

1st Time: Bishops Ask Bombing Halt

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — For the first time in the history of the Vietnam War, America's Roman Catholic bishops today called much of the bombing in Vietnam immoral and asked that it be ended.

In overwhelmingly approving a resolution on Vietnam, the bishops said they prayed for a successful conclusion of the current peace negotiations.

"We couple this prayer with a plea to both sides for an end to the bombing and terrorism which are causing such loss of civilian life and destruction to the land," they said.

"Indeed, a particularly anguishing and in many cases immoral aspect of this has been the suffering and death inflicted on non-combatants," they added.

Arrest

While the bishops were voting on the resolution, pro-abortion spokesman Bill Baird attempted to enter the meeting to address the bishops.

After being told he could not meet with the bishops or show them a pro-abortion film, he was arrested on dis-

orderly conduct charges at the request of the management of the hotel where the bishops are meeting.

The Vietnam resolution was a reformulation of an earlier draft which carefully omitted policy discussions such as the bombing.

In addition to the bombing language the committee, headed by National Conference of Catholic Bishops president Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia, added language extending "our sincere compassion" to families of men killed in the fighting and said the dead, the maimed and the missing in action should be constantly remembered in prayer.

Principally, however, the bishops sought to reaffirm their positions calling for generous amnesty or sincere conscientious objectors to the war and to urge the large scale U.S. participation in the post war reconstruction of Southeast Asia.

"There can be no doubt that the people of North and South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, have suffered a tragedy far greater than ours," the bishops said.