

Attack On Mexican Clergy Scotched By Prelate's Statement

By Charles Betico

MEXICO CITY—(N. C.)—The Catholic Church in Mexico is not engaged in politics and Catholic citizens, free to choose their political party, nevertheless "in conformity with our doctrine, must support the international policy of the civil Government so long as it is evident that this policy is neither unjust nor contrary to Catholic conscience.

This statement was made by the Most Rev. Luis M. Martinez, Archbishop of Mexico and Charge d'Affaires of the Papal Delegation, in an interview granted to a reporter for Excelsior.

The interview was occasioned by the accusation of Governor Silvano Barba Gonzalez of Jalisco, made at the Governor's meeting at Mazatlan, Sinaloa, that the clergy in his State is using the pulpit for Axis propaganda.

The charge has caused both indignation and unrest among the people and has also drawn a statement from Minister of Foreign Relations Exequiel Padilla, who says that he has no information to support the Jalisco Governor's allegation and that such an attitude on the part of the clergy "would cause me great surprise because I believe in the true patriotism of Mexican

Catholics, and furthermore, there is not one priest who does not know that the ideology imposed by the Axis powers is found to be in open contradiction with the noble postulates of Christianity."

The investigating committee of the Mexican Senate reports that in the numerous reports received by it daily, there is not one that attributes anti-patriotic or fifth-columnist activity to the Mexican clergy.

On the other hand, the Jalisco Legislature and the local branches of the Mexican Confederation of Workers (C. T. M.), the League of Agrarian and Peasant Syndicates (C.N.C.) and the Federation of Leagues of the People's Sector support the Governor's charge, asserting that "the activities of the National Bureaucrat Union and National Action unquestionably obey the tactics pointed out for them by ecclesiastical authorities."

Text of Archbishop's Statement

The text of Archbishop Martinez' statement, "written with his own hand," and published in full in Excelsior, says:

"As we have declared many times, the firm and sincere attitude of the Catholic Church in Mexico is to refrain from all politics, whether national or international, and to consecrate herself to the fulfillment of her spiritual mission which is above every party and which embraces all Catholics irrespective of their political position; for, as we have also declared, the Church leaves Catholics at liberty when, as citizens, they comply with their duties by becoming affiliated with the political organization which they have chosen because of its worth and responsibility, so long as they keep within the law and the general norms of the Church.

"The one thing that we have had to emphasize within this, strictly Catholic criterion is that, in conformity with our doctrine, Catholics must support the international policy of the civil Government, so long as it is evident that this policy is neither unjust nor contrary to Catholic conscience and because, legally and morally the civil Government is the one to delineate this policy. The word 'evident' is used purposely because, in case of doubt, according to Catholic doctrine, one must be with the Government."

Archbishop Martinez, the reporter said, confined himself to stating the teaching of the Church and refused to make further comments of any sort.

BISHOPS' KIN NEW KING'S COUNSEL IN AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY, Australia. — F. A. Dwyer, nephew of two Bishops and a leading member of the bar in New South Wales, has been created a King's Counsel.

His uncles, now deceased, were the Most Rev. P. V. Dwyer, Bishop of Maitland, New South Wales, and the Most Rev. J. W. Dwyer, Bishop of Wagga, New South Wales.

Give the Red Cross little or much, it makes "all-out" help.

Catholic Students Buy Books For Victims of Secular College Fire

ANTHONY, N. S. — (N. C.)—A new spirit of inter-scholastic friendship was shown by the students of St. Francis Xavier University who have voted to contribute \$100 to buy new books for students of Mount Allison University to replace those lost in a fire at that secular institution at Sackville, N. B.

ENGLISH CARDINAL DEDICATES SERVICE CLUB



His Eminence Arthur Cardinal Hinsley, Archbishop of Westminster, Lady Winifrede Elwes, Colonel, Letitia Fairfield and others attend the opening of the Belgrave Service Club for Women in the British Forces. This club was established by the Catholic Women's League and the American Committee for British Catholic Relief. (N.C.W.C.)

Minor Offenses Bring Death To Poles, Jews Under New Penal Code

The death penalty is provided for a wide range of minor offenses under a new Nazi penal code for Poles and Jews in the invaded eastern territories incorporated into the Reich. It is revealed in the text of the first part of the code, which has been received by the Polish Embassy in Washington.

The decree establishing the new code was published in the official legal register of the Reich on December 18, 1941, and two days later was promulgated from Posen (Poznan) by the Secretary of State in the Reich Ministry of Justice, Dr. Freisler.

The death penalty is expressly permitted by the code for such offenses as making "anti-German statements" and "spiteful and provocative behavior" demonstrating "a mentality hostile to Germany." In addition judges and prosecutors are given great latitude in imposing capital punishment even when the law does not provide for it, in such circumstances as "when the criminal action committed indicates especially base character."

Dr. Freisler was quoted as saying, at the time the decree was promulgated, that it "is effective exclusively for Poles and Jews, whose position in the Pan-German Reich is unique and without precedent—a fact for which the Poles as well as the Jews have only themselves and their own behavior to blame."

American Bishop Declines To Leave Besieged Mission

WASHINGTON. — (N. C.) — Eyewitness accounts of how the Most Rev. Thomas Wade, S.M., Vicar Apostolic of the North Solomon Islands, refused an opportunity of transportation to safety with other residents of Kieta, when a Japanese warship stood outside the undefended harbor are included in reports received here.

One account, reaching here by way of Australia, was that of M. C. Mann, a member of the party of white residents evacuated from Kieta to Port Moresby, Territory of New Guinea, by boat.

Bishop Wade "declined to come with us," Mr. Mann reported. "He said he would don his robes, meet the invaders and ask them to respect his religion. He would not think of leaving the natives and his work, and told us to seek safety."

Refugees reaching Port Moresby are reported to have said Kieta was occupied Jan. 3.

Friars at the Marist College here, where Bishop Wade studied for the priesthood and where the headquarters of the Washington Province of the Society of Mary is located, said the last word they

Americanism and Hispanism are not necessarily contradictory terms. This is one of the points established in an editorial on the Rio Conference published in *Criterio*, widely read Argentine Catholic weekly, and written by its Director, the Rt. Rev. Magr. Gustavo J. Franceschi.

There are some persons, he says, who think that "if we wish to remain faithful to what were the origins of the Ibero-American nations, we must abhor what is non-Spanish." The editor "thanks God that we can be politically and socially Americans—and even Pan Americans—without repudiating the heritage that has given us our distinctive character as an ethnic group."

Monsignor Franceschi plans to visit the United States soon after Easter. His plan was made known earlier this month following a conference with Norman Armour, United States Ambassador to Argentina. Ill health caused postponement of an earlier visit.

Monsignor Franceschi makes it clear that he does not intend to dwell upon the political, militant or temporal aspects of the Rio de Janeiro Conference; but "a movement that incorporates more than 200,000,000 people and has been in existence for decades," he says, is not an instinctive movement and is, to the contrary, "in response to an idea that may be called political—not in the current sense—but in the loftiest meaning of the word."

Neutrality of Church
First, Monsignor Franceschi con-

Quintuplets Urge Canada Children To Aid War Loan

MONTREAL (N. C.)—The Dionne Quintuplets, from their home at Callander, Ont., have sent an appeal to their young compatriots of Quebec to do all in their power to make Canada's new Victory Loan a success.

The Quintuplets have made a substantial investment in the new loan through their guardians.

He drives home the point that "the Church is neutral in relation to the divers forms of government" and not to "principles of world organization such as Racism and Communism," as has been so "forcefully expounded" in the Encyclicals of Pius XI, Mt. Brennender Sorge and Divini Redemptoris.

Monsignor Franceschi discusses Henri Bergson's "timely consideration" of the two types of civil society: the open which recognizes a necessary and natural bond with like societies and, consequently, a law that is superior to all; and the

closed which affirms a superiority and, for that reason, takes into account only its own convenience. "And as Bergson has pointed out, Monsignor Franceschi says, "the former is moral and the second represents absolute egoism, that is to say, total immorality."

"It is only in the Christian sphere," the editorial continues, "that an idea could be born according to which the rights of a nation with respect to another nation are limited because, above racial, juridical and established frontiers, there exists a great brotherhood for whom the point of union is God. Nothing can measure the immensity of the consequences that followed when one day a Christian said to a man of another race what had never been said before: My brother. The simple phrase 'Our Father, Who art in Heaven' has done more for the human race and has saved more blood than all the international conferences held during the course of centuries. . . . From this Christian conception of intra- and inter-social relations arose the type of open collectivity which submits to a superior law and recognizes its duties with respect to other human groups. This gave birth to an international morality, preparatory to the law of gentes. This is in reality, to use the term of St. Augustine, the City of God, contrary to the pagan."

Two Meanings of "Pagan"

"I repeat," Monsignor Franceschi says, "just as the closed group is substantially pagan, the open is essentially Christian." The term "pagan" has two meanings, he adds, and when the Popes use it in relation to the internal organization of a State and that State's attitude toward what it considers inferior peoples; or, when the Popes stress racial equality and the universal brotherhood of nations, and when they speak of the "resurrection of paganism," they are not talking about "resemblance but identity, not of a copy but rather of consubstantiality."

Mission Exhibit

Marseille. — The Missionary Exposition held here last September was such a marked success that the committee in charge of the Marseille Fair has asked the Most Rev. Jean Delay, Bishop of Marseille, to prepare for another. This year's exposition, Bishop Delay says, will be arranged according to an entirely new plan.

Italian Fascism—'Pagan' Avers Cardinal Hinsley

LONDON. — (N. C.) — Italian Fascism is "brutally pagan" and is fundamentally incompatible with Catholic teaching, His Eminence Arthur Cardinal Hinsley, Archbishop of Westminster, says in reviewing, in the *Westminster Cathedral Chronicle*, Professor Binchy's book "Church and State in Fascist Italy."

The Cardinal writes:

"The author confesses that Fascism, both in its theory and its practice, has always been abhorrent to him and he has never been tempted to gaze on prosperous tyrants with a dazzled eye. With his account of the Fascist brand of absolutism I am in full agree-

ment, because his estimate of its fundamental incompatibility with Catholic teaching has been made dear by Pope Pius XI.

"There are good elements in Fascism, such as the cult of the manly virtues, the preaching of simplicity, self-denial, loyalty, purity; these are superficially akin to Christian virtues, but it would be sheer mental dishonesty to use them as a proof that Fascism as a whole conforms to Catholic teaching."

"How could the Vatican ever come to terms with such a system so brutally pagan?" asks the Cardinal, and he answers the question by saying: "The Vatican has not done so, as Prof. Binchy shows."