

# RELIGION & DEMOCRACY



The Institute  
on Religion &  
Democracy

February 1989

## From the Director's Desk

# 1988: A Year of Growth for IRD

This is a very special issue of *Religion & Democracy*. We are bringing you an excellent report by Diane Knippers, the Institute on Religion and Democracy's Deputy Director, on the IRD's activities for 1988.

We've discovered that many IRD members know about just one part of our work: religious liberty, economics research, foreign policy analysis, or church reform and renewal.

I suspect that you are going to be surprised when you learn of the breadth of our work, and how much a staff of ten managed to accomplish during this past year.

Also, I want to share with you the news of remarkable growth in our grassroots support during 1988. *The IRD's list of contributors and its non-foundation financial support has more than doubled in the last year.* This is enormously encouraging.

Some highlights from the IRD's eighth year include:

- A two-week tour of the Soviet Union for 21 U.S. churchmen and women commemorating the Millennium of the Church in the U.S.S.R.
- The publication of *South Africa: Revolution or Reconciliation?*, which not only significantly raises the level of discussion on these matters, but also serves as a constructive alternative to the year's National Council of Churches study materials on South Africa.
- An effective and assertive lobbying effort at national conventions of the Episcopal, Presbyterian, and United Methodist churches.
- Continued expansion of our cooperation with fine evangelical groups such as the National Association of Evangelicals and World Relief.
- The completion of the first year of *monthly* publication of our *Religion & Democracy* newsletter.

Even more exciting are our plans for the future. Let me give one example. As funding becomes available, we plan to launch a series of videos suitable for use in churches, colleges and seminaries. These would be professional, high-quality presentations on key foreign policy issues about which American Christians are concerned.

If you are already a regular supporter of the IRD, let me thank you for your part in making this 1988 report possible. If you aren't yet an IRD member, let me invite you to join. Your \$25 contribution entitles you to receive our monthly newsletter, a ten-percent discount on all of our publications



Photo by Rebecca Hammet

In 1988 IRD staff members spoke in local churches and before college and civic groups in seventeen states.

IRD Executive Director Kent Hill (above) spoke on seven college campuses and was the 1988 Staley lecturer at Southern Nazarene University. Dr. Hill also participated in a debate on church/state issues at the National Association of Evangelicals' annual Federal Seminar for college students.

IRD staff members regularly do presentations on international issues for participants in the American Studies Program of the Christian College Coalition. We have given briefings for students from Hope College, the University of Michigan, American University, Campbell University School of Law, and Wesley Theological Seminary.

and information on occasional conferences and other activities. (If you are a member of the Episcopal Church, you will also receive our quarterly *Anglican Opinion*.)

All you need to do is send us your check, using the return envelope enclosed in this newsletter. Of course, we would also request that our regular supporters send us a gift. There is so much more we could do if only the funding was available to do it. Please let me hear from you today.

Kent R. Hill  
Executive Director

# Religious Liberty: Cornerstone of Human Rights

The IRD places a major emphasis on working for religious liberty around the world. Our program focuses on education and cooperation with other religious and human rights groups, as well as efforts to see American churches develop strong advocacy programs for persecuted believers.

## Tour of the Soviet Union

In the spring, IRD Executive Director Kent Hill led a millennium tour to the U.S.S.R., during which he and other participants conducted several dozen meetings with both registered and unregistered believers in four Soviet republics and pressed their concerns for religious liberty with representatives of the Soviet government. Tour participants included **Dr. Billy Melvin** of the National Association of Evangelicals, **Mr. Frank Watson** of the Episcopal Committee on Religion and Freedom, and **Sister Ann Gillen** of the National Interreligious Task Force.

The IRD also supported the James Madison Foundation's **Millennium Appeal** (signed by over 250 U.S. civic and church leaders). For example, the appeal was used as the basis for a daily liturgy sponsored by IRD's Episcopal committee at the General Convention of the Episcopal Church. In May, Dr. Hill addressed a press conference sponsored by Rep. Chris Smith regarding a bill on the millennium which called for greater religious freedom in the U.S.S.R.

## Trinitarian Religious Freedom Program

Since September, the Rev. Stan DeBoe, of the **Trinitarian Order**, has been a religious liberty associate with the IRD. Father Stan is completing a two-year internship in order to establish a religious liberty program for his order. In the fall, the Trinitarians contacted over a million Americans with information on how they could send packages of Bibles and other materials to Soviet believers. The Trinitarians also cooperated in a campaign on behalf of Father Dominic Tran Dinh Thu, an 82-year-old priest imprisoned in Vietnam.

## Coalition for Solidarity with Christians in the U.S.S.R.

Kent Hill continued as chairman of the 18-member **Coalition for Solidarity with Christians in the U.S.S.R.** The constituencies of the Coalition represent several million Americans from diverse ethnic and church backgrounds. The coalition conducts an Adopt-a-Prisoner program, which is administered by IRD staff member Lisa Gibney. Since the program began, some 100 Christian prisoners have been released. We have distributed several thousand Adopt-a-Prisoner brochures and *every known Christian prisoner now has an individual or group in the U.S. pledged to pray and*



Photo courtesy of the White House

On December 8, 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed a Human Rights Day proclamation honoring the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In his remarks, he identified the Institute on Religion and Democracy as among "the community of people . . . who have dedicated their lives to these values, who work to keep the world informed, who lend their voices to those denied the right to speak for themselves...."

*work on his or her behalf.* The IRD also maintains an updated prisoner list which is used by the press, U.S. government officials, and private individuals in pressing human rights cases with the Soviet government.

## Other Religious Freedom Activities

Dr. Hill is also a member of the **Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty** -- an interreligious human rights group which supports the efforts of the U.N. Special Rapporteur in promoting religious freedom. On April 13 the Committee sponsored a press briefing on the rapporteur's second annual report to the U.N. Human Rights Commission. Dr. Hill oversaw the drafting of the committee's formal letter to the special rapporteur commenting on his report. The IRD successfully lobbied the United Methodist and Episcopal churches to endorse U.N. religious freedom efforts.

Dr. Hill spoke widely on religious liberty, including: a presentation at a June conference on religion in the Soviet Union sponsored by the **Institute for the Study of Christianity and Marxism**, an address at a May White House "Seminar on Religious Rights in the Soviet Union" preceding the Moscow summit, and a presentation for the Center for Strategic and International Studies on "Religion and *Glasnost* in the Soviet Union." He also serves on the board of **Keston College/USA**, an affiliate of Keston College, England, the most authoritative research institute in the world on religion in communist countries.

*Religion & Democracy* is published by the Institute on Religion and Democracy, 729 15th Street, N.W., Suite 900, Washington, DC 20005 (202/393-3200). Kent R. Hill, Executive Director and Editor; Diane L. Knippers, Deputy Director and Managing Editor; Walter H. Kansteiner, Director of Economic Studies; Alan F. Wisdom, Research Director; Richard Sperbeck, Research Associate and Assistant Editor. IRD membership is \$25.00 per year; a subscription to the newsletter is \$15.00 per year (and is included in the annual membership fee). Tax-deductible contributions in any amount are welcome.

# Religious Liberty Alert

## Glasnost and Pentecostal Refugees

The successes of *glasnost* have created two major problems in the U.S. regarding the processing and care of Christians coming out of the U.S.S.R.

First, faced with an expanded number of Christian emigres -- particularly Pentecostals -- leaving the Soviet Union, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) began in December turning down some Christian refugee applicants. The INS rejected 99 Pentecostals within about a month whose cases were almost identical to those who previously had routinely been given refugee status. The INS has subsequently refused to overturn its decisions for 42 of these 99 cases. The IRD is receiving reports of additional denials. All this is in spite of the fact that the U.S. has pressed the Soviets for years to let these people go, offering to accept them as refugees.

"Here are people who have been persecuted and harassed by the KGB all their lives, and it's the INS in a five-minute interview that can make them cry," commented a member of a World Relief legal team investigating INS procedures. The IRD, World Relief, and others are protesting these rejections to the State Department and Department of Justice.

Please write your member of Congress and the Attorney General and urge them to give these Christian emigrants official refugee status, thus honoring previous U.S. commitments in this regard. Write: The Honorable Richard Thornburgh, Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530.

Second, in contrast to excellent Jewish support programs, the lack of well-organized and funded Christian efforts to meet the needs of refugees being processed by our government in Vienna and Rome has become painfully obvious. The IRD has been involved in extensive consultations with the Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights, the National Association of Evangelicals, recent Soviet emigres, and private relief agencies in Rome and this country to encourage the development of such programs.

One result is that NAE's relief agency, World Relief, has responded to the needs of the new emigrants and has launched a "Soviet Refugee Project." To support this program, you may contact the program's coordinator: Mr. Serge Duss, Soviet Refugee Project, Box WRC, Nyack, NY 10960.

## Speaking Out . . .

The IRD is an important source of information on the churches and on religious liberty for the media. 1988 proved to be no exception. Numerous print and broadcast journalists (secular and religious) approached the IRD for opinion and forecast on the often controversial relationship between religion and politics. Various programs of the IRD captured the attention of publications such as: *The New Republic*, *The New York Times*, *Christianity Today*, *The Christian Century*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Religion in Communist Dominated Areas*, *The Atlanta Journal*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Chicago Sun Times*, *The Nashville Banner*, *World*, *Eternity*, *Sojourners*, *The Lutheran*, *Crisis*, *Good News*, *Religious News Service*, *Christian Social Action*, *National Catholic Register*, *National Christian Reporter*, *Newscope*, *Religion Watch*, and *National & International Religion Report*.

IRD staff members have done numerous radio interviews for BBC, Voice of America, AP/CBS Radio, ABC Radio, International Media Service (IMS), Moody Monthly Radio, Advent Radio, and Prime Time America. In addition, they have done radio and TV interviews for local stations in Virginia, Michigan, and California.

IRD's Deputy Director Diane Knippers continued her weekly radio commentary through IMS, to which over 200 Christian radio stations across the country subscribe. She also sits on the monthly Washington news panel for *Christianity Today*.

IRD staff members published a number of articles in 1988, including:

- "Zimbabwe's Churches and the New Order," by Walter Kansteiner, *The Wall Street Journal*, January 5, 1988.
- "The Summit, *Glasnost*, and Religion," by Kent Hill, *The Christian Century*, January 6-13, 1988; also published in Keston College's *Frontier* magazine, Jan./Feb. 1988.
- "Contra Aid: The Hour of Judgment Approaches," by Alan Wisdom, *World*, February 1, 1988.
- "Back to the Basics: Reagan's INF Treaty," by Kent Hill, *Eternity*, April 1988.
- "Zimbabwe's New Order Puzzles Church," by Walter Kansteiner, *World*, August 15, 1988.
- "A Lurch to the Left of Most Liberals," by Diane Knippers, *Christian Social Action*, Jul./Aug. 1988.
- "When Religion is its own Worst Enemy," by Alan Wisdom, *Philanthropy*, July-August 1988.

# Economic Studies Program

## The Religion & Economics Report

### ELCA Considers Corporate Social Responsibility

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Advisory Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility is preparing a paper on the "Theological and Ethical Foundations of Corporate Social Responsibility." Still in the formative stage, the finished version will be presented for adoption by the Advisory Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility at its next meeting, January 29, 1989.

First drafts of the paper have been sent to selected commentators with a request for "qualified comments and suggestions" regarding the content of the draft.

The Religion and Economics Report will gratefully acknowledge its privilege as a "select commentator" to offer the following brief critique of "Corporate Social Responsibility: Theological and Ethical Foundations."

We first comment on the lack of clarity that much of the paper exhibits. Citing Isaiah 3:15, the writers declare that "the rich are condemned when they use their wealth to wield unjust power over the oppressed." What, exactly, constitutes "unjust power"? Is it unjust, for example, for a corporation to close an unproductive factory? Or would this be an action that, while certainly disconcerting for some and therefore unfortunate, is within the bounds of justice?

The ELCA Advisory Committee never defines justice, preferring the broad declaration that "justice is a multi-faceted concept with a rich variety of meanings..." However, in the draft, corporations are specifically criticized for not meeting the demands of "social justice," and a list of obligations is provided which will presumably insure "economic justice." How do "social justice" and "economic justice" differ from the idea of justice? To qualify justice by annexing the term "social" to it does not contribute to the definition. It creates a source of confusion in language because moral weight has been added to the formerly neutral, neutral word, "social." Further, "social justice" is redundant, for what is justice if not fundamentally a social concern?

While parts of the paper are unclear, the section on "corporate social responsibility today" is explicit: "corporate social responsibility involves constructive engagement in order to foster accountability for the common good and to facilitate responsiveness to social needs."

What the writers apparently don't understand is that any operating business, large or small, exists only because it is meeting human needs and desires. In a free market, the consumer is sovereign, not the corporation. If corporations could act irrespective of social needs and wants, none would ever go out of business. It demonstrates a naïveté to suggest that businesses should act unilaterally, independent of the public's will as expressed in the market, to meet every need that is supposed to exist in society. If a business is to earn profit -- if it is to exist -- it must respond to the demands of the consumer public.

We limit our criticism to these few for lack of space. Should readers of The Religion and Economics Report want more information on the ELCA's "Theological and Ethical Foundations of Corporate Social Responsibility" they are advised to contact The Report.

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According to the IRD's manifesto, our "bias in favor of a market economy is informed by our commitment to democracy." This commitment, and the desire of many Christians to construct a realistic and compassionate alternative to the oldline churches' penchant for socialist experiments, underlies our Economic Studies Program. This program is directed by Walter Kansteiner, who is assisted by David Porter.

Our *Religion and Economics Report* has examined a wide variety of economic issues this year. Internationally, some of these have included: the church boycott of Shell Oil for its alleged involvement in perpetuating apartheid in South Africa; the Pope's seventh encyclical on social concerns; human rights implications of increased U.S.-Soviet trade; the U.S.-Canada free trade agreement; and the resumption of the Nestle boycott.

On the domestic front, some articles of special interest have covered the increasingly important debate on child day-care and attendant church-state questions, and religious opposition to the welfare reform bill.

A subscription to the monthly *The Religion and Economics Report* is \$100 per year. It includes two copies of each issue -- one sent to the subscriber and one sent to a clergy member of the subscriber's choice.

## "When is Revolution Justified?"

*"In a nuclear age, the concept of a "just war" seems absurd to some. But with scores of nonnuclear, low-level conflicts -- like those in Nicaragua and South Africa -- dotting today's political map, many Christians embrace just-war ideas to assess the moral validity of contemporary revolutions."*

So began an article in *Christianity Today*, reporting on a November 1988 IRD conference on "Christian Teaching and the Just Resort to Violence." The Washington conference attracted over 80 people, including many public policy experts and representatives from various religious communities. Its purpose was to explore the relevance of just war theory to contemporary revolutionary violence.

An introductory panel was moderated by James Finn of Freedom House and included Alan Geyer (Wesley Theological Seminary), James Turner Johnson (Rutgers University), and Greg Jones (Loyola University). They discussed the question: "What are the theological and moral principles which may justify violent revolution today?"

The rest of the program was devoted to two case studies: South Africa and Nicaragua. (See page seven for the participants of the South Africa panel.) The Nicaragua panel was moderated by the Most Rev. Rene Gracida, Bishop of Corpus Christi, and included Penn Kemble (Freedom House) and Andrew Reding (World Policy Institute and Council on Hemispheric Affairs). Tapes of each of the three panels and the luncheon address (four tapes in all) are available for \$7.00 each. Please send your order to the IRD office.



Above, Alberto Coll (U.S. Naval War College) addresses the conference luncheon. In his talk on "The Church, Revolution, and Democracy: Measuring the Results," he used the example of Nicaragua to warn of the sometimes unhappy consequences of revolutionary fervor.

Photo by Lisa Gibney



# Working for Church Reform

## The Episcopal Church

The IRD's Episcopal Committee on Religion and Freedom (ECRF) is governed by a 14-person board of Episcopal clergy and laity, under the leadership of Chairman Frank Watson. ECRF is seeking its first full-time coordinator.

In 1988, ECRF assumed publication of the independent *Anglican Opinion*. Edited by an Episcopal deacon, David Apker, the 2,000-reader quarterly newsletter included: a critique of an Episcopal study book on the Russian Orthodox Church, a report on an IRD trip to Nicaragua, a report on Episcopal Executive Council activities regarding South Africa, articles on the triennial General Convention, and an analysis of the controversy surrounding the election of Barbara Harris to the episcopacy.

ECRF took a 10-person team to last summer's General Convention in Detroit. This team:

- lobbied on behalf of ECRF-drafted resolutions and saw the adoption of two: on religious liberty and full financial disclosure by the NCC.
- testified in open hearings on religious liberty, Central America, South Africa, economic concerns, reform of the NCC, Korea reunification, and various defense issues;
- published a convention daily commenting on international and other issues, and operated an information booth;

## Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The IRD works cooperatively with two independent Presbyterian reform groups, the Presbyterian Lay Committee (PLC) and Presbyterians for Democracy and Religious Freedom (PDRF).

In April, IRD Research Director Alan Wisdom co-moderated a regional conference on "What Witness Shall We Bear? The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Central America" for the Presbyterian Lay Committee. (In conjunction with this conference, PDRF held a Washington press conference to introduce a position paper on Central America.)

Mr. Wisdom, who serves on the PDRF Advisory Board, worked with PDRF at last summer's annual Presbyterian General Assembly in St. Louis. He testified and lobbied on resolutions dealing with nuclear weapons and civil disobedience and with Central America. In September, IRD conducted a Washington briefing for leaders of PDRF as a part of their annual Faith and Freedom Weekend. PDRF, under the leadership of President John Boone, hired its first full-time Executive Director, Paul Scotchmer, in 1988.



Photo by Frank Watson

ECRF and the Coalition for Democracy in Latin America (a University of Michigan student group) protesting a dinner sponsored by the unofficial Episcopal Church Publishing House and held during the General Convention, at which Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto was given an award.

## The United Methodist Church

The IRD published two lengthy reports on legislation before the 1988 United Methodist General Conference. IRD's Diane Knippers attended the conference in St. Louis last spring and assisted delegates trying to moderate foreign policy resolutions. IRD supporters were successful in strengthening the resolution on religious liberty.

## The United Church of Christ

After several years of effort, the UCC's renewal group, Biblical Witness Fellowship (BWF), obtained a financial disclosure statement of UCC agency grants to outside groups. The IRD assisted BWF by providing information on 25 groups, which received hundreds of thousands of UCC dollars and which had questionable political commitments abroad. In addition to releasing its analysis of the UCC financial statement, the Biblical Witness Fellowship is organizing an alternative program of missionary outreach within the United Church of Christ.

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The IRD also cooperates with Lutherans for Religious and Political Freedom, an independent group within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This Lutheran reform group is chaired by David Carlson and publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Commentator*. Russell Saltzman edits this publication, which is now sent to over 2,500 Lutherans.

# Religion & Democracy

The backbone of the IRD's education and communication efforts is our *Religion & Democracy* newsletter. In January 1988, we inaugurated a monthly publication schedule, *without raising the subscription price one penny*. We also redesigned the newsletter, using the capabilities of our new electronic publisher, on which our Assistant Editor Richard Sperbeck has become a wizard. In addition to regular members, several hundred church leaders and denominational officials and over 600 members of the religious and secular media receive the newsletter each month.

In 1988 *Religion & Democracy* featured articles on a range of issues including:

- a report on three 1987 IRD trips to Central America, as a part of the Central America Peace and Democracy Watch, focusing particularly on the role of Central American and U.S. churches;
- an introduction to IRD's new "Building A New South Africa" (BANSAs) program, which seeks to encourage giving to pro-democratic organizations in South Africa;
- an analysis of the Christic Institute and its support from U.S. churches;
- a commentary on the criticism lodged by the Episcopal Church toward the National and World Council of Churches;
- an account of the controversial FBI investigation into the activities of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES);
- a look at the Catholic Church in Poland and its role as a "cultural umbrella" in Polish society;
- a review of the National Council of Churches mission study book on South Africa.



Photo by Martin Anderson / NDI

IRD board member Penn Kemble, was an observer of the plebiscite in Chile on October 5. His eye-witness account of the movement toward democracy in Chile -- and the role of the Chilean Catholic Church in broadening human rights -- appeared in the December 1988 issue of *Religion & Democracy*. Above, Mr. Kemble meets with Chilean Archbishop Bernardo Cazzaro.

- a special report on the foreign policy resolutions submitted to the 1988 United Methodist General Conference -- and later an analysis of what happened at the conference.
- an examination of the continued use of psychiatric hospitals as abusive treatment for prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Union;
- an analysis of National Council of Churches' positions regarding the state of the Church in the Soviet Union;
- a review of Roy Howard Beck's *On Thin Ice: A Religion Reporter's Memoir*, which documents the radical Left agenda of the oldline church establishment;
- a special report on the Presbyterian Church (USA) and a proposed denominational policy statement entitled "Christian Obedience in a Nuclear Age";
- a special report on the misguided policies of the National Council of Churches and several oldline church bodies with regards to Korea;
- monthly "Religious Liberty Alerts" which focused on areas of concern such as Cuba, Uganda, Vietnam, the Soviet Union, Malaysia, North Korea, and Tibet.

## The IRD is Reaching Out

The IRD has identified working with youth and young adults as an essential part of the work which must be done to strengthen a concern for democracy in the religious community. Our intern program brought us students from Hope College and Taylor University last year.

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Kent Hill is an advisor for the National Association of Evangelicals' Peace, Freedom and Security Studies Program (PFSS). In March, he represented PFSS by addressing the deans affiliated with the Christian College Coalition at the NAE annual convention in Orlando, Florida. He also served as a faculty member for an NAE leadership training conference on the PFSS program in Denver, August 25-27. Dr. Hill is a regular participant in the James Madison Foundation's seminars on "The American Search for Peace: Moral Reasoning, Religious Hope, and National Security."

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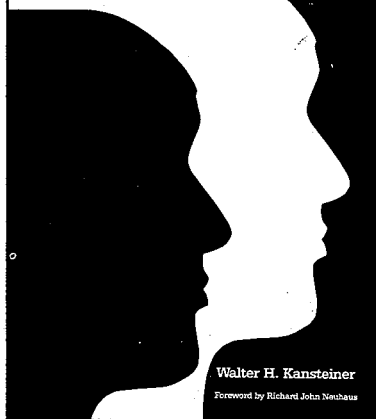
Diane Knippers is a member of the board for the Pittsburgh-based National Institute for Lay Education (NILE) and was interviewed for NILE's first set of video lessons on "Foundations for Christian Citizenship."

# The IRD Tackles Hot Spots Around the World

## Southern Africa

### SOUTH AFRICA:

#### Revolution or Reconciliation?



In June 1988, the IRD published *South Africa: Revolution or Reconciliation?*, by Walter Kansteiner. The book examines whether or not violent revolution is a morally justified solution to ending apartheid in South Africa, and concludes that at this time it is not. The book then recommends specific ways to move beyond the debilitating polarization -- between the Marxist Left and the reactionary Right -- of South African society. It concludes by suggesting

ways in which non-South Africans can foster reconciliation through a process of "democratic enhancement." To date, nearly 1,700 copies of the book have been sold. The book has been reviewed widely and is being used as a text on college campuses.

In July, IRD launched the **BANSA -- Building a New South Africa** -- project. BANSA identifies nine organizations in South Africa which are committed to working for a democratic, post-apartheid South Africa through non-violent means. The program also offers an alternative to the U.S. churches' funding of more radical organizations.

Mr. Kansteiner visited South Africa in 1988 as part of a congressional fact-finding trip. He has done numerous radio and TV interviews concerning his book and the BANSA project. He was interviewed for a PBS "American Interests" show on the Angolan-Namibian peace plan. Mr. Kansteiner has served on several panels for the U.S.I.A. Visiting Diplomat Program (African visitors). He spoke on African issues before the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs, a Council on Foreign Relations Conference at Princeton University, and before audiences at Georgetown University and the Johns Hopkins School of International Studies. The IRD also sponsored a December 7 round-table discussion on "South Africa in the 1990's," featuring the South African journalist Raymond Louw.

## Latin America

Central America remained a focal point for IRD in 1988. Building on several trips to Central America which members of the IRD staff took in 1987, we continued an information program within the churches. We handled numerous inquiries from members and the press on Central America, and particularly on U.S. church-backed groups such as the Christic Institute, Witness for Peace, and CISPES.

In March, Kent Hill gave a paper on "Marxism and Christianity: Theory and Practice" at a conference on "Religion Under the Sandinistas," sponsored by the University of Miami Institute for Interamerican Affairs. He also participated in a Nicaragua forum at Seattle Pacific University, and he debated Phil Wheaton on liberation theology at Johns Hopkins University. Alan Wisdom spoke on liberation theology to Foreign Service officers in training to be labor attaches in Latin America.

In response to a Sandinista crackdown in July, including the closing of the Catholic radio station and arrest of opposition political figures, the IRD sent a letter of protest to President Daniel Ortega and urged U.S. church leaders to do the same.

Two board members visited Chile in 1988, and the IRD protested the internal exile of Chilean trade union leaders.

## Korea

The National Council of Churches and member denominations have targeted Korea as a major concern. NCC delegations visited North and South Korea, and the NCC prepared a major position paper which distorts both the history and present reality of the Korean peninsula. In a special double issue of *Religion & Democracy*, largely written by Alan Wisdom, articles examined conditions for believers in both North and South Korea and critiqued U.S. church programs and policies regarding Korea. Another article examined the tenets of the radical *minjung* theology.

Because of the attention given Korea during the summer Olympics, IRD staff members were interviewed on the church in Korea by several radio and press outlets. Articles appeared in the *Fort Lauderdale News* (with syndication elsewhere), *The Washington Times*, and *The United Methodist Reporter*.



Above, Kent Hill introduces the South Africa panel at IRD's November conference. From left, the panel was moderated by Walter Kansteiner and included Richard John Neuhaus (Center on Religion and Society), Allan Parrent (Virginia Theological Seminary), and Kwasi Thornell (the National Cathedral).

Photo by Lisa Gibney

## The IRD Board of Directors

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The IRD Board of Directors added two new board members in 1988, Katherine Kersten and Helen Rhea Coppedge. Ms. Kersten is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame (B.A.), Yale University (M.A.), and the University of Minnesota Law School. An active Lutheran lay woman and mother of four, she speaks and writes widely on Central America and on issues related to "global education."

Ms. Coppedge is a graduate of Florida State University. She is on the board of Blue Bird Body Company and owns a retail store in Fort Valley, Georgia. She served as a delegate to the last two General Conferences of the United Methodist Church and, from 1984-88, was on the UM General Board of Global Ministries. Ms. Coppedge has just completed three years chairing the board of Good News, and she sits on the advisory board of the Mission Society for United Methodists.

A conference and reception sponsored by the Institute on Religion and Democracy:

# "Chile, Democracy, and the Church"

On March 6, 1989, the IRD will hold a conference to discuss the exemplary role of the Roman Catholic Church in Chile in supporting human rights and in helping to move that country toward democracy. For information on time and location, please call the IRD at 202/393-3200.

Later the same day the IRD will hold a reception to honor Juan Francisco Cardinal Fresno, the Archbishop of Santiago, Chile. Cardinal Fresno is the recipient of the Institute on Religion and Democracy's 1989 Religious Liberty Award. All IRD members are invited to the reception. However, space is limited. Please call the IRD as soon as possible to reserve your place.

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