

Demonstrations Thwart Asserted Aim of Peace

WASHINGTON — Demonstrations against the draft law and against participation in the Vietnam conflict may actually be prolonging the fighting in Vietnam, in the opinion of top officials here.

President Johnson, in Bethesda naval hospital, set the tone for official condemnation of the demonstrations. White House Press Secretary Bill D. Moyers said the President feels these demonstrations "wrongfully portray to our adversaries a picture that does not exist with the general public."

In this connection, Attorney General Nicholas de B. Katzenbach said "everyone knows and has read recent polls by both Gallup and Harris showing increased support for what we are doing in South Vietnam on the part of the American people."

Sen. Mike Mansfield of Montana,

Senate majority leader, said: "these people are undermining what the President is trying to do, to bring about a negotiated settlement in Vietnam."

Almost immediately there was apparent vindication of the contentions of the President and Sen. Mansfield. Wire services reported, by way of Japan, that within hours the official newspaper of communist North Vietnam's government carried a picture of a young man burning a draft card. The picture appeared in the newspaper Nhan Dan, and the North Vietnam news agency saw that word of it got around. This North Vietnamese paper applauded this action by an American, and linked it to the Oct. 14 act of Lord Bertrand Russell, the English pacifist who opposes U.S. policy in Vietnam, and who tore up his Labor Party card.

Months ago, dispatches from South Vietnam to the Catholic press warned that demonstrations of various sorts in this country staged to protest U.S. participation in the Vietnam struggle were quickly picked up by the propaganda and news media in North Vietnam and turned against the U.S.

It is the hope of the administration here that the North Vietnamese leaders can be convinced they cannot win in their attempt to take over South Vietnam, and that they can be induced to come to the conference table for a peaceful settlement. It is the contention of leaders here that demonstrations and protests in this country, however unrepresentative they may be of public sentiment, are useful to our enemies in Hanoi, and provide them with an excuse for avoiding the conference table and a peaceful settlement of the Vietnam conflict.



SECRETARY GENERAL — Msgr. Raymond P. Etteldorf, a former editor of The Witness, Dubuque archdiocesan newspaper, is secretary general of the international headquarters in Rome of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Viewing A Parish St. Ann's, Charlotte

All CCD departments are open for business under the direction of Jerome Olwell ... Plans for the annual bazaar, Nov. 5 & 6, are going into high gear according to Frank Pietras. Newly independent St. Vincent's Parish is sharing in the work and proceeds. There are many top-secret projects under wraps involving such items as plastic boxwood and twelve gross of ironing cord supporters ... The big news this fall is the school football team and its bowl bid. The Black Knights are going to Birmingham to play in the Toy Bowl in mid-November ... Much gratitude is due to the kind Presbyterian organist who makes singing so much more accurate than before at 9:30 Mass.

Nuclear War Outstrips Former Moral Categories

VATICAN CITY —(NC)— Bernard Cardinal Alfrink of Utrecht, The Netherlands, has declared that modern war with its nuclear, bacteriological and chemical weapons, "would be so disastrous that it cannot be classified under ancient ethical categories."

As a consequence, he asserted, "war must be considered as an absolutely outmoded means of solving problems."

The Dutch cardinal spoke at a press conference organized by the ecumenical council's press office. He is the international president of Pax Christi, Catholic organization for peace.

"The question is no longer one of war or peace, but rather one of life or death," he said. He described this assertion as an "ethical problem which must be recognized not only by every Christian of good will but also by every human conscience."

He said he shares to a certain point the opinion that all war is in flagrant opposition to the Gospel. But he added that this principle cannot be taken as the exclusive foundation of work for peace. "Human weakness is such that situations arise in which the maintenance of peace does not depend on only one side of a dispute ... Self-defense and the defense of others is a duty which has its roots in the Gospel," he stated.

TO PREVENT war, he said, "new means must be sought out, new structures and new forms of regulating international relations."

In this regard he cited Pope John XXIII's encyclical, Pacem in Terris, which declared that "justice, right reason and the sense of human dignity demand ... that atomic weapons be outlawed."

He asserted that this text has been widely misinterpreted. "In this context it means not that the Church should prohibit atomic

weapons but that they should be prohibited by the community of peoples itself."

Referring to the treatment of atomic war in the council's draft document on the Church in the modern world as "a veritable treatise of ethics on the use of arms," he continued:

"But it is clear that this has not abolished war. There still can be ecclesiastical documents of great force, and all Christian churches may proceed to a unanimous condemnation of modern weapons. But if men are unwilling to listen, the problem cannot be solved and war will always remain a terrible threat."

He asked whether the criterion of a just war is still acceptable. "Those who would discard this theory as outdated are becoming increasingly numerous," he said, "because a war which would entail the use of ABC (atomic, biological and chemical) arms could only with difficulty be regarded as just inasmuch as the harm which would result from it would far outweigh the injustice inflicted."

Cardinal Alfrink, pleading that he did not want to discuss politics, declined a reporter's request that he evaluate the morality of the war in Vietnam.

Woods Elected President

Donald A. Woods, Jr., a senior at Belmont Abbey College, has been elected president of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity. A resident of 500 Beatty Road, Belmont, he is a candidate for the Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in History.

Tau Kappa Epsilon is the largest social fraternity in the world. Character is the foundation stone on which it stands and its aim is to create a healthy spirit of association and endeavor among all students of the college.

Curia Officials Face Retirement?

VATICAN CITY —(NC)— Vatican officials have given a "no comment" reply to reports that Pope Paul VI will issue a document on certain aspects of reform of the Roman curia, the Church's central administrative offices.

The reports said the document would be published before the end of the ecumenical council and would prescribe a mandatory retirement age of 70 for all curia positions as well as papal diplomatic posts. It was reported the document would also provide for automatic suspension from office of all cardinal heads of curia congregations upon the death of a pontiff, leaving the newly elected pope free to reconfirm or shift positions.

Authoritative Vatican sources said changes are "probable" but were unwilling to speculate whether they would be announced soon or be included later in proposals for a general reorganization of the curia which the Pope is known to have been working on for many months.

Whether the retirement rule would apply to current incumbents—who include 28 cardinals, all but six of them over 70—was not specified and Vatican sources were unwilling to speculate.

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