

# Catholic Bishops Ask End of Bombing in Vietnam

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Quoting their exhortations of a year ago for an end to the Vietnam war "with no further delay," the Roman Catholic Bishops of the United States expressed hope today for a successful outcome of the present negotiations and appealed for an end to "bombing and terrorism."

A resolution expressing these goals was adopted by a vote of 186 to 4 after prolonged debate at a conference here today. The Most Rev. Thomas J. Gumbleton, Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, who led a move that got the bombing issue into the resolution, told reporters, "We could have made a much more forthright and clear statement." But he said that the resolution was "in a way better than" the 1971 resolution, which was the Bishops' first call to end the war, "because it does refer explicitly to the bombing."

The Bishops' president, John Cardinal Krol, Archbishop of Philadelphia, noted at a news conference that this year's statement emphasized the future, not the past.

"We're not hurling condemnations," he said, "but, rather, directing attention and efforts in a positive way. We are saying here's what needs to be done."

The bombing reference appeared in the following part of the opening statement:

"We pray earnestly to Christ, the Prince of Peace, for a successful outcome of the present negotiations: that is, for a just and lasting peace with stability and freedom for all the nations and peoples of Southeast Asia.

"We couple this prayer with a plea to both sides for an end to bombing and terrorism which are causing such loss of civilian life and which are causing destruction of the very land itself. Indeed, a particularly anguishing and in many cases immoral aspect of this war has been the suffering and death inflicted on noncombatants."

## Long Bitterness Feared

The statement went on to warn that the war could "leave a residue of bitterness which could poison our national life for years to come." It said that "we must seek to resolve our differences in a spirit of mutual understanding and respect."

As their president, John Cardinal Krol, Archbishop of Philadelphia, did in his open-

ing address Monday, the Bishops — without using the word "amnesty" — quoted from last year's statement urging "generous pardon of convictions incurred under the Selective Service Act, with the understanding that sincere conscientious objectors should remain open in principle to some form of service to the community."

Today's resolution also called for "unstinting" aid to Southeast Asia when peace comes, on the model of "the dramatic and successful programs of aid and reconstruction carried out by the United States following World War II."

It also declared: "Convinced that war is not an apt means of settling disputes, and recognizing the right of self-defense, we regard as an urgent priority the quest for viable means of preventing war and for effective alternative methods of resolving conflicts, with such agencies as the United Nations."

That statement reflected a victory for the more moderate Bishops. The original statement in the document's second draft, under discussion today, declared, "war is no longer admissible as a means of settling disputes."

The Most Rev. John Cardinal Deardon, Archbishop of Detroit, had assured the body that the original wording did not exclude self defense. But the Most Rev. Edmund F. McCaffrey, Bishop of Belmont Abbey, N. C., offering the substitute, said that the original might be misinterpreted.

In contrast, last year's statement quoted a 1939 radio broadcast of Pope John XXIII saying: "In this age of ours, which prides itself on atomic power, it is irrational to believe that war is still an apt means of vindicating violated rights."

Although today's debate took up all of the morning session that was open to observers, debate on the first draft earlier during the five-day conference provoked sharper remarks.

Angry because the first draft did not mention bombing, Bishop Gumbleton declared Tuesday, "Are we going to issue a statement about war and yet ignore — as moral leaders, speaking in the name of Jesus — the bombing that is going on?" He asked the conference if it did not have "courage" to speak about "an utterly immoral situation."

The Most Rev. Thomas A. Connolly, Archbishop of Seattle, said that the freedom of the South Vietnamese people should be granted, "otherwise we are

throwing a million of our Catholics to the Communist dogs." And the Most Rev. Robert E. Lucey, former Archbishop of San Antonio, asked, "What good is an agreement with a bunch of Communists that don't intend to keep that agreement?"

Today's debate concerned finer points of wording. The Most Rev. John Cardinal Carberry, Archbishop of St. Louis, pressed successfully to include "both sides" in the condemnation of bombing and terrorism.

Other bishops succeeded in qualifying the "immoral aspect of this war" with the phrase "in many cases" and in deleting the second two words from a sentence calling for "generosity, not vindictiveness."

Bishop Gumbleton reluctantly agreed not to call the bombing "unprecedented," for fear that his amendment about destruction of the land would fail.

The conference which began Monday, ended today, a day earlier than had been planned. The more than 200 bishops have been meeting at the Twin Bridges Marriott Hotel in Arlington.

As the session was ending, a pro-abortion demonstrator, William R. Baird Jr., of Valley Stream, L.I., was arrested on a disorderly conduct charge.

Mr. Baird told reporters he had hoped to address the Bishops and show them a 10-minute film of an actual abortion to give the Bishops a "better understanding" of the issue and "not call us murderers."

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