

**Urge End to War**

By United Press International

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22—

Forty-one religious leaders in the United States have issued a pastoral letter assailing United States bombing of North Vietnam, it was announced today.

Among the signers of the pastoral letter were the leaders of four national religious bodies: Rabbi Maurice Eisen-drath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congrega-tions; Robert V. Moss, presi-dent of the United Church of Christ; William Thompson, stated clerk of the United Pres-byterian Church in the U. S. A., and Robert Nelson West, presi-dent of the Unitarian Univer-salist Association.

In addition, 14 Roman Cath-olic, Episcopal, United Method-ist and Mennonite bishops signed the letter.

A pastoral letter is a means

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And Charge Betrayal by Nixon**

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of interpretation and guidance to the faithful.

The interfaith group accused the Administration of "aborting the possibility and betraying the duty of peace" and called for a national "religious convoca-tion for peace" in Washing-ton on Jan. 3 and 4.

"Promised a generation of peace, we have experienced not even one day of peace," the religious leaders said.

"We need no more brilliantly contrived explanations of diplo-matic failures. The bombing must be stopped. The war must be ended."

The religious leaders called for the following:

¶An immediate end to the bombing.

¶Signing of the nine-point agreement reached in October between the United States and North Vietnam.

¶Release of both American prisoners and "political prisoners" held by South Vietnam.

¶Cutting off of all funds by Congress for military opera-tions in Vietnam if a peace treaty is not signed by Jan. 20.

**Statement by Cardinal**

In a separate action, John Cardinal Krol, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, deplored today the re-sumption of the bombing of Vietnam and called for both sides to return to the negotiat-ing table.

"One can only feel grief and dismay that the long and tor-tuous journey toward peace has again been interrupted, with consequent recourse to violent force and massive bombing in Vietnam," Cardinal Krol said in a statement.

The religious convocation would coincide with the open-ing of the 93d Congress. Or-ganizers of the gathering, in-cluding Clergy and Laymen Concerned and the American Friends Service Committee, said the religious leaders would lob-by on Capitol Hill for Congres-sional action to end the war.

In Chicago, leaders of 10 re-ligious organizations today asked the Rev. Billy Graham, the evangelist, "to implore Pres-ident Nixon to stop the bomb-ing of North Vietnam in the name of the Christmas Christ."

"Bombing any time is despic-able," the group said in a tele-gram to Mr. Graham, "but to renew bombing when 'peace is

at hand' and to beat Vietnam-ese to their knees and to kill thousands in the name of peace just so that we can have our way is outrageous.

"In the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, do something to stop it."

The telegram was signed by Dr. Henry W. Andersen, senior minister of the First Presby-terian Church of Lagrange, Ill., for the groups. He is Chicago area chairman for the inter-depominational "Key '73" evan-gelistic campaign.

**Visits to Senators**

The convocation, which will begin the evening of Jan. 3 at the New York Avenue Presby-terian Church in Washington, will include visits to Senators and Congressmen the following day.

Most of the religious leaders signing the pastoral letter have been involved in antiwar activi-ties in the past. The forthcom-ing meeting represents the first major organizational effort by religious peace forces since an ecumenical gathering in Kansas City last January.

In another action, the Massa-chusetts Council of Churches and 14 bishops of the Roman Catholic Boston Province issued separate statements attacking the bombing, the council call-ing it "savage and cynical" and the Bishops assailing it as a "hideous contradiction of the Christmas spirit of peace."

The New Jersey Council of Churches appealed to President Nixon and Congress to halt the bombing.