

The Rev. Paul T. O'Connell, his associate for 10 years at Immaculate Conception Church, said Father Connors had really taught him "the good things in life."

And President Ronald Reagan wrote from the White House, "Your spirit of patriotism and your spirit of faith is the same that built America."

Father Connors was spiritual director for 35 years of the Worcester Diocesan Council of Catholic Nurses. He was also chaplain for Division 36 of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Worcester and chaplain of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee in Worcester.

He was a member of the Emerald Club.

He leaves several cousins.

The funeral will be tomorrow with a concelebrated Mass at 11 a.m. in Immaculate Conception Church, 353 Grove St. Bishop Timothy J. Harrington will be principal celebrant. Burial will be at 2 p.m. tomorrow in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Whitinsville.

Calling hours at the church are 2 to 9 p.m. today.

A wake service will be there at 7 p.m. today. Members of Division 36, Ancient Order of Hibernians, will convene at 7 p.m. to attend the service.

It is requested flowers be omitted. Memorial donations may be made to the Clergy Fund of the Diocese of Worcester, 49 Elm St.

Athy Memorial Home, 111 Lancaster St., is directing arrangements.

#### INDIAN PRIME MINISTER'S APPEARANCE MET WITH LARGE PROTEST

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 2, 1998*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee went to the United Nations in New York last week. He was met by about 200 protestors, mostly Sikhs, Kashmiri Muslims, and others, who were there to protest Indian nuclearization of South Asia and demand freedom for their people. This protest did not get as much coverage in the media as you might have expected under normal circumstances, so it is appropriate to take note of it here.

The demonstration was led by Sikh youth in the New York area and the President of the Richmond Hill (N.Y.) Gurdwara. The demonstrators shouted slogans against Indian nuclear-weapons development. They also shouted slogans like "India stop genocide" as well as slogans for Sikh independence.

In a flyer circulated at the demonstration, the organizers wrote that "Vajpayee's government is responsible for plunging South Asia into a nuclear arms race. They are taking India towards a bloody confrontation with neighboring countries that could involve the entire world."

India has recently deployed its Agni and Prithvi missiles in Punjab, Khalistan. Some of these missiles are capable of reaching parts of the United States. This deployment greatly increases the likelihood of war in South Asia, a war we now know can easily become nuclear.

The Indian government has also practiced genocide against the minorities it rules. It has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984,

more than 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, almost 60,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and ten of thousands of Assamese, Manipuris, Tamils, Dalits, and others. The government paid thousands of cash bounties to police officers who killed Sikhs!

This is why the organizers wrote that "the Indian government's main mission is Hindu, Hindi, Hindustan. There is no room for Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, or Christians. A religiously intolerant government can never be democratic."

While India pursues this undemocratic, imperialist objective, it takes the average Indian worker three days' pay just to buy a box of Corn Flakes. Half the population of the country lives below the international poverty line, which is substantially lower than the U.S. poverty line. Yet America officially supports this repressive, hegemonic country. We must be a beacon for freedom in South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, the United States must codify the sanctions now in place against India. We must stop providing aid to this repressive regime. And finally, we must put this Congress on record in support of a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan and in Kashmir—the latter in accord with India's 50-year-old promise to the United Nations.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, for bringing this event to my attention. I would also like to insert the Burning Punjab article on the demonstration and the flyer from that event into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues. I hope that this information will help make it clear to us all just what kind of country India really is.

[From the Burning Punjab News, Sept. 26, 1998]

#### SIKHS AND OTHERS HOLD LARGE PROTEST AGAINST INDIAN PRIME MINISTER'S UN VISIT (By Atam Inder Singh)

NEW YORK.—A large numbers of Sikhs came to the United Nations in New York on Thursday to protest the appearance of Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. In addition, Kashmiri Muslims and other victims of Indian tyranny protested simultaneously. Protestors distributed a large number of flyers to passers-by. They shouted slogans of "India stop genocide," and "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa", as well as slogans against Indian nuclear weapons development. Agni and Prithvi missiles have been deployed in Punjab. The flyer pointed out that "Vajpayee is the leader of the BJP, the militant Hindu fanatic party in India, and is the head of a repressive, fascist government that oppresses its minorities and is unfriendly to the United States." The flyer said that "Vajpayee's government is responsible for plunging South Asia into a nuclear arms race. They are taking India towards a bloody confrontation with neighboring countries that could involve the entire world," it said. The flyer took note of the deployment of Agni and Prithvi missiles in Punjab, of its support of the nuclear efforts of rogue states like Iraq, and of the murders of large numbers of minorities living under Indian rule. The Indian government has eliminated large numbers of Sikhs since 1984, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, almost 60,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Tamils, Manipuris, Dalits, and others. "The Indian Government's main agenda is Hindu, Hindi, Hindustan," the flyer said. "There is no room for Muslims,

Sikhs, Buddhists, or Christians. A religiously intolerant government can never be democratic," it said. "On behalf of the Sikh Nation, I salute the organizers of this demonstration, especially Gurpreet Singh and the President of the Richmond Hill Gurdwara, Mr. Balwinder Singh Cheema," said Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, the organization that leads the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent struggle to free the Sikh Nation. "This effort was mostly done by the educated Sikh youth," he added.

#### PROTEST AGAINST NUCLEAR ARMS BUILDUP

The American Sikh community and its supporters are gathering at the United Nations on September 24th 1998, to protest the visit of the Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Mr. Vajpayee is the leader of the BJP, the militant Hindu nationalist party in India, and is the head of a repressive, fascist government that oppresses its minorities and is unfriendly to the United States:

Mr. Vajpayee's government is responsible for plunging Southeast Asia into a Nuclear arms race. They are taking India towards a bloody confrontation with neighboring countries that could involve the entire world. Earlier this year, two members of the BJP publicly called for Pakistan to become part of India.

The Indian government has deployed its Agni and Prithvi missiles in Punjab, Khalistan greatly increasing the likelihood of war and putting the lives of Sikhs and other minorities at risk.

Indian has provided heavy water to Iran and is now working closely with Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq. India votes against the United States at the United Nations more often than any other country except Castro's Cuba. India publicly supported the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The Indian government's main agenda is "Hindu, Hinda, Hindustan (India)". There is no room for Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, for Christians. A religiously intolerant government can never be democratic.

The government made every effort to disrupt the first meeting of the Punjab People's Commission, which was set up to investigate human-rights violations at Punjab. They cancelled the reservation the commission had for meeting space and tried to influence other facilities not to grant them space. The People's Commission issued citations to 90 police officers and now has received 3,000 more cases. The Indian government has spent over 20 million Rupees in legal fees to protect the police officers that have carried out these atrocities.

On July 23, Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaspal Singh Dhillon and his attorney on a false charge. Dhillon worked with Jaswant Singh Khaira on his report which showed that the police abducted, tortured, and murdered tens of thousands of Sikh youth, then declared their bodies "unidentified" and cremated them, a policy the Indian Supreme Court called "worse than a genocide."

In August, it was reported that death squads from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) are going into villages in the Faridkot district of Punjab and murdering villagers.

To date, Amnesty International and other Human Rights organizations have been denied access to Punjab to witness for themselves the atrocities that the Sikhs are suffering.

Please join us and raise your voice to condemn Nuclear India and support human rights for Sikhs and all minorities in India.