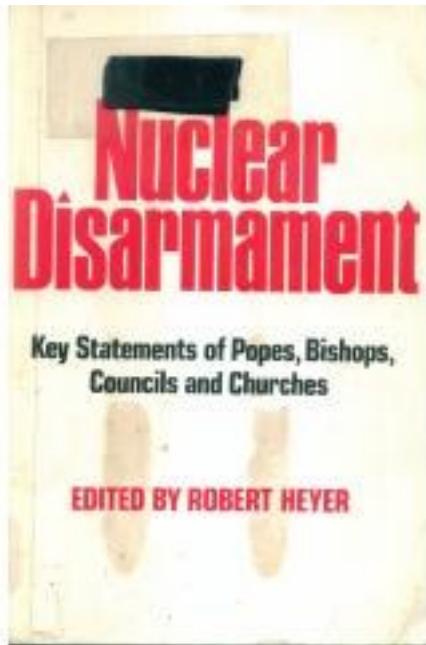


Nuclear Disarmament: Key Statements of Popes, Bishops, Councils and Churches



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During 1981 a visible and vocal constituency arose in the American Catholic hierarchy in opposition to the direction and dynamic of the nuclear arms race. The response was evident in the score of individual bishops who addressed the arms

race in sermons, articles or pastoral letters in their own dioceses. It crystallized in the annual meeting of the U.S. Bishops Conference in November. Archbishop John R. Roach, President of the Conference, described the nuclear race as "the most dangerous moral issue in the public order today." The chairman of the recently established Committee on War and Peace, Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin, provided the meeting with a substantive report of progress being made toward a 1982 pastoral letter on the topic.¹ The Bernardin report in turn stimulated a ninety minute discussion among the bishops on the need to address the moral questions of the arms race as a key element in their pastoral teaching ministry.

The vigorous Catholic engagement with the threat of the arms race is not limited to the bishops and it is not confined to the United States. Within our country other groups within the

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