

Nazi Documents Reveal Policy To Crush Church and Grab Holdings In Seized Areas

Order Absolute Control Of Religious Groups

LISBON (NC) Church organizations are reduced to a position of utter dependence upon the will of the governor, or other presiding officials, in territories occupied by the Nazi armed forces, it is shown by authoritative documents which have arrived here. The most recent of the documents is dated in Posen, in occupied Poland, Sept. 15, 1941 and a previous one Posen, March 10, 1940.

Issued specifically to regulate the existence of religious societies and religious communities in a "Reichsdistrict" of German-occupied Poland, the papers which have made their way here are believed typical of instructions issued to Nazi administrators in other occupied areas.

Through the expedient of granting or withholding "juridical personality" to a religious society the Reichsgovernor can control the very existence of such organizations. There is a further refinement of this life-and-death power in the administrator's control of admissions to and resignations from these societies. The domination is completed through the arrogation to the Reichsgovernor of a strict check on financial matters relating to such institutions.

Lists Groups Tolerated

The order, a copy of which is at hand, makes it plain at the very outset just what religious societies and communities are to be tolerated in the particular Reichsdistrict. The order lists as existing in this district four groups, one of which is "The Roman-Catholic Church of German Nationality in the Reichsdistrict Wartheland." The document says that, "in accordance with the orders to be issued by the Reichsgovernor, these churches are now taking the place of the juridical persons of the Evangelical Roman Catholic Churches which were in existence as of September 1, 1939, in the territory of Reichsdistrict Wartheland."

It is briefly but emphatically stated that those religious societies which are granted juridical personality of private right must lay their rules before the Reichsgovernor for approval. The society or community loses its legal competence when it is withdrawn by the governor in charge.

Curbs at Polish Influence

Inquiry is made into the nationality of the members, and other matters relating to the conduct of the society or community and in the particular instance at hand the orders indicate a determination to eliminate all Polish influence.

A provision which is believed here to have far-reaching and continuous import is the rule that things obtained by religious societies and communities without previous sanction can be taken for the benefit of the State and can be confiscated by the chief officer of the district government or by any one commissioned by him.

The regulations which the Nazis have thrown around the financial affairs of religious communities are believed here to hold a constant and imminent threat of strangulation.

Income Restricted

The income of religious societies and communities is restricted to collections which they can take up only on the authorization of the Reichsgovernor. It is stated that these collections are to be taken up according to regulations fixed by the religious groups themselves but it is also said that these regulations "must be approved by the district governor."

Religious groups are bound before the beginning of every fiscal year to place before the chief administrative officer "a budget of the projected use of their incomes and of the expected contributions." They are also obliged at the end of the fiscal year, is so required, to show what use they have made of their incomes." It is stated.

Directs Soldier Fund

Shreveport, La.—To his duties as chaplain at Barksdale Field, the Rev. Michael S. Ragan has been added the responsibility of taking care of the Enlisted Men's Relief Fund. Each soldier gives a few cents each month to the fund, from which loans without interest are made and repaid the next month. It is Father Ragan who decides if an applicant's reason for getting the loan is valid.

ARCHBISHOP'S CHARITY DOUBLED WHEN HE LEARNS ITS OBJECT IS JEWESS

LONDON (NC) A mimeographed sheet called *Valpy*, circulating in occupied France, has a story about the Archbishop of Bordeaux, the Most Rev Maurice Feltin, which is quoted by *La France Libre*, published here.

The Archbishop gave his secretary 50 francs for a woman who implored his help. As an afterthought he asked his secretary how old she was.

"Seventy," the secretary replied. "Is she really destitute?" the Archbishop queried.

"She says so," said the secretary. "Well, we must take her word," responded the Archbishop.

The secretary had a slight doubt about the case and asked: "Perhaps Your Excellency doesn't know that she is a Jewess?"

"A Jewess! Good heavens! That's different," the Archbishop remarked. "Give her 100 francs and thank her for her confidence in Christian charity."

Priest Deplores Few Occupied Farms

MONTREAL The Rev Alexander Dugas, S.J., speaking to the Union of Catholic Farmers, at its seventeenth annual convention, deplored the fact that there are only 150,000 occupied farms in the Province of Quebec today, the same number as 50 years ago.

The figure should be 500,000 "to keep our race faithful to its peasant origin and to give to your union a decisive force over the French destinies in America," he said.

Father Dugas said it should not have to be that 100,000 robust young men should be in idleness when there are 300,000 fertile spots calling for their work. "We here are not in the restricted old lands; there are 300,000 square miles for our 100,000 young people to settle on, 1,000 parishes to form without killing anyone," he said.

SOVIET GODLESS COLLAPSE HELD DUE TO SOIL STARVING

GENEVA The anti-religious movement in Soviet Russia collapsed because it starved the soul, an editorial in *Le Courrier de Geneve* says. The atheist movement, it added, ended in complete failure.

"Without considering to what extent other communist experiments are inconformable with the practical life," the Swiss paper comments, "it may be said that the anti-religious movement placed the Soviet leaders at a great disadvantage. Without any external influence the anti-religious movement collapsed because of its nullity and its emptiness. The liberation of the individual from the chains of religion, and the proclamation of a conception of consequently a material life within the frame of communism, did not find an echo in the hearts of the people. Indeed, the anti-religious movement succeeded only in starving the immortal soul."

SOLDIER-BUILT CHURCH

Venice, Italy A church built entirely by soldiers of the Maritime Legion of Venice has been blessed here by His Eminence Amedeo Giovanni Cardinal Piazza, Patriarch of Venice.

Priest Answers Envoy On Religion In Russia

By GEORGE BARNARD

LONDON (NC) An answer to M. Maisky, Soviet Ambassador in London, who claims that "Believers practice their religions freely in Russia," is given by the Rev. Dr. John Heenan in an article in the *Universe*, Catholic weekly. M. Maisky made the assertion in a speech at an American Chamber of Commerce luncheon here. Dr. Heenan calls on the Russian Government, to "observe a decent silence about religion, and not put into such blatant practice its theory that all religions are blind fools."

The priest justifies the Russo-British military alliance to defeat Nazism and asserts: "No Englishmen are more anxious than Catholics to see a successful resistance by the Russian people. No worker will put more energy into the drive for ' tanks for Russia ' than Catholic workers." But, says Dr. Heenan, "they ask in God's name that this hypocrisy and lying cease."

Time for Plain Speaking

Dr. Heenan begins by saying: "There comes a time when sincerity and honor demand plain speaking," and goes on:

"Nobody in this country has been more loyal to the British cause than the Catholic Church under the splendid leadership of Cardinal Hinsley."

"Catholics believe that the Nazi regime is the greatest menace of our time because it incorporates within its philosophy all the worst features of Communism while conducting its program with a subtlety and thoroughness to which the Communists could never lay claim."

"Catholics have never pretended that the British Government and people have always acted from the highest motives. They do not even believe that the Christian faith is consciously regarded as the most precious inheritance which our armies are called to protect. What Catholics have always maintained is that the British having taken to arms to defeat Nazism they are crusading against the forces of anti-Christ."

Record of Aggression

"The Catholic Church has not identified the Russians with Communism but the surest way of cooling the ardor of Catholics to help Russia is for Soviet officials to pretend that they are not godless and that their record is one of Christian endeavor."

"In the first place the record of aggression led by the Soviets is an extremely good second to that of the Nazis."

"They starved Poland in the back, they crushed the Christian States of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. Their treatment of Finland a few months ago caused the scorn and anger of the British people themselves."

"Let us avoid political issues and not contest any possible Soviet claims of strategic necessity in their aggression. Look only at what they did in the civilian field in the land they occupied. Church bells were silenced Sunday was annulled. Jaroslavsky's godless league flooded Poland with anti-God literature. Schools were taken over and the children taught militant atheism."

"All this for the sake of a common cause we might have been willing, not indeed to forget, but to relegate to memory for reconsideration after the victory, but we cannot remain silent when the Soviet suddenly dons the colors of Christian crusaders."

"This Government which flooded Poland with obscene religious car-

INTERNATIONAL

IT'S A "TIN" CATHEDRAL



Thirty-seven years under construction already and two-thirds completed, the majestic "tin" cathedral of San Salvador, capital of El Salvador, overshadows the surrounding city of one and two-story buildings. The wooden walls and 200-foot towers of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart are covered with sheet metal, whence comes the name "tin" cathedral. The cathedral was started in 1904, and has survived a volcanic eruption and an earthquake that leveled the rest of the city. (N.C.W.C.)

Bishop, 78, Rides 3 Hours Horseback To Bless Chapel

VICHY The Most Rev Auguste Grumeil, 78-year-old Bishop of Marseilles, journeyed three hours on horseback to bless the new chapel at Les Chambeaux, a grazing center in the Jura chain of the Alps at an altitude of 8,000 feet.

Six years ago a hurricane destroyed the chapel where the hermits of the Jarrier mountains of Savoy used to come to pray. The new chapel built despite much difficulty, was blessed on the last Sunday in August.

Steal Valuable Vases From Scotland Shrine

LONDON Two valuable vases have been stolen from the high altar of Scotland's National Shrine of St. Margaret, at Dunfermline. A short time ago two small statues and a barometer were stolen from the church.

loons, ribald parodies of the Last Supper and blasphemous caricatures of Christ must at least observe a decent silence about religion and not put into such blatant practice its theory that all religious men are blind fools.

No. M. Maisky, this sort of thing won't do. There has never been a more cynical insult to the Christian intelligence than M. Maisky's speech at the American Chamber of Commerce luncheon on Tuesday, Sept. 23.

Falling Birth Rate Alarms Switzerland

GENEVA The Swiss Federal Council has ordered a general census of the country beginning December 1. The drop in the birthrate from 37 for every 1,000 inhabitants in 1924 to 15 for every 1,000 inhabitants in 1937 is viewed as alarming. The birthrate in the neighboring countries for 1937 were 147 for France and 197 for Germany. In 1938 the German rate had risen to 203.

In 1906 there were 90,000 children born in Switzerland, but only 81,000 in 1937 notwithstanding a population increase of 800,000, which would indicate 120,000 births as the normal rate for 1937. As in other countries, the lowest birthrate is found in urban communities. However, a higher birthrate generally is reported for the Catholic Cantons of Lucerne, Uri, Nidwald, Fribourg and Valais. For the whole of Switzerland the surplus of births over deaths is 37 per thousand but it is 8 per thousand for the Catholic Cantons. To maintain the stability of population there should be an average of three children to a family but out of 100 families 30 have no children, 20 have one child, and 20 have two children.

Federal Councillor Etter, a Catholic, presiding at a meeting at Berne, said that measures to protect the family in Switzerland are imperative.

New Attack Faced By Norwegian Bishops

WASHINGTON Bishops of the Norwegian State Church, faced with a new drive to align themselves with National Socialist, Nazi Party of Major Quisling, view with alarm the new demand, since it seems to have the approval of German occupation heads, it is learned here.

Quisling followers have made it clear before that the Norwegian State Church, and all other religious groups, should place party allegiance above religion.

MEET PRINCESS

Quebec During her stay in Quebec, Her Royal Highness Princess Alice, wife of the Governor General of Canada, was received at the convent of the Franciscan nuns by members of Junior Catholic Girl Guides of Quebec Diocese.

Bishop Saved From Arctic Ice Trap

OTTAWA (NC) Dominion radio operators in Canada's Far North have been able to set at rest fears that the Most Rev. Joseph Trocellier, O.M.I., Coadjutor Bishop of the Mackenzie, and a mission party of ten others had been trapped aboard their schooner "Our Lady of Lourdes" and possibly crushed to death by ice floes off the Arctic coast.

Accompanying Bishop Trocellier, who is Coadjutor to Archbishop Gabriel Breynat, O.M.I., Vicar Apostolic of the Mackenzie, were two Oblate priests, two Oblate Brothers, the Eskimo pilot, and five children who were being brought to school at Aklavik.

When they had not been heard from since September 4 and reports reached Archbishop Breynat that the boat had then been heard as if in trouble, the Archbishop immediately got in touch with Dominion authorities of the Northwest Territories in Ottawa, and calls went out.

The radio search extended over thousands of miles in the desolate North. The radio branch of the Department of Transport got in touch with its station at Coppermine, from which the Bishop and his party had set out on August 28. The National Defense Department got in touch with a station at Aklavik, to which the mission group was proceeding. The radio

operators in the north checked with the various managers of fur-trading posts.

Great was the relief when the manager of a small trading post of the Hudson's Bay Company at Tukoyatuk reported that Bishop Trocellier and his companions had just arrived there in safety. When their boat became caught in the ice they waited until there was enough snow to use dog teams to bring them out to safety.

While further details were not immediately available, indications were that the Bishop and his companions had traveled nearly 400 miles from where the schooner "Our Lady of Lourdes" was left in the ice.