

'We are pained by Third World's quest for nuclear power'

Dr. Helen Mary Caldicott. Australian M.D. Founder, Doctors for Social Responsibility in the U.S. International anti-nuclear organizer. From Dr. Caldicott's speech at the Assembly plenary session:

"The possibility of nuclear war is the most urgent problem facing the human family today. . . . Many important scientists and statesmen in the U.S. are predicting that we will be able to consider ourselves fortunate if we succeed in reaching 1990 without having a nuclear war. . . . Nationalism today is an anachronism. . . ."

Dr. Caldicott, at her seminar on the threat and causes of the impending nuclear war, focused her seminar discussion on attacks against the United States and President Ronald Reagan. Her secondary target was the male half of the species, whom she characterized as "children taught to love killing. Innate in many men—not all—is a fascination with killing and power. As Margaret Mead said, women are the civilizers, because they are driven by feeling. . ." Dr. Caldicott then devoted some time to developing a possible argument to explain the male obsession with killing, concluding that it is a hormonally derived problem, with roots in the fact that men are too focused on the use of the intellect ("the cortex") while, contrariwise, women are superior by virtue of their disdain for the cortex and are ruled instead by the hypothalamus (identified by Caldicott as the seat of the emotions).

The over-intellectualization of males leads them to suffer from sexual insecurity. "Are men insecure sexually? We need to look at this. It is significant that missiles are clear phallus symbols," she said, demonstrating their shape with a motion of her hands. "These phallus symbols rise and then explode with a big bang. This is very significant." Asked whether Jesus too was controlled by his male hormones, Caldicott explained that Jesus "exemplifies Jung's anima/animus dualism," a perfect balance of the male and female.

Describing a meeting she had with President Reagan which lasted one and a quarter hours, Caldicott described the President as "an idiot; a man lacking any empathy for any other person." The United States itself was repeatedly assaulted as the principle cause of the danger of war today.

Dr. Caldicott urged her audience to discuss ways in which each might become politically active to "use your democracies" to achieve disarmament. "Why can't the World Council of Churches say, 'We are going to do it [force disarmament].'

Politics isn't dirty, it is God's work." Giving an example of some of the methods she has herself used to frighten males into discontinuing nuclear energy-related labor, Caldicott described her speech in front of a group of miners involving in mining uranium: She began, she said, by arriving at the meeting with "my black velvet pants. The first thing I had to accomplish was to make sure they looked at me." Once having gained the miners' attention, "I immediately started in by talking about their testicles," explaining the dangers to this organ as a result of their uranium mining activities. She reported that the men, by the end of her presentation, pushed through a resolution to have the mine closed.

Sister Rosalie Bertel. Identified as an expert on low-level radiation poisoning, Sister Bertel led the seminar on "Community Spirit and Non-Violence."

Sister Rosalie began by identifying the animal kingdom (including man) as being divided into "fight" and "flight" animals, going from there to propose that "we need a paradigm shift into the female mode." She also attacked the existence of the nation state ("We must limit the sovereignty of nation states") as responsible for pushing man into the "fight" mode of behavior.

When a Third World delegate asked a question on the need for nuclear power transference to the developing sector, Sister Rosalie responded: "I am pained by the fact that the Third World wants nuclear power. This issue has been a problem for the World Council of Churches. . . ." Another questioner, wishing clarification of Sister Rosalie's position, asked whether she meant that the Third World populations are too stupid to handle nuclear power. The response from Sister Rosalie: "That is correct."

Wakira Wakaine. New Caledonian pastor. Responsible for the Research Work of the churches in New Caledonia. Coordinator of the Programme History and Society (Evangelical Church-Roman Catholic Church).

"Development in our country is simply a reflection of a capitalist system which wants only to dominate and make profits. It is an instrument for destroying the abilities and the values of the Kanaks. Among others, development has the following aspects: *urbanization*, which is a way of destroying the Kanak cultural milieu; *education*, which lies at the root of all the means by which underdeveloped people are alienated. . . . *politics*, which controls the judiciary and the institutions of the country. All these diabolical mechanisms are nothing but tools in the service of the prosperous middle class. . . ."

"[O]ur Church . . . came to understand that the Word of life has to be translated into practice in support for and solidarity with the poor and oppressed. . . . The Church in New Caledonia is militant in its efforts for the liberation of oppressed peoples everywhere. . . . Jesus Christ is the symbol of Unity, of Justice and non-violence, the symbol of total liberation."