

Conference

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conform to the laws and religious, ethical and cultural values of a country.

The Vatican planned to state its position on the draft on Tuesday. It wasn't likely to accept the reproductive rights and contraception sections. The Vatican was the lone dissenter in the previous

two U.N. population conferences.

Argentina said it would oppose those sections. Other countries also may express reservations during Tuesday's session.

Third World delegates questioned whether poor nations could pay their assigned two-thirds share of the target of \$17 billion yearly for population and health programs.

And they said the almost total concern with sexual issues left little time

for discussing development.

A working group forged a compromise on reproductive health that the whole committee approved late Monday afternoon. The delegates filling the committee room broke into applause.

The working group sidestepped the Vatican's objections to a right to "fertility regulation," which it said could mean abortion under World Health Organization definitions.

It was changed to "regulation of

fertility" to separate it from the WHO terminology. Nicolaas Biegman, the Dutch diplomat who chaired the committee, said it was a deliberately ambiguous solution.

The Vatican won reference to parental responsibility in the section on adolescent sex counseling. It also succeeded in getting in two statements proclaiming that abortion should not be promoted as a means of family planning.

Biegman told reporters, "I don't think they have been able to turn the draft into a document, which is indeed a choice, including artificial contraception. The stress is on the individual's right. The Vatican would have much more to have it confined to a family situation."

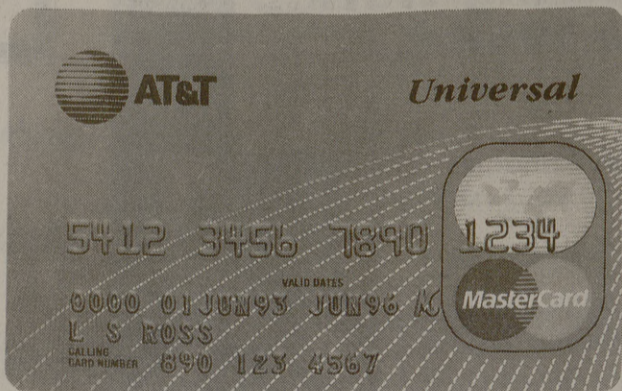
"If I were the Vatican I would have twice about participating" in the U.N. conferences as a "full participant," he said.

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Henry David Thoreau

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AIDS drug available until middle of '95

SILVER SPRING, Md. — An experimental drug used by AIDS patients will be available outside limited clinical trials until at least the middle of next year, its maker said Monday.

The disappointing news about Hoffman-La Roche's saquinavir came as AIDS activists bitterly debated whether the government allows enough access to promising drugs.

"The system has not worked as well," said Gregg Gonsky of the New York-based Treatment Action Group. "We don't have the data for people to make treatment decisions."

"You're being protected from death," responded Dr. Thomas McGee of Los Angeles. "There's a slaughter going on in this country every day ... and we're worried about data?"

"We strongly welcome expanded access for saquinavir," FDA Commissioner David Kessler told LaRoche.

Saquinavir is so complicated to make that LaRoche simply won't have enough to give to patients outside those in strictly controlled clinical trials until at least mid-1995, said researcher Dr. Waijen So.

Even when it does get saquinavir to broad experimental use under FDA's expanded access program, fewer patients will get it than have gotten other experimental drugs, he warned.

"We do not have enough to supply to anybody who wants it," he told an FDA hearing Monday. "We need your help. We are not deciding who gets the drug and who does not."

NBC acquires more potent purchasers

NEW YORK (AP) — NBC reports that two more potent buyers have joined Time Warner's courtship of NBC, a signal that all three broadcast networks are in play.

"You've got three networks and you probably have eight to 10 potential buyers," said analyst Larry Gerbrandt of Kagan Associates in Carp, Calif. "That increases the likelihood that a series of dominoes could happen, almost in domino fashion."

Monday's published reports all citing unidentified sources said:

— Time Warner, whose recent talks with NBC owner General Electric were widely reported two weeks ago, was in a deal with GE to acquire a 49 percent stake in NBC, would forego the network's profitable TV stations, according to USA Today.

— Harcourt General, the publishing and retailing company, is also contemplating a bid for the network, according to The Wall Street Journal.

— Cable TV mogul Ted Turner, who has said he wants to own a broadcast network, also weighed an offer, the Journal said. He'd been close to a deal earlier this year but vetoed by Time Warner, who owns a 19.4 percent stake in the Turner Broadcast System Inc., according to the Journal.

"I believe all three networks will change hands within the next six months," said Peter Bibb, an investment banker and author of a Turner biography. "But nothing is going to happen immediately."

Any deals will have to find a way through Congress. "It's problematic whether the new bill will allow (companies) into broadcast and telephone companies in cable and broadcasting," Bibb said, "but I don't think anybody is going to cut a deal until it becomes clear."

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