

# Bishop says U.S. apology due in Iran; praises Clark visit

By KATIE KERWIN

Former attorney general Ramsey Clark's intentions in visiting Iran are good, but probably won't bring the release of American hostages held in the Tehran, according to Bishop Thomas Gumbleton.

Americans may find Clark's investigation of American interference in Iranian affairs too hard to swallow, Gumbleton told the Kiwanis Club of Troy last week.

The bishop was one of three U.S. clergymen to visit the American hostages at the U.S. embassy in Tehran last Christmas. Speaking with him in Troy was Dorothy Limbert, mother of one of the hostages.

"I agree with the substance of what he's doing," Gumbleton said of Clark's participation in an Iranian-sponsored conference on U.S. intervention in Iran. "I'm afraid what he's trying to do is not going to work very well because it angers people and I think that's too bad," the Detroit Archbishop bishop said.

"He's doing something people in America are going to find very hard to understand — bringing out some of the United States' complicity (in Iranian internal affairs) in the last 26 years," Gumbleton said. "It's not easy for people in the U.S. to believe we did something wrong — and to have it blasted on the front page of papers when that's the first time they've heard of it."

"I think he's kind of courageous, in a sense," he said of Clark's defiance of the Carter administration's ban on travel to Iran.

GUMBLETON ADVOCATES a formal U.S. apology for past offenses in Iran to bring an end to the hostage crisis "simply and quickly."

In negotiations with a United Nations commission, the Iranian government

set three conditions to hostage release, Gumbleton said. The U.S. must admit complicity in abuses of power in Iran for the past 26 years and apologize for it; pledge not to interfere again in Iranian affairs, and promise not to prevent Iran from bringing the former shah back for trial.

"President Carter says we have nothing to apologize for. Why do we — a big and powerful country — have to be afraid to admit we were wrong?" Gumbleton asked. The bishop said he regrets that earlier statement of Carter's.

"It's going to be hard for him to back away from that. I wish he'd never said it."

Gumbleton said there's no question in his mind about how the shah came to rule Iran. "He was put into power with the assistance of the CIA of the United States," the shah's injustices to his people since then have been documented by Amnesty International, a London-based organization with a reputation for reliability, the bishop said.

"Don't think of our involvement as beginning on Nov. 4, 1979," he said, referring to the date the embassy was seized. "Think of it as beginning in 1953" when the shah came to power.

The bishop said he's beginning to wonder about apparent U.S. reluctance to disavow future intervention in Iran. Even if Carter won't apologize for past intervention, he should be able to promise we won't interfere again, Gumbleton said.

He also sees little problem with the third Iranian request.

"If Nazis can be brought to trial now for crimes committed in the '40s, why shouldn't the shah be brought to account for crimes committed in the '60s and '70s?" he asked.

GUMBLETON'S CONCILIATORY attitude drew some fire from the Kiwanians.

"I can't understand our preoccupation with self-scouring and wearing the hair shirt," said one member. He cited the violations of international law by the Iranians who overran the embassy and took employees hostage.

"Yet we're going to apologize? We're going to acquiesce?" he asked.

Gumbleton was quick to say that he doesn't condone the militants' actions. "Both sides have got to admit they've done wrong," he said.

"Don't they (the students) understand that once (Ronald) Reagan is elected, he's going to grant their most fervent wish of martyrdom?" asked a Kiwanian.

"I hope he doesn't try that," Gumbleton replied. "If he does, we won't be fighting Iran; we'll be fighting Russia."

Precipitating military conflict or imposing economic sanctions will only drive Iran closer to the Soviet Union, he maintained. "They'll have to turn to somebody else and it won't be us."

He condemned the aborted rescue mission attempted in April.

"We would never have got them (the hostages) out alive. It wouldn't have worked, because they (the students) have the mass support of the people."

(Continued on Page 20A)



## Drawing for safety

Five Our Lady of Mercy students display their winning posters in the state and national Traffic Safety Poster contests. They were among 31 Michigan students who were honored recently by the Automobile Club of Michigan. William Garrett, Auto Club's vice president of corporate relations, pre-

sents a first-place national award to Tammy Clark, a ninth grader at the high school. Other winners are (from left) Fran Ahern, ninth grader; Barb Dyszewski, ninth grader; Allison Mangold, ninth grader and Laurie Domaleski, eleventh grader.

## FEA awards scholarships

The Farmington Education Association Scholarship Committee recently awarded three, one-time \$500 scholarships to students in Farmington area high schools.

The winners are Tammy Humm of North Farmington High School, Richard Shewbridge of Farmington High School and Barb Mingo of Harrison High School.

Ms. Humm plans to attend Michigan State University. She is a member of National Honor Society and Phi Beta Kappa. With a 3.92 average, she ranks

third in her graduating class.

Shewbridge plans to attend Michigan State University. He is a member of the National Honor Society and a National Merit finalist. With a 3.82 average, he ranks 16th in his graduating class.

Ms. Mingo plans to attend University of Michigan. She is a member of the National Honor Society, the Harrison High School Forensic Team and honors choir. With a 3.68 average she ranks 39th in her graduating class.

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