

Vatican's Strict Neutrality In Present World War Analyzed

ZURICH (NC) — Enormous problems and difficulties facing the Holy See with regard to the maintenance of its neutrality in a war-divided world and of keeping this position comprehensible to all nations and peoples are analyzed in an important article which has ap-

peared in the newspaper Die Tat, here.

Entitled "Vatican Policy in the Second World War," the article points out how the difficulties that neutral nations must overcome in preserving their status are greater in extent and more complicated in the case of the Vatican.

The article says in part: "In a war involving almost the entire globe if the other neutral States do not find it easy to maintain their position, or even to make it comprehensible to both conflicting parties, it is still more difficult for the Holy See to convince the world of its complete non-partnership."

"In the years 1914-18, because of this neutral stand the Papacy was accused by one side as being flagrantly pro-German, and by the other as being in league with the sworn enemies of the German people. Impartial historians have long since acknowledged that the noble-hearted Benedict XV foresaw the future more clearly than all the contemporary statesmen, and that had his counsel been heeded, Ver-

sailles and its consequences would have been spared."

Has Not Moved Today too the Holy See has not swerved from the path which her tradition and the genuine interests of mankind in general and of Catholics in particular point out.

"The neutrality of the Pope differs fundamentally from the attitude of all the other nations of the world, with the exception of Switzerland. It is not the result of any transitory circumstance; it is unchangeable and essentially an attribute of the Supreme Head of Christendom. The Vatican cannot take sides in a conflict between the Powers. It lacks the possibility of defending itself and its neutrality with material weapons. Hence this neutrality will be even more severe than that of the Swiss Confederation, for 'Switzerland' can, may and must defend itself, if attacked."

"However, neither the neutrality of the Vatican nor that of Switzerland means that they renounce

the liberty of taking a moral stand in the face of events and of the declarations of the belligerents as far as individual citizens or the press are concerned. And yet such liberty will be limited wisely at that this fundamental right will be used sparingly or not at all, when insistence upon it might cause harm to higher interests."

"Thus the organ of the Curia, L'Osservatore Romano, directed by Count della Torre for more than two years has carried no commentary on the events of the war. But anyone who really desires to know the mind of the Holy See in regard to current events will find matter in abundance in the Vatican newspaper in articles that form indirect sources."

"Based on our findings on these carefully thought out published reports of the Curial acts, and no other reliable information, we come to the following conclusion in regard to the policy of the Holy See in this second World War."

"The supreme principle obviously is the preservation of the religious freedom of the Church, her Hierarchy and her members and of their profession of faith."

"In the positive sense, that means any existing obstacles must be reduced or removed, and the moral force of Christian principles must be strengthened and broadened. Negatively, it means that the Vatican strives to prevent a worsening of the present situation and especially to combat the spread of anti-Christian ideas. From this double aim, it is clear that many decisions of the Pope have been falsely interpreted by those who take them out of the universal picture or examine them under a purely worldly light. Partisan To No Government"

"The Church, through her authoritative spokesmen has been at pains to avoid taking a stand for or against any particular form of government. She is partisan to neither democracy nor dictatorship; is neither monarchist nor republican, although she permits her members, from the simplest layman to a Cardinal full freedom to favor one or another regime."

"The Curia has not come out for the so-called European 'New Order,' nor has it joined a crusade against fascist powers. If the Vatican at times protests against certain things that happen in the Axis countries, that does not mean that it wishes to combat these States as such. If she rejects, in her unswerving constancy a whole list of the principal teachings of Bolshevism, that does not mean that she takes a position against the Soviet Union, looked upon as a belligerent in this war. If today she enters into diplomatic relations with Japan and Finland and tomorrow with China, she is neither approving nor disapproving the Greater Asia policy of Nippon, the Three Power Pact or the Battle of Free Nations."

"The sole motive of all these steps is solicitude for the Church and the faithful. One may add also the wish, common to all sections of Catholics, that at the proper moment, thanks to contact with all parties, the Church may be in a position to work for peace and for the reconciliation of nations."

"Inflexible embodiment of fixed principles, the Curia is nevertheless sufficiently realistic in its policy to adapt itself to actualities as far as the defense of religious freedom would seem to demand. Today Japan has almost twenty million Catholics under its de facto domination. The Vatican was happy to see M. Harada enter the bronze doors as Imperial Minister. Marshall Chiang-kai-shek shows admirable good-will to the more than two million Catholics in the territory he rules, and personally accepts Christian principles. Dr. Chen-Kang-Sie will be welcomed as Minister."

"The German Empire is today the State that exercises authority over more members of the Catholic Church than any other power—about 110 millions including the occupied territories of East and West. The Church consequently seeks to induce the rulers of the Third Reich to grant religious freedom to all Catholics, and tries to intervene when a great variety of reasons have threatened conflict between Church and the civil authority. The Vatican is so unbiased, that no impassable prejudices separate it even from the

2 Priests, 2 Nuns Reported Slain In Solomon Islands

By George Barnard

LONDON (NC) — Official sources here affirm that Japanese killed the four Catholic missionaries—two priests and two nuns—whose death by bayonetting at Tasimbok, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, was reported earlier.

It is also reported now that a fifth missionary—Kater Edmee—was slain.

Both priests and the three nuns belonged to the Marist mission at Ruavatu. Missionary officials here have no independent information regarding the deaths, and official sources have no further details than the above, and the fact that the priests were Father Henry Engberink, a native of Utrecht, Holland, and Father Arthur Duhamel, a native of the United States, and that the nuns are believed to have been French. All were bayoneted in the throat.

MELBOURNE (NC) Bishop John Aerts, Vicar Apostolic of Dutch New Guinea, and seven other Catholic missionaries in the Kai Islands, in the Arafura Sea, north of Australia, have been put to death by the Japanese, according to word reaching here through the Netherlands Indies Information Service.

The report asserts to be based upon eye-witness accounts of Japanese activities on July 13. It says the Bishop, Missionaries and others were brought together in a fe-



Rev. Arthur Duhamel, S.M., of Lawrence, Mass. (top photo) and the mission station at Ruavatu, Guadalcanal, where it is reported that he and three other missionaries, including two nuns, were slain by Japanese invading forces. Father Duhamel, a Marist priest, was ordained in Washington in 1937, and has been in the South Solomon Vicariate since 1939. (N.C.W.C. Photo)

stricted area and shot down. The killings were said to have taken place at Langgoor. The Bishop was reported to have ordered that the Mission launch be destroyed before the Japanese occupied the island, and it was thought that this may have led to his being killed. It was also said other missionaries in that area had been removed elsewhere on the island.

WASHINGTON (NC) The four Marist Missionaries whose death on Guadalcanal at the hands of Japanese invaders has been reported from London elected to remain at their station an extremely difficult mission post despite the dangers of war. It was pointed out at the Marist College at the Catholic University of America here.

They elected to remain with

Italian Cardinal Rebukes Officials Preaching Hate

VATICAN CITY (NC-Radio) Public affirmations by responsible persons that it is necessary to hate one's enemies has caused His Eminence Giovanni Battista Cardinal Nardini-Rocca, Archbishop of Bologna, to point out that fraternity among all men is a fundamental principle of Christianity which does not cease to hold true in time of war.

His Eminence calls attention to his fact in an article just published in L'Avvenire d'Italia of Bo-

their flock, it was said, and they have paid the high price of their heroic fidelity to God and to duty. By this supreme sacrifice they have carried on the great Catholic and Christian tradition of the true missionary zeal and devotedness."

Father Arthur Duhamel, S.M., the American priest reported slain was born at Lawrence, Mass., Oct. 19, 1906 and went out to the South Pacific Missions in 1930. The Rev. Henry Oude Engberink, S.M., also reported slain was Father Duhamel's immediate superior. He was a native of the Netherlands. The two priests were known to have been stationed at Ruavatu Guadalcanal when the Japanese began their invasion of the Solomon Islands and the mission station is believed here to have been the scene of the tragedy.

Father Duhamel had written to Marists here that his mission has the least number of conversions, was the hardest to work in the whole Vicariate, and that "our only hope is the bush for other missions flourish in the more settled parts."

BEDFORD, Mass. The Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary, whose motherhouse is at the Convent of St. Therese of Lisieux, here have identified as Sister Sylvia of France and Sister Odilia of Italy, the two nuns who are reported to have been slain by the Japanese at a mission station in Guadalcanal Island. The Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary are strictly a missionary community for the South Sea Islands.

Cardinal Leme Dead At 60 In Rio Janerio Was Noble Patriot

RIO DE JANEIRO His Eminence Sebastiao Cardinal Leme de Silveira (Intra, Archbishop of Rio de Janeiro, died Saturday at the age of 60 after a series of heart attacks.

The sudden death of the noted Prince of the Church has been felt here as a great blow to Brazil, as His Eminence was a national figure and a distinguished patriot, greatly respected and loved throughout his native land.

The Brazilian Government in honor of the Catholic dignity who has contributed so much to the welfare of his country, decreed special funeral honors and his passing has been the cause of mourning by all classes in the nation.

A life spent as a zealous and devoted priest and prelate was summed up by His Eminence in



Cardinal Leme da Silveira, Archbishop of Rio de Janeiro

his last words: "I endeavored to love and serve Our Lord, His Holy Church and souls with all the fervor of my beloved vocation."

Friends of Russia Ignore Religion In Sympathy Plea

WASHINGTON (N.C.) — Those who would promote greater sympathy and wider support for embattled Russia among the people of the United States have done their cause

no great service in completely ignoring religion and freedom of conscience in a prospectus of a "Congress of American Soviet Friendship" to be held in New York City Nov. 7 and 8.

As a means of promoting better understanding between the Soviet and American Peoples, the program announces there will be panel discussions on the following subjects:

- 1. Science Exploration and the War.
- 2. Public Health and Wartime Medicine.
- 3. Women in the War.
- 4. Child Care in Wartime.

In a statement of the aims of the Congress, also silent on the subject of religious freedom, Joseph E. Davies, Honorary Chairman, announces that the Russians are "fighting our fight when they fight Hitler." He tells of the "magnificence of the sacrifices they have made in our common cause." He lauds the Russians for "holding the fort for world democracy." And he repeats the declaration contained in the announcement of the panel discussion subjects that "the purpose of this movement is to promote better understanding and cooperation between our two great peoples."

There are those among Washington observers who promptly ask: "What better way to promote this mutual understanding than through an examination of the attitude of the rulers of Soviet Russia toward that vital one of the four freedoms—freedom of religion?" There are, they remind, millions of Americans who will never understand a religion which

quantity which continues open support of atheistic effort to wipe out belief in God.

No New Cardinals Likely Until War Ends

VATICAN CITY That His Holiness Pope Pius XII will create any new Cardinals before the restoration of peace is improbable, it has been stated in authoritative quarters here.

This statement was prompted by a secular news agency report which asserted that the Holy Father would soon hold a Consistory and that he would name eight new members of the Sacred College, four of them in petto. This report was declared to be unfounded.

The expression "in petto" is Italian and means within the breast or secretly and applies to the creation of a Cardinal, whose name for the time being the Pope does not disclose.

Convent Pupils High In India Tests

KODAIKANAL, India A notable record has been made by the Presentation Convent here, with the preparation of nine candidates for the Cambridge University senior examination, all of whom were declared successful. In addition, 13 out of 15 candidates for the Cambridge Junior examination passed