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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 2, 1984

84-52

BTC-F

Politicking Vatican Hit
During Senate Hearing

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP)--The State Department's intention to use the far-flung ecclesiastical network of the Roman Catholic Church for information gathering drew sharp criticism at a Senate appropriations panel hearing March 28 on funding for a U.S. diplomatic mission to the Holy See.

Appropriations Committee Chairman Mark O. Hatfield, R-Ore., told Secretary of State George P. Shultz the U.S. decision to establish full diplomatic relations with the Holy See politicized the spiritual role of Pope John Paul II and the Roman Catholic Church.

"I think the present Pope is basically one of the greatest spiritual leaders of this age," Hatfield said, "and I feel that we are really denigrating that role by this action because we are, in effect, politicizing the Pope."

Hatfield's remarks came as Shultz appeared before the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary to answer questions on the State Department's fiscal 1985 budget proposal and on a separate request to reprogram fiscal 1984 funds for a full diplomatic mission to the Holy See.

Despite objections raised at the hearing by Hatfield and Sen. Dale Bumpers, D-Ark., panel chairman Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., approved the \$351,000 reprogramming request after a poll of his committee indicated seven members favored the move while only Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C. and Sen. Lowell P. Weicker, R-Conn., joined Hatfield and Bumpers in opposition.

Earlier, a House appropriations panel approved the reprogramming request after its chairman, Rep. Neal Smith, D-Iowa, found a majority of his committee members had no objection to the shift of funds.

In opening remarks explaining why he favored establishment of full diplomatic relations with the Holy See, Shultz said the Vatican, in addition to being a very significant religious organization, "is a worldwide organization that gathers information, takes positions, sponsors all kinds of activities--medical activities, refugee activities" and represents "a valuable diplomatic post as such."

After Shultz described factual data about the Holy See including the smallness of its size (108 acres) and population (approximately 1,000 residents), Hatfield told the secretary, "obviously you are not relying on the apparatus of the Holy See, which you just defined, for this worldwide information gathering network. You are really relying on the Vatican's ecclesiastical organization."

Shultz admitted the "far-flung network is fundamentally a religious group, all right," but added, "it does all kinds of different things in the course of its work, much of which is done by laymen in various countries that take part in activities that we have an interest in and from which information is gathered."

As an example, Shultz cited the "rich flow of information" available to the Catholic Church in Poland.

Hatfield charged that if the U.S. government considers Catholic missions throughout the world "listening posts" and "information-gathering activities" missionaries will be put "under increasing burdens in maintaining their religious missions and not being politicized."

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Hatfield cited past commitments solicited from Central Intelligence Agency directors to maintain policies against using missionaries as informants or fronts for intelligence gathering.

Asked by Hatfield what information would be available to the U.S. through formal diplomatic ties not available through a presidential envoy, Shultz said that as President Reagan's personal envoy, William A. Wilson, had been "well received on a personal level" and the U.S. has had a "reasonable contact with the Vatican."

He also indicated the Vatican had not withheld information from a U.S. envoy.

But Shultz contended "you don't get the kind of mileage" out of the intermittent presence of an envoy that is possible through a full-time ambassador supported by a permanent professional staff.

Citing a lack of evidence that the U.S. had to establish diplomatic ties with the Holy See "in order to gain the information that is available there now," Hatfield said the action has "the perception or the appearance of politicizing basically a spiritual organization, as I view the Catholic Church." Bumpers told Shultz he opposed the move "because I do think it has a constitutional problem, and if it doesn't have a constitutional problem, I think it has an ethical problem in this country."

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C-N

Seven Months To Save
Earth, Caldicott Says

By Craig Bird

Baptist Press
2/4/84

WASHINGTON (BP)--Nuclear freeze is the ultimate parenting issue because failure to disarm means our children will not live long enough to get cavities, Helen Caldicott believes.

Caldicott, founder of Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament, challenged participants at the Christian Life Commission's Christian Citizenship 1984 seminar to "look into the eyes of the next new baby you see and realize there is no such thing as communist babies or capitalist babies. We must work to save the world for all babies, even lion babies, whale babies and giraffe babies."

The Australian-born pediatrician thinks there are only seven months to save the world--the months leading up to the national elections in the United States.

"People in America have twice the responsibility to halt the arms race because the Russian people can't do anything--they don't live in a system which allows them to effect such things," she pointed out. "And the 92 percent of the world's population which lives outside the borders of either the United States or the Soviet Union have no say at all.

"Americans must save the world because no one else can.

"We must elect congressmen and senators who will refuse to fund the building of more bombs," she said. "I am convinced we can have a freeze within a year and then get significant reduction in missile stockpiles within three years."

Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament was formed to influence the elections and to help educate individuals how to aid the election of pro-freeze candidates.

Caldicott gave up her medical practice to be active in what she calls "political medicine." In March, her husband resigned his practice and they are selling their home in Boston to work fulltime convincing people nuclear disarmament is imperative.

"Like the founding fathers of the United States, we have pledged, 'our life, our fortune, our sacred honor' to this cause," she admitted. "The most creative, wonderful thing I ever have ever done was give birth to my children--I don't feel anything is as powerful as a woman who feels her children are threatened."

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She talked seminar participants through the results of a nuclear attack, after explaining each U.S. city with a population over 10,000, every military facility and all 73 nuclear power plants are "probably targeted by the Russians for attack."

A nuclear bomb with a TNT equivalent of a million tons would blow a hole $3/4$ of a mile wide and 800 feet deep, destroy all life and buildings within six miles, kill or lethally injure anyone within 20 miles, unleash 500-mile an hour winds and turn every fallout shelter within 40 miles into crematoriums, she said.

Quoting scientist Carl Sagan, she said the explosions of 1,000 nuclear bombs ("and we have 30,000 bombs and Russia has more than 20,000") would produce a "nuclear winter." Within two weeks the debris from the explosions would fill the air and completely block the sun for at least a year all across the Northern Hemisphere.

Then, people who survived the initial attack would face summertime temperatures of minus 55 degrees (F), fresh water would be frozen three feet deep, "and people would freeze to death without food, water or medical attention." Eventually, she said, the cloud would spread to the Southern Hemisphere and the devastation would be repeated.

What motivates Caldicott is that such horrors are constantly 30 minutes away (the time to launch and complete an attack), and new U.S. weapons are lowering the gap to just six minutes.

The U.S. defense response is based on old computers which fail hundreds of times annually, she said. "And the Russian computers are not nearly as sophisticated as ours. We say we don't trust the Russians yet we trust them every day not to kill us. Instead of refusing to sell them high technology we ought to see they have the finest computers money can buy so we reduce the chance of computer error launching a nuclear attack."

Other elements increasing the risk factor, she listed included: drug use by U.S. forces and alcoholism (to the extent of drinking tank anti-freeze) among the Russian troops which control nuclear weapons; the paranoia of the Russian people ("Is it wise to call a paranoid person evil and wicked?" she asked); and the fact political leaders on both sides continue to think in terms of conventional warfare when the armies are nuclear ("even to nuclear torpedoes and nuclear land mines").

She cited 17 treaties between the two super powers which "have been good treaties" with no major violations and said Russia has always followed the lead of the United States in both building new weapons and in negotiating.

"The cruise missiles will end the arms control process," she declared flatly, "because they cannot be detected by satellite and will force Russia to launch response attack upon warning-- which could mean a launch upon a computer error."

Insistence by the Reagan administration that a nuclear war can be "won" flies in the face of scientific research into the effects of nuclear explosions," she argued.

She met with President Reagan for over an hour last year, "trying to convince him to go to Russia and talk with Andropov--I told him he could be the greatest president in history if he would spend a month with the Russian leader, get to know him and come back with a bi-lateral freeze that would save the world."

Instead, Reagan remains the only president in the nuclear age who has never negotiated with the USSR and the only president who has allowed arms talks to totally cease, which makes him the "most dangerous president the United States has ever had," she said.

Caldicott has visited the Soviet Union and talked with more than 100 government officials, military officers, journalists and scientists and returned convinced the Soviets have a genuine desire for disarmament, despite a national paranoia spawned by 20 million casualties during World War II.

A Canadian documentary on one of her speeches, entitled "If You Love This Planet" was involved in controversy when the U.S. Justice Department banned it as "foreign propaganda." It later won an Academy Award.

People tell me I'm naive," she admitted. "But in medicine we don't compromise or we lose our patient. Our world is in a state of clinical emergency. We can't compromise on the treatment--we must get a nuclear freeze or God's whole creation will die.

"Remember, you--the American people--own the White House, you own the bombs, you own the Congress," she concluded. "Let's prove to the world American democracy can work."

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Launch Delay Slows
BTN Program Start

B55B-N

Baptist Press
4/2/84

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A delay in the scheduled launch of Spacenet I satellite has changed the start of regular BTN programming to July 2, 1984, according to Joe Denney, manager of telecommunications at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

BTN, a denominational training network operated by the Sunday School Board for churches, will still broadcast live portions of this year's Southern Baptist Convention from Kansas City June 12 and 13 as previously announced.

The SBC telecast and limited programming beginning June 18 will be beamed to churches on a temporarily rented satellite transponder. Churches will be notified of the location of the satellite and will receive instructions for positioning TVRO satellite antennas.

Programming was originally scheduled to begin June 1 and would have included the special SBC broadcasts from Kansas City, Mo. Plans now call for the SBC broadcasts as announced plus limited program broadcasts June 18-29, Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Programs to be broadcast June 18-29 include Sunday school Life and Work Series lesson previews for youth and adults and topics related to church training, church music, media library and building space. A one-hour program of highlights from the Southern Baptist Convention is set for Friday, June 22. A full programming schedule will begin July 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Central Daylight Time).

Denney also announced the BTN signal will not be scrambled in July, but will be scrambled beginning Aug. 1. A decoding device will be provided to each subscribing church to unscramble the signal. Subscription charges will begin July 1.

Preparatory efforts are progressing steadily toward the start of programming, Denney said. The uplink facility is expected to be completed about May 1 and the taping schedule calls for 178 programs to be taped between April and June.

Denney added churches will likely receive a few additional programs in June as technicians test the equipment before and after scheduled broadcasts.

Churches or other Baptist groups interested in obtaining a BTN receiving antenna should contact the Broadman sales department.

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River Missionary Roberta Fine
Dies Of Cancer In Native Kansas

FMB-N

Baptist Press
4/2/84

GODDARD, Kan. (BP)--Roberta Robson Fine, Southern Baptist missionary who traveled the rivers of coastal Nigeria visiting Baptist churches, died March 30 in Goddard, Kan., of cancer. She was 55.

Mrs. Fine and her husband, Earl, had traveled throughout Rivers State in Nigeria by boat and car, camping as they traveled, to preach, show films and deliver literature to Baptist churches. Many churches had had little help from Southern Baptist missionaries since the civil war which erupted in 1967 when eastern Nigeria tried to secede from the nation.

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Their ministry, which sometimes took them to villages where the young children had never seen a white person, was featured in the September 1982 issue of "The Commission," the Foreign Mission Board's magazine. The Fines had been in the United States since October 1982 for furlough and because of her illness. Besides assisting her husband in encouraging and strengthening the churches, Mrs. Fine was conference-wide Woman's Missionary Union director and later consultant.

The Fines were appointed missionaries to Nigeria in 1952 and served in Abeokuta, Oyo and Ibadan, where he held various educational positions and was acting executive secretary of the Nigerian Baptist Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries).

During those years, Mrs. Fine counseled high school students, taught Sunday school classes and piano lessons, helped in adult reading classes, sponsored a Baptist youth organization and advised two Baptist associations for the Woman's Missionary Union. She also wrote program material for WMU and other organizations and taught at the high school in Oyo.

The Fines resigned from missionary service in 1970 and lived in their native Kansas until their reappointment in 1979.

Roberta Fine was born in Mayetta, Kan., received the bachelor of music degree from Washburn University of Topeka (Kan.), and attended Woman's Missionary Union Training School (now merged with the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary), Louisville, Ky.

Before her missionary appointment, she taught school in Delia, Kan., supervised music in the schools of Whiting and Waldo, Kan., and did Vacation Bible School work in Kansas.

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