

World and Nation

Archbishop ordains men before leaving

ECONE, Switzerland (AP) — Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre ordained 16 priests Wednesday, the day before a consecration of four bishops that will automatically expel the rebel traditionalist from the Roman Catholic Church.

He urged the new priests to fight the "cancer of liberalism" in the church, which the 82-year-old archbishop says has been infiltrated by "wolves and thieves."

Organizers estimated the ceremony attracted at least 7,000 people to a rolling meadow in front of Lefebvre's seminary in this Swiss hamlet.

Sympathizers came from all over Western Europe, many in buses. More than 1,000 cars were parked around the huge tent, which also will be the scene of Thursday's consecration.

Lefebvre says bishops must be consecrated so his traditionalist movement will continue after he dies. Church law provides automatic excommunication of those involved if bishops are consecrated without papal approval.

Pope John Paul II said Tuesday he was "very saddened" by Lefebvre's "breaking the unity of the church (and) taking with him a large number of followers into schism."

The last major schism, or split in the church, occurred when the so-called Old Catholics broke with Rome in 1870 after the First Vatican Council proclaimed the doctrine of papal infallibility.

Repeated pleas by the pontiff have failed to impress the French archbishop, who has said excommunication is "without value."

Convoy arranges second border crossing attempt

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Veterans Peace Convoy is heading back to the U.S.-Mexico border, where it will try again to leave the country with 30 tons of humanitarian aid for Nicaragua packed into 17 aging trucks and buses.

The convoy plans to cross into Mexico in the rickety vehicles, loaded down with food, clothing and medical supplies, at Laredo on July 9, spokesman Joseph Franklin said Wednesday.

The U.S. Customs Service barred the convoy from crossing the border at Laredo earlier this month, and seized four vehicles after the group refused to post bond and sign a series of papers promising the trucks would be returned to the United States.

About 100 participants in the convoy and 30 of their vehicles arrived in Washington last week to rally against Customs' decision, circling around the White House and in front of the State Department in three days of protests.

The convoy, made up largely of Vietnam and other veterans, was unsuccessful in convincing the Reagan administration to reverse its decision. The group was also unable to meet with Elliot Abrams, assistant secretary of state for Inter-American affairs, or anyone else in the administration, Franklin said.

"It's been a complete stonewall," Franklin said.

Officials contend that letting the vehicles remain in Nicaragua would violate a trade embargo. They have

said they cannot meet with the group because the matter is in litigation. The convoy has filed a federal lawsuit challenging the Customs decision.

"We're not going to sign any papers or post any bond" when the convoy gets back to Laredo, Franklin said.

Franklin said about 35 to 40 people began the trip back to Texas on Tuesday, with other members of the convoy returning home and a few staying in Washington where they're going to keep the pressure on.

He said the Reagan administration has been despicable in their deceit, in their contempt for the people of Nicaragua, especially Elliot Abrams. But he's just following the party line.

World briefs

Purchasing official deserts veto plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon's top purchasing official, faced with hostile questions from congressmen Wednesday, backed away from a proposal he made just last month to give Defense Department officials the power to prevent searches of contractors' facilities by fraud investigators.

Under blistering questioning, Robert B. Costello, undersecretary of defense for acquisition policy, said he had changed his

mind and would not now write the same memo he had written May 5 outlining the plan.

Costello asserted, however, that current Reagan administration policies work in uncovering misdeeds in military equipment procurement and that there is less corruption in the process now than before.

"Our acquisition system works," he told the packed hearing room at the congressional hearing into defense procurement problems.

Judge: PLO mission to UN to stay open

NEW YORK (AP) — The government can't shut down the Palestine Liberation Organization's observer mission to the United Nations, a federal judge ruled Wednesday.

The Anti-Terrorism Act passed by Congress does not supersede U.S. obligations under its 1947 Headquarters Agreement with the United Nations, U.S. District Judge Edmund Palmieri

said.

He noted that the language and legislative history of the Anti-Terrorism Act, which brands the PLO a terrorist group, do not indicate Congress meant to abandon the country's obligations under the Headquarters Agreement with the United Nations.

The Justice Department filed suit in March seeking to close the PLO mission.

EPA won't regulate drilling wastes

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency said Wednesday it will not regulate oil and gas drilling wastes as hazardous material but will get tough on states that fail to enforce existing laws governing their disposal.

"We were concerned about layering on another level of regulations," said J. Winston Porter, EPA's assistant administrator for solid waste and emergency response.

Congress in 1976 gave EPA authority generally to decide what waste needs to be covered by the strict handling and disposal regulations that apply to hazardous wastes, but it required a study before decisions could be made about oil and gas production wastes. The study was completed and will be presented to congress on Thursday.

An environmental group criticized the decision as contrary to the public interest.

Bakker: Ready to purchase PTL

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Jim Bakker said Wednesday he has received a \$100 million line of credit to buy back the failing PTL ministry, but he refused to name the lender.

"We are ready to go forward with earnest negotiations," Bakker told reporters outside U.S. Bankruptcy Court, adding he wants to keep PTL's Christian retreat intact.

PTL trustee M.C. "Red" Benton said he has received four offers to buy the ministry, one for \$200 million. Benton said that if Bakker's proposal is substantiated, "he will be considered along with everyone else."

Meanwhile, Judge Rufus Reynolds gave initial approval to PTL's reorganization plan, which calls for sale of the 2,300-acre Heritage USA religious theme park in

Fort Mill. He ordered the plan sent to creditors for a vote next month.

Benton said he hopes to decide which proposed buyer to present to the court by mid-August.

The appearance of Bakker and his wife, Tammy, sensationalized an otherwise routine bankruptcy hearing. They received a standing ovation when they entered the courtroom.

Bakker told reporters he has four separate plans to restore the ministry but refused to elaborate on them. Attorney Ryan Hovis, who represents Bakker, has said one proposal is for Bakker to rent the Heritage Grand Hotel and adjacent water park from their new owner while buying broadcast time on the PTL television network.

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