

another gift: that of *science*, thanks to which we are given the possibility of knowing the true value of creatures in their relation to the Creator.

"We know that contemporary man, precisely because of the development of the sciences, is particularly exposed to the temptation to give a naturalistic interpretation to the world: Confronted with the manifold richness of things, of their complexity, variety, and beauty, man faces the danger of assigning absolute value to things, of almost making them divine to the point of being the supreme aim of life itself. This happens above all in light of the wealth, pleasure, and power, that can be obtained from material things. These are the main *idols*, to whom the world bows down too often.

"To resist such a subtle temptation and to remedy the nefarious consequences to which it could lead, the Holy Spirit helps man with the *gift of science*. This helps him to correctly evaluate things in their essential dependency on the Creator. . . .

"Man succeeds in this way in discovering the *theological sense of the created*, seeing things as true and real manifestations, even if limited, of the infinite Truth, Beauty, and Love that is God. . . .

"Illuminated by the gift of science, man discovers at the same time the *infinite distance that separates things from the Creator*, their intrinsic limitation, the insidious role that they can play: in committing sin, one makes bad use of them. . . ."

Korean government cracks down on rioters

About 6,000 riot police sealed off the Yonsei University campus in Seoul, South Korea April 28 to prevent 2,000 students and workers from entering the campus for anti-government protests. Protest organizers have been mobilizing to demand the release of jailed dissidents and workers and a repeal of labor laws.

It was recently announced that the Ministry of National Defense has drawn up a plan to mobilize 80,000 military technicians

to put into the nation's key strategic industries in the event that those industries are paralyzed by labor strikes.

South Korea's crucial textile industry was hit by strikes at the end of April.

President Noh Tae Woo, after six policemen died in student rioting, threatened to take emergency measures if unrest continues. The policemen died of smoke inhalation and injuries sustained while jumping from windows after student radicals set the nine-story Dongui University library building ablaze in Pusan.

In a television address, Noh said, "Behind the flames that divested those youths of their lives, there are forces bent on violent class revolution, believing in murder, arson, abduction, and destruction."

The national news agency YONHAP said the President's speech did not rule out the possibility of martial law.

Paul Kriesberg, a Korea expert at the Carnegie Institute, commented, "Noh Tae Woo is going to be extremely reluctant to do what he's threatening to do," since if he reverses "all democracy," it could bring down his government.

AIDS: Soviets step up syringe production

The Soviet Union is stepping up production of disposable syringes and condoms in a bid to control the spread of AIDS. Health Minister Yevgeny Chazov said the supplies are being increased because early directives to fight the disease have been ignored.

Toward the end of April, Mikhail Gorbachov revealed that 30 million disposable syringes, purchased abroad, have not been used because Soviet manufacturers have been unable to supply needles.

More than 50 children were infected with AIDS late last year when they were injected with the same needle at an intensive care unit in a hospital in southern Russia. The disaster forced Soviet health authorities to admit that the spread AIDS was a serious Soviet health problem, not just a problem for the "decadent capitalist nations."

Briefly

● **THE UNITED STATES** wants to restore ties with Laos to an ambassadorial level, where they have not been since Communist forces took control in 1975. "There is common interest on both sides to upgrade representation as a sign of generally improving relations," an American official was cited in the April 29 *Bangkok Post*.

● **POPE JOHN PAUL II**, visiting Madagascar May 1, said that advanced countries have a moral duty to pull Africa and the rest of the Third World out of poverty and underdevelopment. The Pope told diplomats that short-term solutions were not enough. The Third World needs to benefit from a transfer of technology that could boost long-term development.

● **A HUGE FLEET** of Communist Chinese fishing boats may be preparing an invasion of the Republic of China on Taiwan, the military there has warned. Almost 75,000 mainland fishing boats approached the islands of Quemoy, Matsu, and the Pescadores in the Taiwan Strait in the past year, Lt. Gen. Lee Chen-lin told the legislature in Taipei.

● **TWO SOVIET** special forces (*spetsnaz*) officers were arrested in West Germany at the end of April. Federal Prosecutor Kurt Rebmann said the pair were "sleepers" assigned to spy on French military bases.

● **THE PAKISTANI** government of Benazir Bhutto is attempting a further crack down on the drug trade there by drafting a bill that would permit confiscation of the property of drug-traffickers.

● **ONE LEADER** of the mass student-worker protests in Beijing is a member of the Uygur minority from the remote Sinkiang province in the northwest, bordering on Soviet Kazakhstan.