

Pope, on pastoral tour of Africa, denounces 'anti-life mentality'

by Augustinus

Pope John Paul II, on the first leg of a 12-day tour that will take him to seven African countries, sharply denounced both the "anti-life mentality" being spread to justify genocide in Africa, and the international usury which is enforcing it.

On Aug. 8, the leader of the Roman Catholic Church left Italy to begin his third pastoral visit to the African continent. The first stop was Togo; the Pope then went to Ivory Coast, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Zaire, and Kenya, where he will close the International Eucharistic Congress which is taking place in Nairobi. The last stop will be Morocco.

There are many problems on the agenda which the Pope is confronting and will confront: the poverty and famine pervading the whole continent, the indebtedness provoked by the usurious practices of the major international banks, the explosive situation in South Africa, Islamic fundamentalism, and the tendencies toward an Africa version of "Theology of Liberation," present even in that young church.

The hottest problem, that of apartheid in South Africa, was already taken on by the Pope the day before he left, during the general audience in St. Peter's Square in Rome. He said: "I cannot fail to recall with particular concern, the situation in South Africa. The latest news reached us which has aroused profound emotion in world public opinion, presenting anew to the conscience of humanity the recurring problem of the so-called policy of apartheid."

He said, "Our rejection of every form of racial discrimination is resolute and total. It is founded on the conscience of the dignity common to all men, made in the image of their Creator. . . . To those subjected to the violence of that inhuman situation, I sent my sentiments of affection and support. To all, I renew a pressing appeal for the dignity of all persons to be recognized, in a climate of respect and dialogue." This clear condemnation was then reiterated in Cameroon during the celebration of Sunday Mass for 100,000 in Yaounde, where the Pope said, "We must bring an end, without delay, to all discrimination."

In the same city, in a speech to members of the government and diplomatic representatives, the Pope made his first "political" speech of the trip. He said, "All countries, above

all those of the Third World, must take up the economic and social challenge with limited means, and they try to mobilize all their own energies. The important thing is to find a way of doing it without having recourse to an oppressive system which causes man to lose his freedom, and without allowing the economic powers to blindly and selfishly increase their weight to the sole profit of the few."

The reference to the neocolonialist policies practiced today in Africa is clear. The Pope underlined the importance of independence and national sovereignty for every country, precisely at the moment in which there are forces in both the East and West which want to redraw the map of the entire continent, by stirring up civil wars. In this regard, the Pope declared, "certain foreign interventions are sparking guerrilla warfare for the sole purpose of destabilization."

Solution must be found for debt

It was here that the Pope dealt with the problem of indebtedness, suggesting a meeting to discuss a more just solution to the problem. He said: "It is, finally, necessary that the international community continue to furnish its own aid and indeed increase it, considering the emergency state in which many African countries find themselves in terms of hunger, health, and investments. It is to be hoped that security problems between East and West will not overly polarize tensions and the investment of resources in the countries of the so-called North of the world; may they become much more concerned about the growing disparity with the so-called countries of the South, and understand that interdependency is also for them a question of survival! But the point on which the Third World countries remain legitimately sensitive is that of the context in which this aid is inscribed: They do not accept that it masks a deterioration in the terms of trade or certain injustices in the trade and investment fields. They want to be sincerely helped to get out of the inextricable problem of loans and overly onerous debts which they are induced to contract at the cost of high risks."

"Those who seek the good of Africa, whether they belong to the North or South of the world, will know how to reconsider these problems with equity and open the way to realistic

and just solutions, capable of safeguarding the dignity of countries which have the right to progress in development.”

President Biya of Cameroon, who replaced the Muslim Ahidjo in 1982, is a Roman Catholic.

Injunction of Genesis reaffirmed

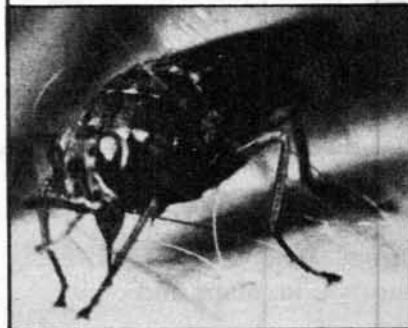
Before his arrival in Cameroon, John Paul II had denounced neo-Malthusianism and the anti-life mentality which the international financial institutions wish to impose on the Africa countries as the price to pay for receiving credit or aid. The Pope totally condemned these practices, citing the passage of the First Book of Genesis: “Be fruitful and multiply, replenish the earth and subdue it,” which is the basis of Judeo-Christian civilization and the paradigmatic expression of the fight against all anti-life ideologies.

“God calls man to be responsible together with him for all of creation,” said the Pope, “but today a powerful anti-life mentality is being asserted. It is more widespread in the developed nations, but it is also transmitted to the developing nations, as if it were an obligatory step on the path of development and progress.” He went on: “Don’t listen to the ideologies which authorized society and the State to arrogate to itself the rights and responsibilities which belong to families.”

On the occasion of the papal trip, there was a great deal of talk about “Africanizing” Christianity, a kind of Africa version of the Liberation Theology which has spread throughout Ibero-America in collusion with Soviet-linked terrorist forces. In Africa it takes the form of assimilating the typical rites of ancient pagan religions into Christianity. In Lumumbashi, in Zaire, there is a Carmelite Convent where vows are taken with a “blood pact” with Christ, using a needle prick on the finger to spill a few drops of blood during the ceremony. Cardinal Joseph Malula, archbishop of Kinshasa, reportedly said, “Yesterday, foreign missionaries Christianized Africa, but today, Christians are called to Africanize Christianity.”

John Paul II responded to these tendencies by giving them their rightful name: religious syncretism. He did this in his first speech in Africa in Lome, the capital of Togo, where he made an explicit invitation to break with such traditions: “Starting with the gift of grace there is a renewal which you must complete in your personal and family life, in your customs and in your institutions.” There may perhaps be fear, “because the human tendency is to become attached to, or return to, the past. The renewal may even seem to be infidelity to the past, but yet,” the Pope said, “the novelty and freedom of the Gospel must do their work in this field,” and he concluded, “The spirit of Christian renewal must be exercised also in regard to those who bring among you the modern civilizations of the developed countries. Often it is a question of marvelous technical successes which can be utilized for the economic, sanitary, or cultural well-being of the country.”

More Dangerous Than Nuclear War



If IMF policies continue, the deadly tse-tse fly

may be ruling the world by the 1990s!

That’s what *EIR*’s new Special Report, “Economic Breakdown and the Threat of Global Pandemics,” shows.

An exclusive presentation of the causal relation between economic policymaking and the outbreak of new deadly diseases.

- Features the world’s only handbook for the general policymaker, on how pandemics are being generated and where they will next break out;
- Over 70 pages, including charts, maps, and graphs demonstrating the U.S. vulnerability to biological warfare;
- Prepared by the *EIR* scientific task force which 11 years ago forecast the precise location and time of the currently erupting epidemics in Africa.

Price: \$100

Order from:
EIR News Service
P.O. Box 17390
Washington, D.C. 20041-0390