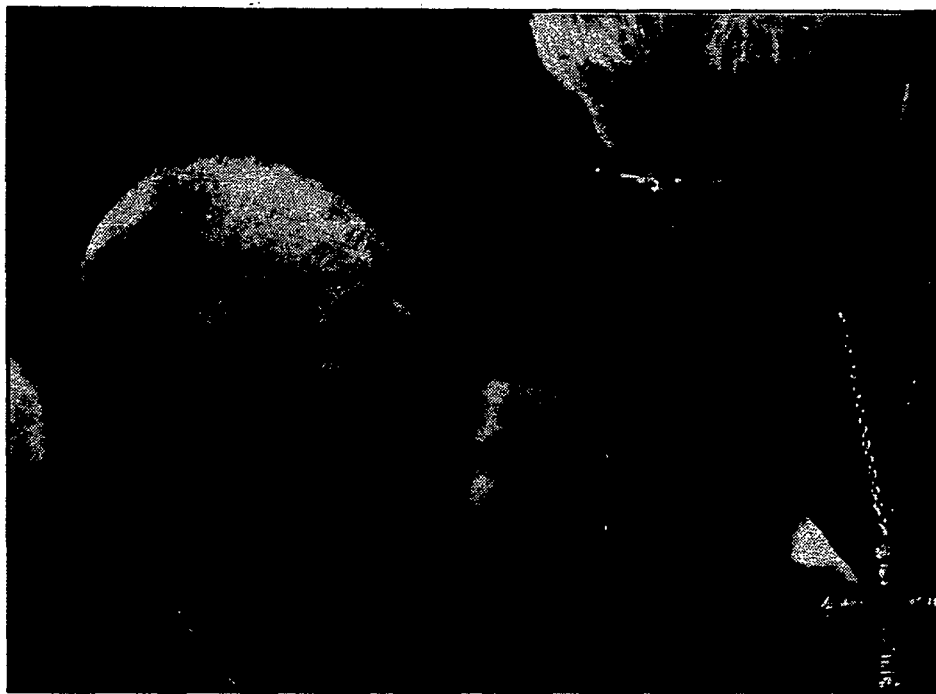
Further debate and a vote on each of those documents was scheduled for later in the meeting.

The outgoing USCCB president, Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, opened the meeting at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Capitol Hill by contrasting the "destructive power of hate" behind the Sept. 11 atrocities with the message of hope that bishops are called to preach.

While noting the still-unmeasured harm caused by the attacks, Bishop Fiorenza praised the heroic efforts of firefighters, police, emergency medical workers, military personnel and volunteers. He also offered a special word of thanks to the nation's priests for their work in sustaining people's faith in this difficult time.

Three major documents to be voted on during the meeting were presented for preliminary discussion.

A statement on "A Call to Solidarity With Africa" that touches on the church's role in addressing poverty, disease, war and refugees on the continent was introduced by Boston Cardinal Bernard F. Law, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Inter-



Nancy Wiechec/CNS

Washington Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, left, whispers to Baltimore Cardinal William H. Keeler during the U.S. bishops' annual fall meeting in Washington Nov. 12.

national Policy.

The 40-page document, scheduled for discussion and vote on Nov. 14, calls on Catholics to make real contributions to "justice, peace and integral development" on the African continent, especially in support of the impoverished millions of people in the sub-Saharan region.

The bishops also briefly discussed a pastoral statement encouraging efforts to make the church more hospitable to Asian and Pacific Islanders.

The 57-page document, "Asian Pacific Presence: Harmony in Faith," was introduced by Bishop Nicholas A. DiMarzio of Camden, N.J., chairman of the Committee on Migration.

Bishop DiMarzio said the statement, scheduled for debate and a vote at the meeting Nov. 14, was an application of the bishop's pastoral statement last year on immigrants and the church called "Welcoming the Stranger: Unity in Diversity."

The statement concludes by recommending several pastoral responses to support Asian and Pacific communities, including: creating pastoral institutes to offer continuing education to clergy and other pastoral ministers; promoting coalitions between Asian and Pacific communities to build an advocacy network; and exploring an appropriate national structure for a liaison with the USCCB.

For the first time in 16 years, the bishops considered a revision of their Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities. The revision was introduced by Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, who said the pastoral plan "has served the church very well, and ... it should continue to do so in the future."

The proposed new version, subtitled "A Campaign in Support of Life," for the first time highlights capital punishment as a particular concern under its own heading.

"There are compelling reasons for opposing capital punishment — its inequitable use, its sheer inhumanity and its absolute finality, as well as concern about an imperfect legal system that has condemned innocent people," it says.

The 39-page revision addresses new threats to human life since 1985, citing par-

tial-birth abortion specifically and "the deliberate destruction of human embryos" to harvest embryonic stem cells for scientific research. It also incorporates new church teaching documents since 1985, especially Pope John Paul II's 1995 encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* ("The Gospel of Life") and the U.S. bishops' follow-up statement in 1998, "Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics."

The bishops also discussed norms for lay preaching and for those who explain Catholic teaching on television and radio.

Auxiliary Bishop A. James Quinn of Cleveland, chairman of the canonical affairs committee, gave a preliminary presentation of the three proposed U.S. norms that had been approved earlier by the bishops but sent back by the Holy See for further changes.

One of the proposals concerns lay preaching in churches or oratories. The other two deal with lay people, priests or religious discussing faith and morals on the airwaves.

Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb of Mobile, Ala., chairman of the Committee on Liturgy, presented a set of what he called relatively minor changes that the Vatican has suggested for proposed U.S. adaptations to general church norms for the liturgy. He said most of the changes had to do with norms for appropriate materials to be used for sacred vessels and the altar of sacrifice.

The U.S. adaptations, which the bishops originally approved last June, were also to be revised editorially so that they can be incorporated directly into the new General Instruction of the Roman Missal, instead of being attached at the end, as in the past.

Dining Guide



Celebrate Thanksgiving Dinner With Us

Thanksgiving Day Buffet
In The Greenhouse Cafe
Thursday, November 22nd, 2001
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Fresh Beginnings

Salad Bar with an array of Accompaniments
Chef's Selected Soup / Assorted Fresh Breads and Rolls

Entrees & Accompaniments

Carved Fresh Young Turkey with Pan Gravy, Honey Baked Ham
Seasoned Bread Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes
Butternut Squash, Garden Peas

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