

Charge Axis Propagandists Use Phony Vatican Quotes On Radio

Errors in Broadcasts Amusing To Catholics

VATICAN CITY.—(N.C. Staff)—No statement of any kind whatsoever has been issued by the Vatican on the relations of South American countries. This fact refutes recent propaganda broadcasts emanating from Berlin and Tokyo.

(By N.C.W. News Service) In the "battle of the short waves" now being waged by the Axis nations' radio propaganda stations, there has come a great flurry of broadcasts aimed at Catholic listeners.

It has been so obviously concerted and pre-arranged that, most close observers agree, much of its convincingness has been lost.

Catholics, from the Vatican itself down to individual prelates and priests, have been ostensibly quoted to bolster up Axis aims.

These broadcasts come invariably from the official propaganda stations of Japan, Germany and Italy. In content, they range all the way from laudations of Axis nations' pure ideals, to solemn warnings from supposedly high Catholic sources as to the right conduct of whole countries and groups of nations.

Amusing Mistakes Made

Aside from the fact that the speeches are patently made up for the propaganda occasion, Catholics well versed in their religion have noted that, on occasion, mistakes are made which are amusing if not silly. On the other hand, here and there the broadcasts are so phrased as to cause the thoughtless to be led astray.

Such egregious statements as the Japanese official radio's solemn assurance that an American Archbishop in the Philippines (whose name was garbled), described Japan's "peace aims" as "exactly what we Catholic believers ardently desire," is an example.

Another Bishop was described, in a Japanese broadcast, as "agreeing willingly" to "cooperate intimately" with Japan in its "constructive undertaking." But an examination of the official list of Catholic Bishops fails to reveal a prelate with a name such as was used by the broadcaster.

Then there was the earnest assurance by the Japanese broadcaster that: "If any priests have been interned, new efforts will be made to enable them to change their remarks."

Vatican Quotations False

One of the most recent broadcasts undertook to quote a supposed "statement by Vatican City" in which the Vatican was alleged to have undertaken to advise Latin-American countries against certain diplomatic moves.

In this, the Vatican was alleged to have warned that should the Latin-American countries break off diplomatic relations with the Axis government, it would be "difficult" for the Holy See to maintain relations with South America.

This unsubstantiated allegation of a rather crude supposed threat was, of course, dismissed by persons who know the conscientiousness and experience with which Vatican diplomacy is conducted. Nevertheless, in Montevideo, Uruguay, it was thought well to sound a warning against these broadcasts. In this warning, the radio speaker was charged with "employing spurious Vatican quotations."

Pre-Arrangement Exposed

It was observed that this particular broadcast was used by the Japanese official station, beamed to North America and the Far East, and at the same time by the Berlin official radio beamed to all of Europe and Africa, indicating pre-arrangement. The Tokyo broadcaster described the matter as "a Vatican dispatch," but the Berlin broadcaster called it a "statement by Vatican City."

At the same time, it was noted that so far as could be ascertained, none of the great news services distributed any mention of the supposed statement by Vatican City in the press of the United States.

JEWELRY FOR CHALICE

New Orleans.—A hundred and fifty wedding rings were among the jewelry which, after refining yielded as much as pure gold for the chalice and paten given to St. Augustine's Church on the occasion of its one hundredth anniversary.

All Maryknollers Safe In Hong Kong

MARYKNOLL, N. Y.—(N. C.)—All Maryknoll missionaries in Hong Kong are reported unharmed in a cable just received from Wuchow, South China, the first direct news received here from the Far East since Christmas Day. Twenty-six Maryknoll Sisters are known to have been in Hong Kong when it was invaded. The number of Maryknoll priests and Brothers is not definitely known, since the majority of the 20 who might possibly be there may have left for the interior before the siege began.

During the bombardment the Maryknoll Sisters were in all probability engaged in Red Cross work, since all were trained in defense nursing and had been assigned to definite hospital posts in case of an attack. The large Maryknoll Convent School, which had a registration of over 800 pupils, had been offered for use as a hospital by the Regional Superior, Sister Mary Paul McKenna of Reading, Pa.

Priests, Brothers Housed In Convent

WUCHOW, South China.—Bishop Frederick A. Donaghy and the Maryknollers in the Vicariate Apostolic of Wuchow have learned that the 20 Maryknoll priests and five Brothers in Hong Kong have been requested by the Japanese government to take up residence in the house formerly occupied by the Canossian Sisters in Victoria, the central city of the island. Thus they have been required to leave their Language School at Stanley, which is on the other side of the island, eleven miles away, and come into the center.

The house of the Canossian Sisters is spacious since this community, numbering 100 members in Hong Kong, has conducted one of the largest schools on the island. It is possible that with the Maryknollers others may also be occupying the house.

It is likewise concluded from this information that the 26 Maryknoll Sisters in Hong Kong have been allowed to remain in their two convent homes; the one on

Hong Kong Island where they staff the Holy Spirit School; the other at Kowloon on the mainland, where their large school has an enrollment of almost 1,000 pupils.

Report How Nuns Aid Cholera Victims

MARYKNOLL, N. Y.—The latest official report from Hong Kong convents received through the mails is for the month of September. A cholera epidemic was raging. Sisters were daily visiting the cholera victims in a large public charity hospital and reported at each visit from five to ten baptisms of the dying. Some found dying on the streets also were baptized.

An emaciated woman weighing only 54 pounds, when she first came for treatment, had gained 30 pounds as a result of the care received through a clinic organized by Sister Maria Corazon, M.D., under government auspices, for the prevention of tuberculosis, which was taking heavy toll especially among the million refugees in Hong Kong.

The number of pupils who registered at Maryknoll Convent School greatly exceeded the previous enrollment of 800. Even after a partition had been torn down to provide another classroom, one large class had to be held outdoors in a covered area intended for playground use during the rainy season. Alumnae of the school were engaged in vigorous Catholic Action, teaching religion to children in a tuberculosis sanatorium and in refugee camps, and also assisting at a soup kitchen conducted by the Sisters, where 1,700 were being fed daily.

Schools Become Shelters For Wounded

MARYKNOLL, N. Y.—Immediately succeeding the attack on Pearl Harbor, pupils of Maryknoll schools in Hawaii witnessed the transformation of their school buildings almost overnight into ammunition supply bases or shelters for the wounded.

The first letters to reach the Maryknoll Sisters' Motherhouse here indicated the intention of the Superiors to work out plans to carry education from the classroom to the home. Letters just received reveal that the plan has now been put into effect, the Sisters making systematic visits to the homes in order to assist the parents in the instruction of their children. This will provide new opportunities for contacts with all members of the family.

Many of the Sisters have volunteered as blood donors, there being a heavy demand for this service. One sentence from a Sister's letter tells its own story succinctly: "We make fracture pillows till our hands are numb and then we turn to knitting."

The 35 Maryknoll Sisters in Hawaii conduct one orphanage and staff five large parochial schools, two of which have high schools, the total registration being 2,500.

Cloistered Sisters Can Register By Mail In England

LONDON.—Nuns belonging to strictly enclosed Orders may register by mail under the National Service Act, it is announced here in a statement from Archbishop's House, Westminster, clarifying the position on nuns under this new legislation.

The statement says further: "All nuns who are British subjects should register when the women of their age-group are called up. Nuns should describe their occupation as that of 'Religious Sister.' Their position under this Act will be similar to that of women doctors. They will be placed in a reserved category parallel to that of 'Religious Brother.'"

Nuns belonging to Orders which are not enclosed have to register at the various labor exchanges throughout the country. Those who have been through the experience say they have been treated with every courtesy and consideration.

Nuns born in 1921 have just registered. They will not be called up for service.

First of Religious To Win India Honor

CALCUTTA.—Mr. Ignatius Vellarigatt, S.J., a scholastic at St. Mary's Jesuit College in Kurseong, has become the first religious to win the notable India academic title, "Sahitya Bhanuban" or "Ornament of Literature."

Mr. Vellarigatt achieved this distinction by passing with honors the highest examination in Hindi, national language of India.

MAKES STRONG CATHOLIC

"No Catholic can be a consistent reader of our religious papers and periodicals without becoming thereby a more interested, intelligent and zealous Catholic."—Archbishop McNicholas, Cincinnati.



CHAPLAIN CHIEFS get together. Brigadier General William R. Arnold (left), Chief of Chaplains, U. S. Army and graduate of St. Bernard's Seminary, greets the Chief of Catholic Chaplains in the Canadian Forces, Most Rev. Charles L. Nelligan, Bishop of Pembroke, Ont., in Monsignor Arnold's office in Washington. Bishop Nelligan was Bishop Kearney's guest at St. Mary's Hospital campaign opening in Rochester and has toured some of the Army cantonments while in the United States. (N. C. W. C.)

Canada's Bishop-Chaplain Credits Piety of Soldiers To 'Sword of Spirit'

(By N.C.W.C. News Service)

An extraordinary and ever-deepening spirituality and extension of exemplary religious devotion among the men in the Canadian forces as a result of the Sword of the Spirit movement were described in Washington this week by the Most Rev. Charles Leo Nelligan, Catholic Bishop Ordinary to the Canadian Forces.

Bishop Nelligan, who is Ordinary of Pembroke, Ontario, and head of the Canadian Catholic Chaplain Service, left the United States Jan. 31 for Canada after a 10-day visit to this country, which was culminated by a brief sojourn in the National Capital. While in the Capital City, Bishop Nelligan, a Colonel in the Canadian Army, called upon the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William R. Arnold, Chief of United States Army Chaplains, and also visited the headquarters of the National Catholic Welfare Conference and of the National Catholic Community Service.

Redoubling of Devotion

Bishop Nelligan declared here that with the extension of the Sword of the Spirit movement, initiated in England by His Eminence Arthur Cardinal Hinsley, Archbishop of Westminster, as a means of emphasizing the necessity of profound spirituality in the present critical times and those to follow after the war, there has been a redoubling of spiritual and religious devotion in the Canadian forces, even among non-Catholic service men.

"There has been a great increase in the reception of Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Penance," the Bishop said, "since the Sword of the Spirit movement was introduced into the three branches of our military service toward the end of last year."

"In promoting this movement, we have distributed to Catholic soldiers, sailors and airmen, and to many non-Catholic service men requested it, the small crosses which are the insignia of the Sword of the Spirit and are worn inside the uniform (sleeve). These crosses have been furnished by

the Knights of Columbus Canadian Army Huts and enrollment in the movement imposes some rather simple obligations, such as the wearing of the cross, monthly Communion, daily recital of the Act of Contrition and the Prayer to Christ the King."

Authorities Cooperative

Bishop Nelligan stated that Catholics compose between 25 and 30 per cent of the personnel of the Canadian armed forces, the greatest percentage, over 30 per cent, being in the Navy branch. He added that the Department of National Defense has been "most gracious and cooperative" in the matter of assisting chaplains to provide spiritual and religious services to the men in the Forces. "Tremendous good" has been accomplished by the Knights of Columbus Army Huts, he added, saying that in addition to the usual purposes, the canteens also are utilized for the celebration of Mass and in some instances for chaplains' quarters, because in most cases the regular post chapels are too small.

Bishop Nelligan stated that he was "greatly impressed by the set-up in the American armed forces for the spiritual welfare of the soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen." He paid tribute to Monsignor Arnold for "the splendid organization of military chaplains under his direction and guidance," and added that he was particularly edified by the "fine spirit that existed among the chaplains of the various denominations working side by side both in the field and in the headquarters office of the Chaplains' Corps."

Speaks in Rochester

Bishop Nelligan left Canada January 20 and first visited on the Niagara peninsula. From there he went to Rochester, where, at the invitation of the Most Rev. James E. Kearney, Bishop of Rochester, he spoke at a banquet marking city-wide drive to raise funds for St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester. In the course of his remarks at the banquet, and in a special radio address later in the evening, Bishop Nelligan described medical, hospital and health procedures in England during the Battle of Britain and at the present time. Bishop Nelligan, a year ago, visited England and while there closely observed military and defense activities in embattled Britain.

Golden Jubilarian

St. Paul.—Brother Hubert Lewis, F. S. C. celebrated his golden jubilee as a member of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, on February 2. Still active in the classroom, he teaches science and mathematics at Cretin High School here. He has also taught in Memphis, St. Louis and Chicago.

Discuss Virtues of 'Lily of Mohawks' At Final Meeting June 2

VATICAN CITY.—(N.C.)—The "general meeting" of the Sacred Congregation of Rites in the presence of the Pope to discuss the virtues of Kateri Tekakwitha as a step in the Cause for Beatification of the "Lily of the Mohawks" has been set for June 2, 1942.

The general meeting is the last of three meetings in which the virtues of a servant of God are discussed. If at this meeting a majority of the Cardinals and consultants of the Congregation decide there is adequate evidence that the servant of God practiced both the theological and the cardinal virtues in a heroic degree, a solemn decree asserting the existence of such evidence is submitted for the

signature of the Holy Father.

When the decree has been thus confirmed by the Pope, there remains only a similar discussion at three meetings, of miracles attributed to the servant of God before the decree is issued. In this decree, after discussion and a favorable decision by the Congregation, the Pope asserts that "it is safe to proceed" (sub procedat) with the solemnities of Beatification.

The second, or "preparatory," meeting on virtues in the Cause of Kateri Tekakwitha was held last November 18, and the decision was favorable. The three meetings on virtues are of primary importance in the Cause of confessor.