

Friday, October 13, 1989

## Bishops urge teaching chastity better than 'illusion' of safe sex

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. Roman Catholic Church should drop its qualified support for teaching about condoms in public schools as a way of preventing AIDS, and should urge that youngsters be taught chastity instead, a committee of bishops said Thursday.

"There is no such thing as safe, or safer, sex. That's an illusion," said Archbishop Roger Mahony of Los Angeles, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the HIV Statement. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS.

The committee's draft statement revises an earlier document released by the church's 50-member Administrative Board in December 1987, which said the church could tolerate public schools' providing information about condoms as long as sexual abstinence outside of marriage was presented as the "only morally correct and medically sure way" to prevent AIDS.

The board's document was criticized by some conservative U.S. bishops who said it would be misinterpreted as condoning sex outside marriage and artificial birth control. Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, also chastised the administrative board for not consulting with the Vatican.

In spring 1988, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops decided to draw up a new statement.

The revised statement — "Called to Compassion: A Response to the HIV-AIDS Crisis" — will be presented to the conference at its fall meeting Nov. 6-9 in Baltimore. The committee drafting the statement was made up of Mahony, Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago, Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston, Archbishop William H.

Keeler of Baltimore and Bishop Raymond W. Lillard of Savannah, Ga.

The wide-ranging statement also opposes universal mandatory AIDS testing, calls for increasing federal funds for AIDS research, and announces violence and discrimination against AIDS victims as immoral.

"We are called to be a people of compassion after the teachings of Jesus," Mahony said.

Where the new statement differs from the earlier document, titled "The Many Faces of AIDS: A Gospel Response," is mainly in its stand on condom education in public schools, and its larger sense the role of Catholic bishops in public policy debates.

The first document approached condom education as the lesser of two evils in reducing the risk of AIDS in students who are unlikely to remain chaste.

## Pre-flight crack discovered in disk

Size, nature of DC-10 engine disk fault remain undetermined

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal safety investigators said Thursday they had found a pre-flight crack in the DC-10 engine disk recovered from an Iowa corn field nearly three months after the crash of United Flight 232.

James Kolstad, acting chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, said the precise "size, nature and reason for the crack" were not yet determined.

But he said investigators are hopeful further examination of the engine part will lead to a cause of the July 19 crash that killed 112 of 296 people aboard as the plane was landing at the Sioux City, Iowa, airport.

"There has been no determination on whether this crack was detectable before the accident, nor has there been a determination whether this crack is the point of origin of engine failure," board spokesman Ted Lopatkiewicz said.

However, he and Kolstad said preliminary evidence indicates the crack existed prior to the flight.

The middle engine in the DC-10 disintegrated in flight, severing hydraulic lines and making the plane almost impossible to steer. The craft cartwheeled out of control as the pi-

lots were trying to make an emergency landing.

The farmer who found the engine part, Janice Sorenson, said Thursday engine builder General Electric will pay her a reward of more than \$100,000.

Sorenson found the piece while harvesting corn Tuesday with a combine near Alta, Iowa. GE had offered a \$50,000 reward for the titanium fan disk from the rear engine of the United Airlines jetliner after several thousand dollars more for other parts attached to the disk, including fan blades, which were included in her discovery.

"After nearly three months of intensive searching... we are hopeful this engine part will lead us to the cause of the failure, so that we can ensure that an accident such as this never happens again."

— James Kolstad, Acting chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board

He said the first examination of the engine part indicated a crack in the surface (that emanates both radially from the aft and radially toward the rim) of the disk.

The crack appears on the inner surface of the disk and does not penetrate all the way through, investigators said.

## Appeals court frees man convicted of killing Swedish Prime Minister

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — An appeals court on Thursday freed a 42-year-old career criminal convicted of killing Prime Minister Olof Palme, ruling there wasn't enough evidence to blame him for the crime that traumatized Sweden.

Christer Petterson, who maintained his innocence throughout his sensational trial, walked away from Kronoberg prison hours after the Svea Appeals Court threw out his July conviction.

Prosecutors had charged that Petterson, who has a long criminal record and a history of drug and alcohol abuse, gunned down the popular and dynamic Swedish leader on a Stockholm street in 1986.

Petterson had been sentenced to life in prison and had been in solitary confinement since his arrest in December.

"I'm surprised," Petterson said following his release, the national news agency TT said. "I never really believed I would be acquitted, although I am innocent."

Thursday's ruling could dash any hopes authorities have of bringing Palme's killer to justice. It is the biggest setback in a three-year investigation that critics have said was bungled from the beginning.

The appellate court decision was somewhat foreshadowed by the July conviction. Although six lay jurors found him guilty, the two professional judges on the eight-member panel voted for acquittal.

Prosecutors could appeal the court's ruling to the Supreme Court. But it would likely hear the appeal only if it would be the basis of a legal precedent or if it were considered a special case.

Prosecutor Joergen Almlad said the prosecution would not decide whether to go to the Supreme Court until the appeals court issues its formal written verdict, which is due Nov. 2.

Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson vowed to press ahead with the hunt for Palme's killer.

Though it delayed releasing details of its decision until Nov. 2, the appeals court apparently found the prosecution's circumstantial case too thin. Petterson was convicted even though no motive was established, no weapon was found and no witnesses testified to seeing the Swede fire five shots at Palme.

"Our present judgment is that the investigation into the case is insufficient for a conviction, which means that Petterson must be released immediately," appeals court president Birgitta Blom said.

Palme, a four-term prime minister and prominent international figure active in socialist causes and nuclear disarmament, was shot from behind at close range on Feb. 28, 1986, as he walked home from a late movie in downtown Stockholm with his wife, Lisbeth.

## Bomb scare forces jet into landing

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A Delta Airlines jet en route from Dallas to Colorado Springs, Colo., made an emergency landing at Will Rogers World Airport Thursday afternoon due to a bomb threat, the FBI said.

No bomb was found after an hour-long search by the Oklahoma City police bomb squad, airport spokesman Tom Morton said.

"The bomb squads are pulling away from the aircraft now, Morton said.

The aircraft, a Boeing 737, was taxied about 1,700 yards away from the main terminal, where the 97 passengers and five crew members of Flight 846 evacuated the plane using emergency chutes, Morton said.

There were no reports of injuries.

The passengers were taken to the airport's fire station, where the FBI and Oklahoma City police interviewed them.

Delta spokesman Neil Morton in Atlanta said the passengers would be allowed to reboard the aircraft, which was expected to take off at 8 p.m. CDT.

"These things do occur from time to time because there are people who, for some reason, do these kinds of things," he said.

Morton said the airport's air traffic control tower notified airport security of the unscheduled landing.

FBI spokesman Dan Vogel said the bomb threat was called to the Oklahoma City Police Department in Ardmore in southern Oklahoma at the time and the decision was made to land at Will Rogers.

Morton said the bomb threat was the first at Will Rogers since December, when a series of threats were made against Delta and Southwest airlines.

## Swiss woman kidnapped in Lebanon

BERN, Switzerland (AP) — A Swiss woman was kidnapped in northern Lebanon Sunday, two days after the abduction of two Swiss Red Cross workers, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

Ministry spokesman Clemens Birrer said the part-time flight attendant was kidnapped by armed civilians during a visit to the Mediterranean port of Tripoli.

The woman's name and age were withheld at the request of her parents, Birrer said.

Her disappearance brings to 19 the number of Westerners missing in Lebanon, including eight Americans. Most are believed captives of Shiite Muslims loyal to Iran.

Birrer said the woman's parents asked authorities not to publicize the case, but he confirmed the kidnapping after being asked to comment on unattributed news reports.

Switzerland requested help from Syria because Syrian troops control much of northern Lebanon, he added.

Last Friday, two Swiss International Red Cross workers, Elio Erriquer and Emmanuel Christen, were abducted in southern Lebanon.

There have been no demands and no claims of responsibility in the kidnappings so far, and Birrer said Swiss officials did not assume the woman's abduction was connected to the most recent kidnappings.

Lebanese police said Monday that Erriquer and Christen are being held by radical Palestinian guerrillas led by terrorist mastermind Abu Nidal, whose group denied taking part.

PLO spokesmen last week accused Abu Nidal's group of the kidnappings, linking them to a Shiite Muslim militant, Mohammed Hariri, who is serving a life sentence in Switzerland for hijacking an Air Afrique jetliner in 1987 and killing a French passenger.

Longest-held of the Western hostages is Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, who was kidnapped March 16, 1985.

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