

Charge Axis Propagandists Use Phony Vatican Quotes On Radio

Errors In Broadcasts Amusing To Catholics

VATICAN CITY.—(NC-Radio)—No statement of any kind whatsoever has been issued by the Vatican on the radio in the last few days. This fact refutes recent propaganda broadcasts emanating from Berlin and Tokio.

(By NCWO 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 extensively 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 palpably 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 primate 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."

The 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 CHARITY

New Orleans.—A hundred and fifty wedding rings were among the jewelry which, after selling for a number of days, were given to St. Augustine's Church in the second of its two 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 25 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.

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 that each visit from five to ten baptisms of the dying. Some found dying on the streets also were baptized.

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. 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 and 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

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 Vallarigatt, 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 Bhushan," an ornament of literature.

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

MAKES STRONG CATHOLICS

No Catholic can be a consistent member of any religion except the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church is the only religion which has a more elevated, intelligent and noble teaching. — 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 Major General 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 campsments 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.

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 for our hands are numb and then we turn to knitting." The 26 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.

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

VATICAN CITY.—(NC)—The general meeting of the Sacred Congregation of Rites in the presence of the Pope to discuss the virtues of Kateri Tekakwitha as a key 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" (tunc procedat votum) 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.

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 Crella High School here. He has also taught in Minneapolis, St. Louis and Chicago.