

Papal Delegate Hits Axis Reports On Vatican Views

Terms 'Purely Fictitious', Charge Holy See Tried To Interfere In Latin America

WASHINGTON—(N. C.)—The representative of His Holiness Pope Pius XII in this country spoke out on Feb. 14 to give crushing refutation to recently circulated secular press reports that the Vatican attempted to interfere in the political relations of the Western Hemisphere at the time of the Inter-American Conference at Rio de Janeiro.

Announcing that he spoke at the direction of His Eminence Luigi Cardinal Magliano, Papal Secretary of State, His Excellency the Most Rev. Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, branded these secular press reports as "purely fictitious." His Excellency pointed out that the Holy Father never held the Papal audience which the reports attempted to make the basis for their spurious allegations.

Archbishop Cicognani said foreign radio stations are making use of the name of the Holy See in their propaganda campaigns in Latin America, but pointed out that the Vatican cannot be held responsible for these undertakings.

"I have been directed by His Eminence, the Cardinal Secretary of State," Archbishop Cicognani said, "to declare publicly that the assertions contained in the above-mentioned press releases are purely fictitious. The Holy See, however desirous of international peace and harmony, made no pronouncements whatsoever, either through diplomatic channels, or confidentially, before, during or after the Inter-American Conference of Rio de Janeiro.

Cites True Facts
"It has been asserted that the Holy Father, in receiving the Spanish Ambassador, in the presence of South American diplomats, made insinuations against the Conference of Rio de Janeiro. The fact is that the Holy Father never received the Spanish Ambassador together with South American or other diplomats. When the Spanish Ambassador was recently received in audience, His Holiness appropriately and in keeping with previous pro-

nouncements on such occasions expressed the hope that Spain will always remain faithful to its Catholic traditions.

"It is known furthermore that foreign radio stations have been making use of the name of the Holy See in propaganda campaigns in South America. Naturally the Holy See cannot assume any responsibility whatsoever for broadcasts of this kind."

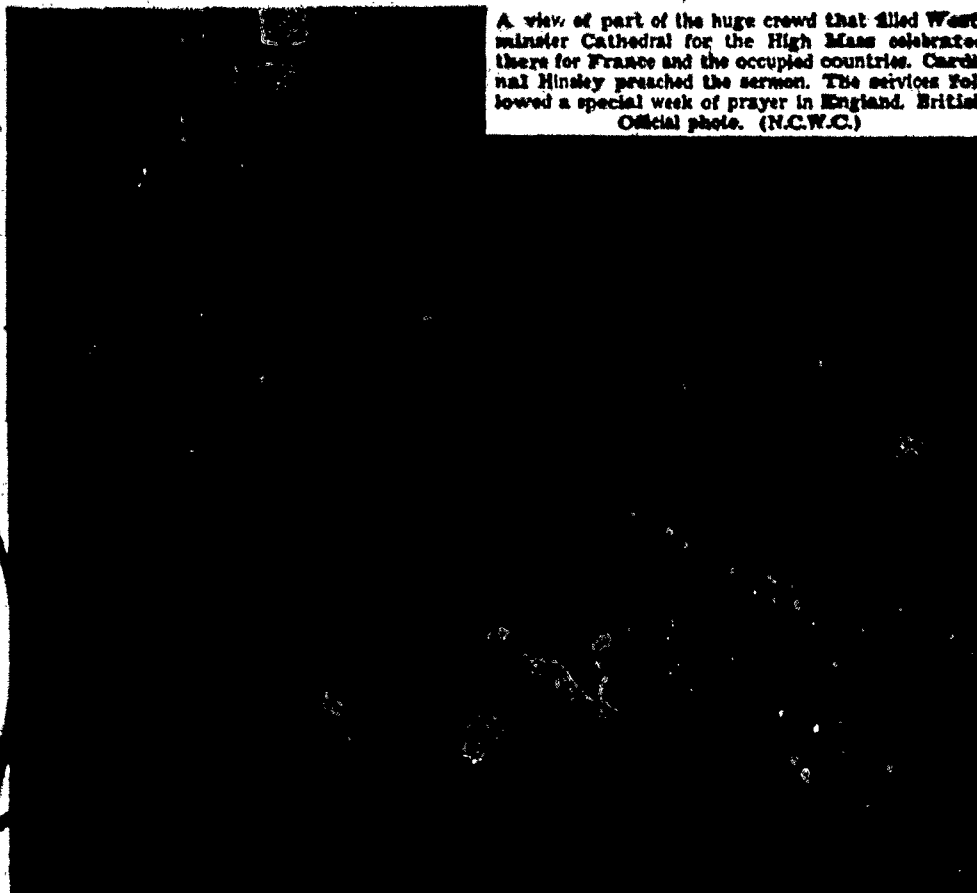
The secular press reports which the Apostolic Delegate so completely exposes were substantially the same as propaganda radio broadcasts emanating from both Berlin and Tokyo. Claiming as their basis "circles close to the Vatican," these reports said that on the eve of the Rio de Janeiro conference the Vatican managed to make known its attitude toward it, and that the Vatican was strongly opposed to a direct or indirect involvement of South American countries in the world conflict, because it opposed extension of the war and for other specific reasons.

No Such Audience

These reports also said that Pope Pius XII received the Spanish Ambassador and some South American diplomats in the same audience, and that from remarks addressed to the Spanish Ambassador the South American diplomats "got the impression" the Holy Father was referring to the whole of Latin America. Thus, the spurious reports continued, the Vatican, notwithstanding its attitude of strict neutrality with respect to the Rio de Janeiro Conference, had managed to emphasize its hostility to any direct extension of the current war.

As Archbishop Cicognani now brings out, no such audience as this was ever held.

THRONGS PRAY AT ALLIED SERVICE FOR FRANCE



A view of part of the huge crowd that filled Westminster Cathedral for the High Mass celebrated there for France and the occupied countries. Cardinal Hinsley preached the sermon. The services followed a special week of prayer in England. British Official photo. (N.C.W.C.)

Circulation of London's Four Catholic Papers Up During War

LONDON—(N. C.)—All the four weekly Catholic papers published here have increased their circulations during the war, although they all appear in diminished form because of the rationing of paper. After nearly two and a half years of war it is reasonable to suppose that if the situation should not change materially for the worse, they will all weather the war storm and ride out of it with more readers and greater prestige.

The questions which Catholic publishers asked themselves at the beginning were: Will the advertising revenue fall right off? Will the cost of newsprint skyrocket so high as to make it virtually out of reach without increasing the selling cost of papers? Will the people, faced by the cares of war, drop interest in the Catholic papers? Will people trouble to buy papers greatly reduced in size?

The Government solved the main problem by fixing a selling price for all newsprint and by controlling its consumption. After successive increases, newsprint stands today at somewhat more than double its pre-war price.

New Periodicals Forbidden

Quite early the starting of new periodicals was forbidden, and existing papers were permitted to use only a stated proportion of their consumption during a former stated period. The permitted quota may be taken out as desired, so long as the monthly consumption agrees with the allowance. The actual possession of paper stocks does not give the right to use it.

Thus a paper which finds itself turning away orders is at liberty to reduce its size and thus make its ration stretch further. The Catholic Herald has adopted this expedient, offering six pages (against a normal 8) once a month.

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All the Catholic papers have been reduced in size. The Catholic Herald runs normally eight large pages against its 16 pages of pre-war days. The Universe and the Catholic Times have 12 smaller pages, whereas they ran to 24 or 28 before the war. The Tablet, which sells for sixpence, is down to 12 magazine-sized pages about half its normal peace-time offering. Not one of the papers has had to increase its selling price which is two pence for the "popular" papers.

A great saving to all the papers in this country has been effected by a Government prohibition on "returns." Before the war all unsold copies were returnable to the publisher, and full allowance was made. This practice of paper and

printing could run as high as 10 per cent, perhaps even more, when a paper deliberately encouraged over-ordering to meet the possibility of chance sales. There is now no such wastage. Every copy which leaves the office (apart from vouchers and exchanges) is paid for.

"Prestige Advertising"

Advertisement revenue has kept up in a surprising way. But much of it comes from firms which simply announce that they have nothing to sell. It is "prestige advertising," paid for to keep established names before the public. Almost the only people who advertise to stimulate sales are the registered medicine advertisers and the book publishers. Most other things sell themselves.

There has been no general increase in the advertisement rates among the Catholic papers, although almost all other periodicals in their favor. The Universe made a slight adjustment by reducing its column-width and retaining the old rate.

All the Catholic papers are shy of printing their circulation figures, perhaps because they regard the present situation as fictitious. But it is certain that they are all selling more copies, and in some cases substantially more. A rough calculation gives me the impression that between them the four Catholic weeklies sell about 250,000 copies a week. If there were no overlapping this would show that, counting four to a family, 1,000,000 Catholics are reading a Catholic paper—about one in three of the estimated number of Catholics in England, Scotland and Wales.

May Return Spanish Refugee Children

MEXICO CITY.—(N.C.)—According to the press of the Capital, it is likely that Spanish refugee children in Mexico will be returned to Spain if they are reclaimed by parents or members of their respective families, otherwise they will remain in Mexico. The transportation difficulty and the reported scarcity of food in Spain are given as the reasons for this decision which, however, has not been announced officially.

There are no "rookie" dollars. Send yours to the front! Buy U. S. Defense Savings Bonds and Stamps!

Denies British Expelled Bishop

LONDON—A report that the British expelled from Hong Kong the Most Rev. Enrico Vitoria, Vicar Apostolic there, is denied officially here.

An official states: "He was highly respected by everyone, and after Italy came into the war he was allowed to continue his work in Hong Kong unhampered, though he was an Italian."

HAS NEW FORMAT

New York.—The Missionary, monthly magazine published by the Paulist Fathers, is now appearing in new format.

Urges Americans, British Seek Religion's Triumph

CINCINNATI—(N. C.)—The people of the United States and Great Britain were called upon Wednesday of last week by the Most Rev. John T. McNicholas, O.P., Archbishop of Cincinnati, to work for total moral as well as physical defense in the present emergency, and for the ascendancy of religion in the affairs of nations in the post-war world.

Archbishop McNicholas, speaking from Station WCKY on an international radio hook-up of the Columbia Broadcasting System, delivered the final address in a series of six broadcasts on successive Wednesdays between Great Britain

and the United States and arranged by the CBS in collaboration with the British Broadcasting Company.

Archbishop McNicholas, discussing "What Sort of Inter-Church Cooperation Can There Be in the British Empire and the United States in Planning for a Better World in the Post-War Period," outlined five considerations, which, he said, ought to be included in any constructive plan for the future:

First, unanimity among religions in emphasizing belief in "a personal, omniscient, and omnipotent God."

Second, the churches should unite in condemning the "godless philosophy taught in many colleges and universities."

Third, some means must be found to make religious instruction and discipline "a most vital matter" during youth's formative years.

Fourth, religious leaders must agree on a plan of action to combat the forces destroying or weakening the influence of the home.

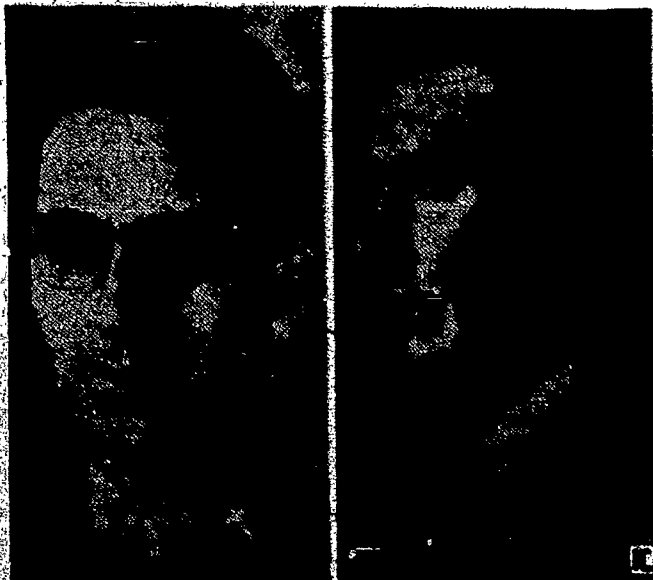
Fifth, the same leaders, "in post-war days should insist on the dignity of every man because of his human personality."

Prominent Speakers

Previous speakers on the international radio series included:

The Most Rev. Thomas L. Williams, Archbishop of Birmingham; the Anglican Archbishop of York, and Dr. Archibald Main, past moderator of the Church of Scotland and Chaplain to the King, who broadcast from London to the United States; and Dr. Luther A. Weigle, President of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America and Dean of Yale University Divinity School, and Dr. David de Sola Pool, representing Orthodox Jewry in the United States, who spoke from this country.

Cited on Luzon Battlefront



Two Catholic Chaplains of the United States Army have distinguished themselves in the fighting on the Luzon battlefront, according to official press reports from the Philippines. Chaplain John E. Dury (right) has been awarded the Purple Heart decoration and Chaplain Matthew E. Serran (left) shared in the citation given the 2nd Cavalry for valor in action there. Official Signal Corps photos. (N.C.W.C.)