French government decides to let teen girls use morning-after pill

PARIS (AP) — The French government's decision contend amounts to abortion by blocking develto make the morning-after pill available to teen-age girls at schools has unleashed a fierce debate in this predominantly Roman Catholic nation

Parents and health officials are divided over whether the action will usher in a dangerously nonchalant attitude toward unprotected sex or provide teen-agers with the support some contend is missing at home.

Deputy Education Minister Segolene Royal, a Socialist, said teen-age pregnancies were not just a family matter but a public health problem that affects 10,000 girls under 18 each year.

"I want to respond to this distress, to this urgency, by asking adolescents to go though a school nurse" should they fear an unwanted pregnancy, Royal said in announcing the action over the

Once the measure takes effect, in a few weeks, the morning-after pill, NorLevo, will be available through school nurses. The treatment consists of two pills, one taken within 72 hours after sexual intercourse and the second 12 to 24 hours later.

They work by preventing the implantation of a fertilized egg in the uterus — which opponents

earned more than \$22.

Key Code for this week: 1031

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CHANGES

opment of a viable embryo.

In the United States, two forms of morning-after pills are available. But while teens can get them at most health or family planning clinics, they need a prescription and, depending on the state, sometimes also must obtain parental permission.

Any attempt to distribute them in schools would most certainly face strong opposition.

The NorLevo pill has been available without prescription in France since June, but supporters of distributing it in schools argue that young girls may be loath to ask for it in drugstores.

Some French teen-agers welcomed the decision to distribute the pills at schools, saying it bypasses the home and the moral debate surrounding the issue.

"You can't talk to some parents about these things. Going to the school nurse will be like talking to someone anonymous," Charlotte Reibell, a 15-year-old student at the Lycee Carnot in western Paris, said.

"I'm not advising young girls to go out and have sex and then take the pill," Laure Sauvagnargues, a 19-year-old university student, said. "But if they are going to make a mistake, then it's better that Bitter pill to swallow

The decision to make the morning-after-pill available to girls at school in France has been welcomed by some and enraged others

Gave Had abortions 12%

-Had a miscarriage 16%

FRENCH GOVERNMENT ■ To promote contraceptive

- mode of birth control. ▶ To promote emergency contraception instead of
- ▶To promote the use of condoms to avoid unwanted pregnancies and sexually-
- ▶ To enlarge the scope of sexeducation in schools
- To launch a government

the next few months.

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Turks still waiting for h

GOLCUK, Turkey (AP) - Naime Altin is pregnant, has three children and has been homeless since August, when her landlord evicted her after an earthquake left her husband unemployed and unable to pay the rent.

Altin has applied for one of the 26,000 prefabricated homes that the government said yesterday are ready to be handed over to survivors of a calamitous Aug. 17 earthquake that struck western Turkey

But she has little chance of getting one anytime soon.

"My home wasn't seriously damaged in the quake," Altin, washing her children's clothes in a plastic basin outside her muddy tent on a hill overlooking Golcuk, said. "Prefabricated homes are for those with serious damage.

The August quake killed more than 17,000 people and left at least 100,000 people homeless. Officials in this naval town on the sea of Marmara said 1,086 families whose homes collapsed or were seriously damaged here will be assigned temporary homes today.

But thousands like Altin who were evicted or who are too scared to return

will be left without prop dreading the cold and snow months to come.

e Battalion

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The fear of many that the will again turn into death t strengthened after another qua western Turkey on Nov. 12 least 784 people and forcing 100,000 to take shelter in huts

"Authorities pressured per turn home in Bolu (province) are gathering bodies," Tahsin still lives in a rain-soaked caren the '90s the said. He said none of the 281 in his tent city are eligible for april mated Teller M

Osman Gulec, whose thence, instantan apartment was seriously damaged another wind gust, came to the town hall to thorities for a lot to set up a new ut he is building for his family.

"I built a hut after the Augus Taking advant but it can't withstand the cold is said.

Construction workers were I 18 hours a day to finish all them temporary homes — the 1,000 ffs and branch still have to be hooked up to ele

Make money He conquered death at the beginning of the first millennium. while exercising your brain. We think He knows something Over 50% of students in previous experiments

> As you enter the third millennium, wouldn't you like to hear m about the purpose and direction God can give your life? If you have any questions about Jesus and His relevance for your life, come and ask one of us or visit our Tell Me More website www.leaderu.com/TellMeMore.

about life in the third.

"I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hung and he who believes in Me shall not thirst."

We are a group of professors, instructors, lecturers, and administrators united by their common experience that Jesus Christ provides interest as if and spiritually satisfying answers to life's most important questions. We are available to students, faculty, and staff who might like to discuss stalling ATMs questions with us. For more information about the FACULTY FRIENDS ad, please contact Murphy Smith 5-3108, Steve Crouse 5-3997, Lowery 5-4395. The Faculty Friends website is http://facultyfriends.tamu.edu

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Ujamaa

(Cooperative

economics)

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Purpose

Thursday

Dec. 2, 1999

MSC 201

7 PM

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Kuumba (Creativity) Imani (Faith)

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* Elementary school Kwanzaa art entries on display

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John 3:16 states "For God so leved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have etralled tive advanta

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