

are inscribed in human nature itself, they are willed by God and therefore call for universal observance and acceptance. No human authority can infringe upon them by appealing to majority opinion or political consensus, on the pretext of respect for pluralism and democracy. Therefore, the Church must be committed to the task of educating and supporting lay people involved in law-making, government, and the administration of justice, so that legislation will always reflect those principles and moral values which are in conformity with a sound anthropology and advance the common good.”

The phenomenon of globalization

... 20. A feature of the contemporary world is the tendency towards globalization. ... The ethical implications can be positive or negative. ... However, if globalization is ruled merely by the laws of the market applied to suit the powerful, the consequences cannot but be negative. These are, for example, the absolutizing of the economy, unemployment, the reduction and deterioration of public services, the destruction of the environment and natural resources, the growing distance between rich and poor, unfair competition which puts the poor nations in a situation of ever increasing inferiority. ...

And what should we say about the cultural globalization produced by the power of the media? Everywhere the media impose new scales of values which are often arbitrary and basically materialistic, in the face of which it is difficult to maintain a lively commitment to the values of the Gospel. ...

The Church in America must encourage the international agencies of the continent to establish an economic order dominated not only by the profit motive but also by the pursuit of the common good of nations and of the international community, the equitable distribution of goods and the integral development of peoples. ...

Social sins which cry to heaven

... More and more, in many countries of America, a system known as “neo-liberalism” prevails; based on a purely economic conception of man, this system considers profit and the law of the market as its only parameters, to the detriment of the dignity of and the respect due to individuals and peoples. At times this system has become the ideological justification for certain attitudes and behavior in the social and political spheres leading to the neglect of the weaker members of society. Indeed, the poor are becoming ever more numerous, victims of specific policies and structures which are often unjust. ...

Foreign debt

59. The existence of a foreign debt which is suffocating quite a few countries of the American continent represents a complex problem. While not entering into its many aspects, the Church in her pastoral concern cannot ignore this difficult situation, since it touches the life of so many people. ... I too have frequently expressed my concern about this situation, which in some cases has become unbearable. In light of the

imminent Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, and recalling the social significance that Jubilees had in the Old Testament, I wrote: “In the spirit of the Book of Leviticus (25:8-12), Christians will have to raise their voice on behalf of all the poor of the world, proposing the Jubilee as an appropriate time to give thought, among other things, to reducing substantially, if not cancelling outright, the international debt which seriously threatens the future of many nations”. ...

On the broadest level possible, it would be helpful if “internationally known experts in economics and monetary questions would undertake a critical analysis of the world economic order, in its positive and negative aspects, so as to correct the present order, and that they would propose a system and mechanisms capable of ensuring an integral and concerted development of individuals and peoples”. ...

Cardinal hits Soros's human rights mafia

On the eve of Pope John Paul II's visit to Mexico, the Cardinal of Guadalajara, Juan Sandoval Iñiguez, set off a storm, with a devastating blow against George Soros and his international human rights mafia. In early January, Cardinal Sandoval caused an outcry locally, when he charged that the state's Human Rights Commission was protecting criminals, and that he had dates, places, and names of people who have been harmed by them—and, furthermore, that the Commission does not act alone, but with international organizations. When local press demanded proof on the international networks, the Cardinal responded that he would release the details later.

This he did, in an interview with the Guadalajara newspaper Mural, published on Jan. 14, excerpts of which we publish here. Emphasizing the importance of this campaign, the newspaper of the Cardinal's diocese, the Guadalajara Diocese Weekly, published excerpts of the attack on Soros in its Jan. 24 issue. That a Cardinal dared “name the names” provoked hysteria in the Zapatista-linked daily La Jornada, which was very concerned that the attack came from “the rapporteur of the Synod of America, whose conclusions Pope John Paul II signed and promoted in past days in Mexico.” Excerpts of the Mural interview follow.

Q: Can you explain to us conceptually how you conceive of human rights?

A: Human rights are consecrated in the Gospel. Love of one's fellow man, is the essence of Christianity. Do unto others as you would have others do unto you. And at the Final Judgment, God says, what you do unto the least of my brethren,

you do unto me. Every human being has human rights because he is created in the image and likeness of God and should be respected. That is something beyond question. What is under discussion here, is not human rights, but rather this human rights organization which has carried out a practice which is not advantageous for society, as I have already said. . . . Cases will come out, of how they have systematically defended criminals, and when some worthy person calls them—some bank employee who is not getting paid, calls them, and the State Human Rights Commission does not pay any attention. There are going to be cases of this sort. . . .

[Questions have been raised] about where I got this idea that human rights are internationally linked. Where did I get it? From the Internet. The largest human rights organization based in the United States, which could be described as the mother of all NGOs [non-governmental organizations], Human Rights Watch, declares in its own Internet pages: “Our goal is to make governments pay a heavy price in reputation and legitimacy if they violate the human rights of their people.”

“Frequently our best tool”—this is they who are speaking, the Cardinal noted—“is to publicize a government’s abuses, to embarrass it in the eyes of its citizens and the international community. Human Rights Watch also pressures for the withdrawal of military, economic, and diplomatic support from governments which are traditionally abusive.”

Could this not be called destabilization, coup plotting? . . . Would there not be manipulation by powerful governments and international organizations involved, when they state: “Traditionally, Human Rights Watch seeks to line up the influence of the United States government, on behalf of human rights the world over. In recent years, we have expanded”—they say this, the Cardinal points out—“these efforts to other centers of influence such as the United Nations, the European Union, the World Bank, and Tokyo.”

Would they not be meddling in other local organizations, when they themselves say: “Our tenacious defense and punctual recommendations permit us to be heard by influential powers, to assure concrete improvements, working closely with a global network of human rights activists,” and when, for example, ITESO [the Jesuit university in Guadalajara] declares that its Dean [David Fernández, S.J.], previously the director of the Agustín Pro-Human Rights Center, promoter of guerrillas and divisionism in Chiapas, received Human Rights Watch’s recognition, in New York City in 1996, for his outstanding efforts in defense of human rights?

The great question is: How is it possible that these “defenders of human rights” are being financed by multimillionaire families, individuals, and organizations, amongst which are found the Jesuits themselves, and criminals such as George Soros, the megaspeculator wanted by the Italian courts and publicly denounced by the Prime Minister of Malaysia as responsible for the financial collapse of Southeast Asia, promoter of drugs, etc.?

And yet no charges have ever been brought against these individuals for violation of the human rights of the millions of unemployed, impoverished, and starving human beings on the planet.

Those enrolled in the NGO ranks are frauds or useful idiots. They behold the mote in the foreign eye of the governments, but are incapable of seeing the beam in the eye of their masters, the international bankers. These NGOs have de facto become a supra-government over democratically elected governments. They are the Robespierres of the end of the 20th century. . . .

And there is all the documentation you want right here. . . . All this is on the Internet. The report on Mexico. It’s funny, all this about the Zapatistas, all this about Chiapas, is supervised by Human Rights [Watch].

Q: This document you read, whose is it?

A: This was passed to me; it’s by an anonymous person, it’s not mine.

Q: But you share its view?

A: No, I don’t share it, I’m just giving you material. . . . It’s a point of view which is available on the Internet. The only thing I do share, is that Human Rights [Watch] is an international organization, that all the human rights groups from different places are linked to them, and take their slogans and orders for action from them; that is what I am saying. And this I can prove, and is proven. Here are the documents. . . .

[These human rights organizations] since they already exist, should not be the instruments of international bodies to pressure governments, to force them to their knees, that they instead should be instruments to defend human rights, and that they give sufficient freedom to each local organization to proceed in accordance with the circumstances. That is why I said from the beginning, that I am for human rights, I have always defended them, I love my freedom and that of others, and have always defended it. I am not against this, but against the actions of this Commission. . . .

I have already told you three things—so that afterwards you don’t get it wrong in your newspapers, as usually occurs: First, that human rights form part of the Gospel, that I am not against human rights, nor do I approve of torture as a method of investigation. This is clear. Second, that here, the Commission has dedicated itself to defending criminals.

And third, that these human rights commissions are not autonomous, they belong to an international organization from which they receive their directions. And for the proof, go to the Internet. . . . I am talking about an international organization with vast resources, with a lot of money, so as to infiltrate every corner, above all of the peoples in the Third World, thereby controlling them. This is what I’m talking about. . . . I am talking about the fact that it is time that this were known, and, it would be good if you, who surely love freedom and love your country, spoke up. Unless you already have interests, and have been bought, and are going to keep quiet.