



# NEWS

FILE  
COPY

DATE: March 19, 1979

FROM: William Ryan

O - 202-659-6700

H - 202-686-1824

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CATHOLIC, JEWISH AGENCIES TO EXPLORE RELIGIOUS TRADITION AND SOCIAL POLICY

WASHINGTON--An interreligious exchange on the subject of "Religious Traditions and the Foundations of Social Policy" will be co-sponsored this spring by the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) and the Synagogue Council of America (SCA).

The program will be held at the University of Notre Dame May 8-10.

The purpose is to provide Jewish and Catholic scholars and leaders with opportunity to explore the theological bases of their respective communities' involvement in social issues. The exchange will seek to clarify how each group draws on its biblical heritage and religious tradition in confronting such questions as: What is the impact of economic stress on the family? Does America need a national family policy? How should the United States apply human rights standards in meeting such international issues as violation of human rights or genocide?

A spokesman for the NCCB secretariat said the program is of major importance because it represents the most intensive dialogue

/more

NATIONAL CATHOLIC OFFICE FOR INFORMATION

1312 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W. • WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005

## 2/Social Policy

on social-ethical issues yet held between representatives of the Catholic Church and the Jewish religious community in the United States, and because it points to a deepening relationship between the two communities.

Speakers will include Rabbi Ben Zion Bokser of Forest Hills Jewish Center, New York, member of the SCA Interreligious Affairs Committee; Msgr. Francis Lally and Father J. Bryan Hehir of the Office of International Justice and Peace, United States Catholic Conference (USCC); Msgr. George Higgins, Secretary for Special Concerns at the Catholic Bishops' Conference; Dr. Eugene Fisher of the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations; Rev. John Pawlikowski of the Catholic Theological Union, Chicago; Rabbi Daniel Polish, Associate Executive Vice President, SCA; and Rabbi Sol Roth, Executive Committee, Rabbinical Council of America.

Also, Rabbi Balfour Brickner, Department of Interreligious Affairs, Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Dr. Francis Butler, USCC Associate Secretary for Domestic Social Development; Rabbi Bernard Mandelbaum, Executive Vice President, SCA; Rabbi Robert Marx, Chairperson, Domestic Affairs Committee, SCA; Bishop Francis J. Mugavero of Brooklyn; Father Joseph Sullivan, Director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Brooklyn; Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, Chairperson, Interreligious Affairs Committee, SCA; and Dr. Michael Wyschogrod, Professor of Philosophy, Baruch College, New York.

# # #

X,IS