

# Brazil Police Spike Espionage Charges Against Religious

By Maqs. Joaquim Nabuco

**RIO DE JANEIRO—(N. C.)**—Diligent application by this correspondent has failed to uncover the slightest substantiation for the latest charges of Nazi-espionage leveled against Catholic priests and religious in Brazil in stories printed on the country.

Reports published in the United States I am informed, quoted a Peruvian Senator as charging that a German priest in the town of Florianopolis, Brazil, had been arrested by the police when they found a short wave radio set operating in the cemetery vault of his parish. This even varied from what apparently was the South American version of the same charge. The reports spread in Spanish and were arrested on this charge, and that the radio was in a sarcophagus on the grounds of their convent, and that the sisters even carried flowers with them to divert suspicion when they approached the tomb to operate the radio.

By any event whether it was a priest or men that the police are supposed to have seized the report is untrue. The police have investigated and inform your correspondent that there is no truth to the report. Moreover people in the vicinity know nothing of any such happening.

Another report circulated in English in the United States and in Spanish in Latin America attributes to the same Peruvian Senator the charge that a priest of German origin was arrested when a clandestine radio was found under the high altar of his church, with still another radio in his house at Biguaçu.

This apparently refers to the church of Father Bines at Biguaçu, and here again this correspondent has the authority of the police for the statement that there is no foundation for the charge and after all it is the police who are supposed to have found the clandestine radio. They should know.

## League of Decency To Fight War Immorality In Australia

By R. H. THOMPSON

**BRISBANE, Australia** To meet the dangers confronting the morals of youth in war-time, the Most Rev. James Duhig, Archbishop of Brisbane, has established a League of Decency in his archdiocese.

The scope of the New League's work will embrace anything that endangers the morals of youth. The cinema, the stage literature, the liquor question, home life and the problem of young people frequenting the streets at night in the large garrison towns have been mentioned by the Archbishop as problems that will be dealt with by the League.

The Archbishop's project has met with the general support of the community. Secular papers have commented favorably on it, and leaders of other denominations have offered to cooperate.

In a nation-wide radio broadcast from St. Stephen's Cathedral here, Archbishop Duhig spoke on the liquor question which is causing concern throughout the country. In spite of a cut in production of alcoholic liquors of almost 25 per cent drunkenness and its attendant evils, immorality and venereal disease, are spreading in the cities and larger garrison towns to such an extent that State and Federal governments have decided on drastic restrictive legislation.

The advocates of Prohibition have not lost any opportunity to push their cause, and Archbishop Duhig referred to this campaign in his address. Scouting the efforts to cure effectively moral ills by legislative action, he said:

"Many well-intentioned people believe that if they can induce the Government to pass a law prohibiting the sale of liquor they will stem the rising tide of indulgence in strong drink now so apparent among a section of our youth, and most regretfully, among young girls. While to remove temptation and the occasion of evil-doing is always commendable, I feel that in the matter of strong drink there are so many means of access to indulgence in it, besides the way

Still a third charge, printed in the same publications and attributed to the same source, said a priest in Santa Catalina had been arrested for maintaining a secret radio set. This apparently refers to the State of Santa Catarina of which Florianopolis is the capital city. I have made inquiries and here again I have the assurance of the police who are supposed to have made the arrest that there is no truth to the story.

Stories persist outside Brazil that the great statue of Christ atop Corcovado mountain near the city has been used for flashing signal lights to German submarines. Officials here have flatly denied the possibility of this time and again. The lights on Corcovado mountain have been extinguished since Brazil entered the war.

# All Suffering Due To War Cause Of Constant Concern At Vatican

**VATICAN CITY, (N.C.)**—There is an impression that the Vatican is interesting itself in the controversy currently existing between England and Germany regarding the blacking of prisoners of war.

While no comment is to be had on this report at the Vatican, it should be borne in mind that the question involved in the controversy has to do with the suffering of war prisoners, and that this has always been a deep preoccupation of the Holy See.

Catholics throughout the world will appreciate that activities of the Holy See in these grave times have an effectiveness which is far more vast than is apparent from external manifestations.

This fact is thrown into striking relief by the announcement at the Vatican that the new review Ecclesia will be the official organ of information of the Office of the Papal Secretariate of State. It will contain pictures and photographs illustrating the charitable mission of the Holy See. However, it should be noted that it is impossible to evaluate the full extent of Vatican accomplishments. This is especially true in these times, since the last war showed forcefully that the success of many of the Vatican's initiatives is more or less in reverse proportion to the publicity they receive.

## Avers Holy See Ever Alert Despite Silence

**ZURICH—(N. C.)**—While to some persons, the Holy See refrains from boldly "speaking out its mind" on many grave problems confronting men and nations, the Vatican is always

alert, moving with that "discretion, caution and exceptional combination of tact and consideration" which it has always used in handling questions relating to Church and State and the extraordinary problems that have confronted it in every period of its life.

This is the forceful observation which has been made in *Neue Zürcher Nachrichten*, here, and which has appeared in the *Bader Volksblatt*, and other Swiss newspapers.

The Vatican is not working to further any Axis Policy, and it is not working to further any policy

of the Axis enemies," the article points out.

"Those who are acquainted with the convictions and desires of the Pope and his collaborators know what efforts they make to maintain absolute impartiality," the paper states. "The Holy See approaches each belligerent with the sincere will to judge things objectively and justly. A just judgment, but with the right reserved to call injustice and violence by their proper names, if not publicly to the world, certainly in the councils and communications which pass from the Holy See to the individual governments."

"Communism is one danger, but it is only one especially in Europe, and no one knows that better and appreciates it more than Pius XII," the article adds.

Impressions Given Readers

The Swiss publication expresses the belief that the reserve with which the Vatican acts results in the publication of stories which inevitably give the casual reader the impression that Vatican activity is taken up entirely with superficial and trivial interests, adding that "it is unnecessary to remark that this is by no means the case."

It also gives rise to conjecture among news writers, the paper says, so that one finds the anomalous situation of writers declaring it is difficult to control the source of their information and the papers printing the material under the title of "Vatican news."

The article inquires if some of the reports are printed with the deliberate intention of creating a particular impression. It cites one unsubstantiated report which it says can only leave the impression that the Vatican is working to further Axis policy.

The paper says:

"We have before us the article 'Vaticanism' (Vatican News) of the *Bader Nachrichten* for Aug. 7. If we try to discover what Vatican news this long article has to offer us we find only trivialities or nothing. Serrano Suner has been received at the Vatican with all the honors one can imagine. The Pope had an hour and a half conversation with him, and then granted a long audience to his wife though the Holy Father was ill that day. In Spain theological reviews are again appearing and the generosity of the Spanish government was favorably commented on obviously in the Vatican for making it possible for eminent theologians to publish the results of their priestly research. All this and the like to prove that Spain and the Vatican are again establishing friendly relations. The matter offered to prove the excellent 'herzlichen' relations between Italy and the Vatican is of the same weight in Vatican circles there is great joy felt at the moderate policy that has prevented the State from requisitioning for war purposes all church bells indiscriminately (all of which, by the way are strictly church property) but has left some untouched."

The 400,000,000 Catholics who pay allegiance to the Pope are not gathered together within one, strongly fortified frontier, but are scattered over all countries and States," it is noted. "They are exposed to the least movement of the authority of the state. The Pope has at his disposal no means of political force to protect them."

"Consequently in working for peace today the Holy See must move quietly with the same non-ordinary discretion, caution, and exceptional combination of tact and consideration which it has always used in handling questions relating to Church and State and the extraordinary problems that have confronted it in every period of its life. It cannot needlessly place millions of Catholics, today here, tomorrow there, in a painful situation. Here we have the reason why the Vatican is so silent."

## AMONG THE CATHOLIC HEROES OF DIEPPE



These three Catholic men brought glory to their regiment, Les Fusiliers Mont Royal, during the Allied raid on Dieppe, France. They were photographed on their return to Montreal. Left to right: Regimental Sergeant Major Rosario Levesque, who won the Distinguished Conduct Medal, Lieutenant Colonel Dollard Menard, 29-year-old commanding officer who won the Distinguished Service Order, and Major Joseph Armand Sabourin, Catholic chaplain, cited in despatches for bravery. Canadian Army photo. (N.C.W.)

## SIGNS OF WAR

**JERUSALEM** Add ironies of the war. Above the door of a former German school here is an old inscription, *Lasst die Kindlein zu mir kommen*, the English translation of which is, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me." On the door itself has been added now a new sign reading "No Admittance."

Mistress Be careful how you clean these pictures, Janet. They are all old masters.

Maid Good gracious ma'am, I didn't think sould been married all those times!

of the bar and the hotel lounge, that we are not going to succeed by penalizing the vendor.

What is really needed, he added, is the education of the young in habits of temperance and total abstinence, and that education they should receive by teaching and example first in their own homes and then from Church and school.

Declaring that social reformers mostly attack the effect instead of the cause, the Archbishop said the cause of most trouble with young people is unsatisfactory home environment.

"Home life has deteriorated," he added. "Many parents have no adequate idea of the moral training of their children. Indeed, it often gets an entirely secondary place, and the reason is that the moral training of so many parents themselves was neglected. How can you expect any other condition in a country that has now for 60 years defied secularism in education, that has consistently put the material before the spiritual, and that has worked on the principle that character moulding, which should be the most important part of the child's training, can be attained without a knowledge of God and His Commandments."

## Recalls Russian Nuns' Heroism Under Oppression

**NEW YORK**—Back when Soviet Russia was fighting religion instead of the Nazis, a group of 16 girls, all of them Dominican tertiary, exercised such intellectual and spiritual influence in Russia that Lenin proscribed them. Helen Iswolsky describes this St. Dominic in Russia incident in *The Torch* magazine published by the Dominicans here.

(Miss Iswolsky will lecture on "The Soul of Russia" in the Shri-Gan Culture Series at Aquinas Institute, Rochester, on Sunday, Dec. 6.)

The sixteen Tertiaries were brought together by the Rev. Vladimir Abrukosoff, a priest of the Eastern Rite and his wife. (In the Oriental rite married men may be ordained priests, but priests once ordained are not allowed to marry.) The girls were mostly students and teachers and when Mrs. Abrukosoff entered religious life and, as Mother Catherine became superior of their little community, their aim was to blend Western religious erudition with traditional Russian piety and this they finally succeeded in doing.

In 1923, Father Vladimir was expelled from Russia and a little later Mother Catherine and the 25 members of her community were arrested and convicted as an illegal society. They were dispersed to various concentration camps, some of them being sent to Siberia. After nine years, Mother Catherine was released, she continued in secret her religious activities and was again arrested, dying in solitary confinement at Iaroslavl in 1934.

Other members of the community continued their spiritual work in Siberia, making converts but always at the risk of their lives and under the utmost secrecy. Since the death of Mother Catherine no

news has been received of any of the others.

## Catholic Action Urges Ottawa Night Club Ban

**OTTAWA, Que.** Members of the Ottawa Diocesan Catholic Action at a regional meeting here, urged the provincial government to do away with all night clubs, which were declared to be injurious to public morals and of no use to the public well-being.

The meeting also urged stricter observance of the liquor laws, a reduction in liquor licenses and shorter hours of sale in the government stores.

The danger resulting from women working in factories was also emphasized particularly where it means night work and the government was asked to restrict such work to the absolute minimum and to surround it with safeguards to physical and moral health.

## Brazilian Bishop

Rio de Janeiro The Rev. Joao Baptista Montik, O.S.S.R., has been named Bishop of Barra do Rio Grande in the State of Bahia. The new Bishop is a native of Junco Fora, Minas Gerais, and completed his studies in the Netherlands.

It is appointed unto men once to die and after this the judgment."