World

Israel to consider withdrawal from Lebanon — Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin said Wednes-
day he would call a cabinet meeting to decide whether to accept the American plan for Israel's withdrawal
from Lebanon. The plan, proposed by US Secretary of State George P. Shultz, outlines the pullout of
30,000 Israeli troops from Lebanon. The plan does not require Syrian troops to leave the country.

Soviets offer to reduce arsenal — Soviet leader Yuri Andropov offered this week to reduce his country's
medium-range nuclear forces in Europe to NATO levels and to reduce the number of warheads, missiles,
and planes included in the Strategic Defense Initiative. Soviet and French nuclear forces are in the NATO level, and
would prohibit further deployment of US missiles in Europe. President Reagan called the proposal "encouraging."

Nation

House committee votes to cut aid to Nicaragua — The US House of Representatives' intelligence cons-
mittee Wednesday night approved a bill to cut funds of covert military aid to Nicaraguan insurgents.
The committee approved $80 million in aid to "friendly country in Central America." President
Reagan did not debate the action, but he did inform the Nicaraguan recipients "freedom fighters" who were op-
posing a government which had betrayed the principles under which it was founded.

Catholic bishops denounce nuclear weapons — Roman Catholic bishops endorsed a resolution denounc-
ing nuclear arms by a vote of 236 to 9. The American bishops rallied a pastoral letter which stated their "opposition, on moral grounds, to the use of nuclear weapons." The Reagan administration had lobbied for softer language in the letter.

House approves arms freeze resolution — The House approved Wednesday a resolution urging Presi-
dent Reagan to negotiate a "mutual and verifiable freeze and reductions in nuclear weapons." The resolu-
tion carries an amendment revoking the freeze if reductions are not performed in a "reasonable, specific-
ated amount of time.

Weinberger criticizes failure to strengthen armed forces — Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger
attacked the House Armed Services Committee for reining the administration's plan to host 37,000 people
for military positions next year. The committee instead voted to freeze the armed forces at current perso-
nel levels. Improvement in military hardware, Weinberger claimed, is less effective if there are not concur-
rent increases in military personnel.

Ruckelshaus promises to reform EPA — William D. Ruckelshaus told a Senate committee there had been
"impressive progress" at the Environmental Protection Agency and he would enforce environmental laws
that he criticized by Congress. Ruckelshaus, President Reagan's nominee for EPA administrator, promised
the agency would make no "hit lists" or "political decisions.

Army may have known of Agent Orange threat — The Department of Defense was aware of the
dangers of dioxin, a chemical in the anti-defoliant Agent Orange, two years before the Dow Chemical
company used it, according to the Dow Chemical Company. The company, makers of the chemical, stated in court papers that both the government and Dow knew that dioxin was a health risk in 1969, while it was still being used
in Vietnam.

Local

Commonwealth to deny registration to parking offenders — Massachusetts' Registry of Motor Vehi-
cles will refuse to renew the registrations on vehicles whose owners have overdue parking fines to the city
of Boston. Drivers who owe the city for any tickets will not be allowed to renew their driver's licenses or
vehicle registrations. The restriction had previously applied only to those who owed more than $1000.

MBTA loses money — The Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority lost about $400,000 in revenue last year
from people who jumped turnstiles at train stations or failed to deposit the correct fare for bus trips.
Total MBTA revenues were about $97 million last year.

Sports

Red Sox are on a tear — The Boston Red Sox sport the best record in the American League after
beating the Oakland A's Wednesday. The Sox now lead Baltimore in the Eastern Division by a half
a game. Boston's team took five of seven games on a recent road trip and beat the A's twice at home this
week. According to the Dow Chemical Company. The company, makers of the chemical, stated in court papers that both the government and Dow knew that dioxin was a health risk in 1969, while it was still being used
in Vietnam.

Weather

Nice weather continues — Sunny today with highs in the middle 60's. Skies will be clear to partly
cloudy tonight with lows in the upper 40's. Tomorrow will be partly sunny and warm, reaching the low
70's.

Daniel J. Curran

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Feminism and Prolife

Rev. Michael McGarry
of the Paulist Fathers

What connections are there between prolife work and feminism?
How can a man talk about being a feminist? In much of the polarity I have seen, to be a feminist does not require that one be a woman, but that one must acknowledged feminism and support it. Many claim the following principles as feminist, and that a more consistent feminist position would have to conclude that feminist positions are alliances. For the following, I am (inhibited to such writers as Jo McGowan, Jull Looch, Lucy O'Realy, Elizabeth Moore and Sydney Calabain.

1) Feminism loudly and rightly protests the use of women's bodies as objects. Is one surprised, then, to find PlayBoy heavily financing the abortion right movement? They have who treated women's bodies as playthings and who have depersonalized them in the process would naturally see the link to the deper-
sonalization of the unborn life and the quick solution to the con-
sequences of the PlayBoy philosophy. To support a woman dur-
ing pregnancy, to claim mutual responsibility to treat the child as a person — all these might be a lot harder for those who have not treated women as other than playthings at other times.

2) True feminism, tired of male dominance in so many areas, calls all to mutuality in decision-making, homemaking and child-rearing. Seeing abortion as a women's issue is solely her perspective — far from advancing women's interests, feeds into the tradi-
tional view that women are mainly responsible for children and that man need not worry about the consequences of his ac-
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ing pregnancy, to claim mutual responsibility to treat the child as a person — all these might be a lot harder for those who have not treated women as other than playthings at other times.

4) It seems to me that a guiding principle of (Christian) femi-
nism has been a rejection of those movements in society which have depersonalized women and made them mere extensions of their husbands or their function (e.g. mother, nurse, sister, etc.) Rather, feminism would counter that a woman's personal dignity is innate, not derivative from her function or relation in the family or society. Where, then, is the sympathy for half the unborn children who have been depersonalized and who are in-
fe male? How are unborn children — and we — depersonalized when the right to life is linked to whether one is wanted or not?

5) Part of a feminist perspective, as I understand it, is the in-
sistence on the interconnectedness of social issues. In some quar-
ters, however, abortion is the exception to the "private issue." As Jo McGowan has written: "It's all the system that has to change. A system that says the answer to rising crime rates is bigger prisons. That says that the answer to child murders is Capital punishment. That says the answer to the problem of killing people and sparing property is the assassination bomb. That says the answer to the unwanted child is abortion.

To quote from Lucy O'Keefe of the Prolife Non-Violent Action Project: "The abortion debate is usually carried on in these terms by both sides. Either you are for children or you're concerned for fully grown women, not both at once. Little thought has been given to what a response to a difficult preg-
nancy would be like if it were based on the full development of both people, child and mother, was possible and a matter of ultimate concern to everyone.

Courtesy of the Tech Catholic Community
Reprint from the Boston Pilot