

Reports Dutch Catholics Firmly Resisting Nazis

NEW YORK (N. C.)—German forces occupying Holland are finding it increasingly difficult to make Dutch Catholics conform to their ideas, Dr. Piet Kasteel, newly-appointed Governor of the Dutch West Indies

Unity of Thought Among Catholics In World Crisis Cited

SAN SALVADOR (INC) "In the midst of the chaos now reigning in the world, the admirable unity of thought among Catholics, whatever their nationality, stands out," a recent editorial in *Criterio* notes.

It stands out particularly, the Catholic weekly of El Salvador adds, when confronting "the errors and aberrations that seek to dominate the world; for example, the attitude of the Bishops throughout the world with respect to Nazism and Fascism rising above any political tendency considering the matter from a purely doctrinal viewpoint, the Pope and the German, English, North American, Spanish and all other Bishops condemn it."

The contribution of the Catholic Press to unity of thought among Catholics generally, is exemplified on the front page of this same edition of *Criterio* which carries a story from London on opposition to a unified primary school system to the exclusion of all others; another via Canada, on the Holy See's intervention in behalf of British prisoners in Japan; and a third from neighboring Costa Rica, endorsement by the Costa Rican Bishops of the reform of the Constitution. These stories all credit *Noticias Catolicas*, Spanish-language release of the N.C.W.C. News Service.

Bishop Appointed To Polish Council

LONDON—The Most Rev. Karol Radonski, Bishop of Wloclawek, has arrived in London from Jerusalem, it is revealed by the Polish Catholic Press Agency, KAP. Bishop Radonski has been appointed a member of the Polish National Council by the Polish Government here. In view of Bishop Radonski's departure for Russia, Bishop Radonski will exercise spiritual care over both the Polish Army and the Polish civilian community in Great Britain.

Communism To Fall, Predicts Priest Writing Of Trip Through Russia

MARYKNOLL, N. Y.—The people of Russia are still a prayerful Christian people despite decades of propaganda but if their present Government breaks its recent pledges their Christianity can be revived and liberated in the years to come only by apostolic sacrifice, according to an article to appear in the August issue of *The Field Afar*, national organ of the Maryknoll Fathers.

Entitled "Yet Russia Prays," the article is by a Maryknoll missionary, at present stationed at the community's motherhouse here, who recently returned from the mission fields of the Far East by way of Russia, remaining in that country for some time to make personal observations. Preferring to remain anonymous, he writes under the nom de plume of "The Rev. Paul Etchingham."

The missionary predicts the fall of Communism, which he says the Russian people have not genuinely accepted in the not too distant future.

"Nazism is Communism stripped of its Messianic promises," he asserts. "When the Russians resisted it, with heroic intensity, they were recognizing, at last, the great enemy of Russia—the Communist-Nazi idea, which seeks the destruction of spiritual civilization."

Will Destroy Both

"The atheistic Communists played their last great card when they became the allies of the Nazis

in 1939. That was natural both were apostates and atheists. The present war will destroy both, whichever army may win, the Russia of tomorrow cannot be a Russia ruled by atheists."

Already thousands are returning to pray in the disused churches and cathedrals. The constitutional clause of freedom of religion has been forced into some realistic meaning. In Kuzbyshev, last Christmas night, the candles burned and they were not lit by atheists.

"For most of the mature Russians, atheism remains in the silly diagrams of mathematical economics. But the youth of Russia have been brought up to despise the Cross. Tomorrow the atheistic Communists will unquestionably strive to interpret the hoped-for victory as a vindication of atheism rather than the victory of the valiant Russians, people and leaders. At all costs, even of life, we must protect the Russians from this falsehood."

The writer blames the decline of the Russian Orthodox church, and the corruption of its priests as personified by Rasputin, for the people's initial support of the attack on religion but holds that the people's traditional faith and the customs of that faith remained in their daily lives.

Speaking of the easy conversion, at least temporary, to Communist doctrines, the missionary states,

There is still Catholic work being done in London's shelters although last winter's blitz is now only an unpleasant memory, and no bombs have fallen on London for months. In the biggest shelters where one thousand flocked underground to safety, people come only in their hundreds. But for these hundreds among whom are many Catholics, opportunities must be provided for prayer for wholesome amusement, for Catholic reading and films. This is the work of the Catholic Shelter Committee and of the parish priests of London, which continues all the time, blitz or no blitz.

During those terrifying months last winter when the blitz on London was at its height, many individual priests and Catholic societies did heroic work in the air-raid shelters. As a rule priests had to be at hospitals, casualty clearing stations, or working with rescue squads, giving the Last Sacraments to those in need of them. Shelters were comparatively safe and therefore their plight less urgent. Nevertheless, several priests found time and opportunity to visit the shelters during raids in order to encourage the people either by public prayers or by chatting to small groups. An outstanding example in this respect was Father Leigh of St. Mary and St. Michael's, Commercial Road, who regularly visited the thirty shelters in his parish.

At the same time the Grail and the Legion of Mary were introducing Catholic films circulating literature, or distributing Rosaries to road-weary persons who spent so many hours of winter darkness with little to distract them from the hideous din outside. These groups were small in number and the scope for their activities was large, but although they could not do all they wished they put in a great deal of devoted work.

The Catholic Shelter Committee cooperated but the main issue of organizing regular Catholic activities and services in London's bigger shelters remained for some time unrealized mainly owing to the fact that the authorities themselves had many other problems which had to take priority.

However, the obstacles were gradually surmounted and at the present time the possibilities of regular Catholic services and film shows in many of the larger London shelters are being rapidly developed.

A fortnightly service is held by the parish priest at the largest shelter of all. In this shelter nearly 1,000 people still congregate every night and here 10,000 nightly sought refuge during raids. Besides this service two Sisters of Mercy gather Catholics together every Friday evening.

In one or two of the City Tube stations a small group of layfolk and a priest provide a service. It is not always easy to find a suitable place for the gathering or to sing or preach above the din of clanging trains, but some odd corner can usually be found and the squeaky strains of a violin help to support the hymns.

At Liverpool Street however, the unused extension of the underground provides not only a very large shelter accommodation but also a recreation hall with a platform and a piano where the service can be held in comfort.

WITH U. S. TROOPS IN NEW CALEDONIA



In this picture, just received from New Caledonia, American troops are shown participating in the Corpus Christi Day procession there. Letters from Father Laurence M. Brock, S. J., of Charlestown, Mass., United States Army chaplain there, testify to the religious fervor of the natives and the troops. Passed by censors (M.C. Anne photo).

Keep Up Catholic Work In Air Raid Shelters

By REV. CONRAD PEPLER, O.P. (of Blackfriars, Oxford)
N. C. W. C. News Service

There is still Catholic work being done in London's shelters although last winter's blitz is now only an unpleasant memory, and no bombs have fallen on London for months. In the biggest shelters where one thousand flocked underground to safety, people come only in their hundreds. But for these hundreds among whom are many Catholics, opportunities must be provided for prayer for wholesome amusement, for Catholic reading and films. This is the work of the Catholic Shelter Committee and of the parish priests of London, which continues all the time, blitz or no blitz.

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Exaggerated Reports Of Conditions In Eire Scored By Bishop

DUBLIN—A warning against the making of exaggerated statements concerning conditions in the country was issued recently by the Most Rev. Michael Browne, Bishop of Galway, speaking at St. Mary's College there on "Prize Day."

His Excellency said a foreign journalist, writing about conditions in Ireland, had asserted that people in the West were starving. We all know how ludicrously false that is, said the Bishop. But the statement showed that we must be on our guard and not play the enemy's game by exaggerating our difficulties. On the contrary we should give thanks to God for His great blessing for the last year of peace and beg of Him to give us a good harvest and preserve us in peace.

"From our history he continued, and from the history of the great Greek and Roman peoples we could learn much, but above all we can learn the lesson of unity. We are passing through a crisis now as great as ever occurred in the history of the world. We are living through some of the decisive battles of the world. Yet many people seemed to be unaware of it and think they should not be put to the slightest inconvenience."

In times like these Bishop Browne concluded the people should recall the lesson of history that the safety of a nation from its enemies depends first of all on unity and discipline. They should not forget that they have enemies who will be very quick to avail of their difficulties and disensions and who already appear anxious to give the impression that the people here are in difficulties and divided, he said.

Catholic Sanatorium Seized By Nazi Troops

LONDON—A tuberculosis sanatorium in Holland, named for Monsignor Mutsaersoord, which was the property of the Catholic trade union of railway workers, has been seized by the Nazi invaders and converted into quarters for German airmen, according to information received here.

More than a hundred of the patients it was stated, were left unattended until provision could be made to transfer them to a nearby home, and all of the furnishings were either sold publicly or used to equip a new home for Nazi youths.

Finland Envoy

Vatican City—George Achates Gripenberg, Finland's first Minister to the Holy See, arrived in Rome Thursday evening. Arrangements are being made for his early presentation of credentials.