



NEWS

DATE: May 4, 1990

FROM: William Ryan

O -202-541-3200

H -202-686-1824

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CATHOLIC AND JEWISH EDITORS CITE
NEED FOR ACCURACY, SENSITIVITY**

WASHINGTON-Catholic and Jewish editors participating in a meeting here proclaimed their mutual recognition of the need for accuracy and sensitivity when reporting or commenting on issues of special importance to each community.

"The emotional content of issues relating to the Papacy for Catholics and to the State of Israel and the Holocaust to Jews cannot and must not be ignored," said the editors in a statement issued at the conclusion of the meeting.

"Failure to respond sensitively and accurately to communal attitudes on such bedrock issues can impact negatively on relations between our communities."

The Catholic-Jewish editors meeting was held under the sponsorship of the Catholic Press Association, the American Jewish Press Association, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB).

The sessions were chaired by Mr. Bob Born of the ADL National Commission and Father Owen Campion of Our Sunday Visitor.

Earlier, the First Annual Colloquium on Jewish-Catholic Relations was held at the Catholic University of America. The meeting, under the auspices of the Anti-Defamation League, the Archdioceses of Baltimore and of Washington, and the BCEIA Secretariat, was dedicated to exploring the themes of Nostra

**OFFICE FOR MEDIA RELATIONS
UNITED STATES CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
3211 4th STREET, N.E. • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20017-1194**

/more

Aetate, the 1965 document from the Second Vatican Council on the relationship of Catholicism with Judaism and the Jewish people and other non-Christian religions.

In the keynote address, Archbishop William Keeler of Baltimore, Vice President of the NCCB, said "In dialogue we seek to see the other party's point of view as the other party sees and feels it...Our Jewish friends told us 'You cannot truly love us until you understand what pains us, what hurts us.' And we have learned to say the same in return."

Rabbi Leon Klenicki, director of the ADL Department of Public Affairs, called the colloquium "momentous, a clear statement by Catholic and Jewish leaders that they wish to frankly discuss difficult and often painful and sensitive issues."

This is the text of the statement issued by participants in the Catholic-Jewish editors meeting.

"In these two days we have experienced not only a deepening of our faith, but a deepening of the possibility and importance of continuing to work together.

"The Catholic and Jewish communities have made great strides in recent years toward understanding and appreciation of one another's priorities and concerns.

"We recognize the need for accuracy and sensitivity when reporting or commenting on issues of special importance to each community and issues on which our communities may disagree.

"The emotional content of issues relating to the Papacy for Catholics and to the State of Israel and the Holocaust for Jews cannot and must not be ignored.

"Failure to respond sensitively and accurately to communal attitudes on such bedrock issues can impact negatively on relations between our communities.

"We, the editors of Catholic and Jewish publications, and members of the Catholic Press Association and American Jewish Press Association, appreciate the opportunity provided by the Anti-Defamation League and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops to meet, interact and begin a long overdue dialogue that will serve our publications, readers and communities well in the future.

/more

"We have established connections and bridges of communication that should help us recognize probable flashpoints and potential areas of conflict in a timely fashion.

"Recognizing our mutual responsibility to cover the news of our communities fully and accurately, we pledge to seek necessary input, background and clarification of sensitive issues and stories.

"We encourage the creation of avenues of ongoing communication between and among our various publications, media and organizations for this purpose.

"We recognize the many vital areas of Catholic and Jewish communal life in which our agendas agree as we strive together to improve our own society and make positive contributions to an imperfect world that needs the best energies of both communities.

"Above all, we pledge to continue the dialogue we have begun here in our nation's capital in our local communities and on the national scene.

"Specifically, the Catholic Press Association and American Jewish Press Association, in cooperation with ADL, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and other groups commit ourselves to convene similar dialogues at least annually; to maintain personal and organizational contacts and plan programs including joint workshops; and to explore the possibility of a joint Catholic-Jewish press trip to the Vatican and Israel before our next annual gathering. We further pledge to maintain such contacts on a year-round basis on matters of mutual concern.

"As editors of the Catholic and Jewish community newspapers, we recommend to our colleagues across the country that they engage in similar ongoing contacts with their respective counterparts. These exchanges can be facilitated by the regional directors of the ADL working together with local diocesan ecumenical officers.

"Let us move forward in the spirit of collegiality and mutual respect. Let us continue to talk and work together."

Participants in the April 26-27 Catholic-Jewish editors meeting were: Bob Born of the ADL National Commission; Father Owen Campion of Our Sunday Visitor; Robert Cohn, editor, St. Louis Jewish Light; Albert Erlick, editor, Philadelphia Jewish Exponent; Dr. Eugene J. Fisher, director of the NCCB Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations; Abraham H. Foxman, ADL National Director; David Friedman, ADL-Washington; James A. Goldman and Mary Goldman, ADL Interfaith Committee, New York; Bernard M.

Page 4/Accuracy, Sensitivity Needed

Hyatt, editor, The Jewish Advocate, Boston.

Also, Archbishop Keeler; Marc S. Klein, President, American Jewish Press Association and Editor/Publisher, The Northern California Jewish Bulletin; Leon Klenicki, ADL Director of Interfaith Affairs; Leila Little, The Pilot, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Boston; Thomas Lorsung, Catholic News Service; Robert Lockwood, Our Sunday Visitor; Owen McGovern, Executive Director of the Catholic Press Association; Daniel Medinger, The Catholic Review, Baltimore; Martin Pomerance, editor, Washington Jewish Week; Phil Ritzenberg, Publisher/Editor, New York Jewish Week; Gary Rosenblatt, Editor, Baltimore Jewish Times, Detroit Jewish News, Atlanta Jewish Times, and Baltimore Jewish Times; and Anthony Spence of The Tennessee Register.

#

X,ISR