

Text of Bishops' Statement on Victory and Peace

(By N.C.W.C. News Service)

Following is the text of the Bishops' Statement on Victory and Peace which was read and adopted at the Annual General Meeting of the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States, held at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. The meeting was attended by 101 members of the Hierarchy. The statement is signed by the name of the Bishops of the United States by the members of the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Our Country has been forced into the most devastating war of all time. This war, which is the burning interest of all the world, is unquestionably the most important moral issue of today. Some nations are united in waging war to bring about a slave world—a world that would deprive man of his divinely conferred dignity, respect human freedom and permit no religious liberty. We are associated with other powers in a deadly conflict against these nations to maintain a free world. This conflict of principles makes compromise impossible.

While war is the last means to which a nation should resort, circumstances arise when it is impossible to avoid it. At times it is the positive duty of a nation to wage war in the defense of life and right. Our country now finds itself in such circumstances.

Even while we meet here, the exigencies of war have driven our armed forces into unexpected areas of conflict in Africa. Our President, in letters addressed to the rulers of all the friendly nations concerned has given solemn assurance that the United States has no designs of permanent conquest or sordid interest. Our aim, he pledged, is to guarantee to countries under temporary occupation as well as to our own the right to live in security and peace. We Bishops are confident that the pledge of our Chief Executive not lightly made faithfully mirrors the mind and conscience of the American people. That pledge is in full harmony with the expression of high purpose which the President made to the Catholic Bishops of the United States when our own country was plunged into war. "We shall win this war and in victory we shall seek not vengeance but the establishment of an international order in which the spirit of Christ shall rule the hearts of men and of nations."

INSPIRE CONFIDENCE

From the moment that our country declared war we have called upon our people to make the sacrifices which in Catholic doctrine the virtues of patriotism, justice and charity impose. In every section of this nation the voices of our Bishops have been heard. Their instructions, their pastorals, their counsels, their appeals for prayers are an encouragement and an inspiration to their flocks. Our priests as chaplains on the war front have inspired confidence in the men whom they so zealously serve. Our men in the armed forces deserve unstinted gratitude for their heroic services to our country and high commendation for the faithful practice of their religion.

In every diocese prayers have been incessantly offered asking God's pardon for the sins of individuals and nations, begging divine mercy for all pleading for a victory which will have the sanction of infinite justice and for an enduring peace founded on the love of God and the love of all men. Priests and people have earnestly prayed that the Holy Spirit may guide our President and all who share with him the heavy responsibilities of directing the war efforts and of winning the victory from which all peoples will derive a just and lasting peace.

In the discharge of our pastoral responsibility, we are gravely concerned about the world peace of tomorrow.

Secularism cannot write a real and lasting peace. Its narrow vision does not encompass the whole man, it cannot evaluate the spirituality of the human soul and the supreme good of all mankind. Exploitation cannot write a real and lasting peace. Where greedy might and selfish expediency are made the substitutes of justice there can be no securely ordered world.

Totalitarianism, whether Nazi, Communist or Fascist, cannot write a real and lasting peace. The State that usurps total powers, by that very fact, becomes a despot to its own people and a menace to the family of nations.

The Spirit of Christianity can write a real and lasting peace in



THEY WILL GUIDE N. C. W. C. For the Coming Year. Following annual meeting of the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States, Nov. 11-13, the new Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference met in its new headquarters building in Washington. Pictured on that occasion left to right, seated are the following Episcopal Chairmen of the N. C. W. C. departments: Bishop John F. Nell, of Ft. Wayne, Lay Organizations; Bishop John A. Duffy, of Buffalo, Youth; Archbishop Joseph F. Rummel, New Orleans, Legal; Archbishop John J. Mitty, San Francisco, Catholic Action Study; Archbishop Samuel A. Stritch, Chicago, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer; Archbishop Edward Mooney, Detroit, Chairman of the

Administrative Board; Bishop John Mark Gannon, Erie, Pres.; Archbishop John T. McNicholas, O.P., Cincinnati, Education; Archbishop Francis J. Spellman, New York, Secretary; Bishop Karl Alter, Toledo, Social Action. Standing, left to right: Bishop John F. O'Hara, C.S.C., Military Delegate, Assistant Episcopal Chairman, Department of Catholic Action Study; Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Ready, re-appointed General Secretary; Bishop Charles Hubert LeBlond, St. Joseph, Assistant Episcopal Chairman, Social Action Department; Bishop Emmet M. Walsh, Charleston, Assistant Episcopal Chairman, Lay Organizations; Very Rev. Msgr. Howard J. Carroll, re-named Assistant General Secretary; Bishop Richard O. Cerow, of Hatches.

justice and charity to all nations, even to those not Christian.

DIGNITY OF MAN

In the epochal revolution through which the world is passing, it is very necessary for us to realize that every man is our brother in Christ. All should be convinced that every man is endowed with the dignity of human personality and that he is entitled by the laws of nature to the things necessary to sustain life in a way conformable to human dignity. In the post-war world, the profit element of industry and commerce must be made subservient to the common good of communities and nations if we are to have a lasting peace with justice and a sense of true brotherhood for all our neighbors. The inequalities of nations and of individuals can never give to governments or to the leaders of industry or commerce a right to be unjust. They cannot if they follow the need principles of morality, maintain or encourage conditions under which men cannot live according to standards befitting human personality.

Unfortunately in our day we must wage a global war to secure peace. War is abnormal and necessarily brings an abnormal conditions in the life of a nation.

During the war crisis free men must surrender many of their liberties. We ask our people to be united and prepared to make every sacrifice which our government deems necessary for a just and enduring peace through the victory of our armed forces. We are confident that they will perform their wartime duties gladly because they know that our country has been the defender not the destroyer of liberties and has in the past always reestablished the full measure of peacetime freedom on the conclusion of hostilities.

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY

Our Government has announced that the war emergency makes it necessary to employ an unprecedented number of women in industry. While we are wholeheartedly cooperating with our Government in the prosecution of the war we must, as shepherds of souls, express our grave concern about the Christian home in our beloved country in these crucial days. When mothers are engaged in industry a serious child-care problem necessarily arises. Every effort must be made to limit as far as necessity permits the employment of mothers in industry, particularly young mothers. Due provision in harmony with American traditions should be made for the day care of the children of working mothers. The health and moral welfare of mothers employed in industry should be thoroughly safeguarded. With a full realization of the role which women must play in winning the war and of the extreme measures that our Government must take, we ask that all try to realize the dangers involved, especially the moral dangers. We urge that there be a wholesome moral atmosphere wherever women are employed.

We know that patriotic mothers are generous in giving their sons to the defense of our country. We express their concern, and ours about youths of eighteen years of

age who are now to be called to the armed forces. We hope that special moral safeguards will shield them, so that they may serve their country without moral blemish.

We express our deepest sympathy to our Brother Bishops in all countries of the world where religion is persecuted, liberty abolished, and the rights of God and of man are violated. Since the murderous assault on Poland, utterly devoid of every semblance of humanity there has been a premeditated and systematic extermination of the people of this nation. The same satanic technique is being applied to many other peoples. We feel a deep sense of revulsion against the cruel indignities heaped upon the Jews in conquered countries and upon defenseless peoples not of our faith. We join with our Brother Bishops in a dignified France in a statement attributed to them. Deeply moved by the mass arrests and maltreatment of Jews we cannot stifle the cry of our conscience. In the name of humanity and Christian principle our voice is raised in favor of inalienable rights of human nature. We raise our voice in protest against despotic tyrants who have lost all sense of humanity by condemning thousands of innocent persons to death in subjugated countries as acts of reprisal, by placing other thousands of innocent victims in concentration camps and by permitting unnumbered persons to die of starvation.

OUR COLORED CITIZENS

The war has brought to the fore conditions that have long been with us. The full benefits of our free institutions and the rights of our minorities must be openly acknowledged and honestly respected. We ask that acknowledgment and respect particularly for our colored fellow citizens. They should enjoy the full measure of economic opportunities and advantages which will enable them to realize their hope and ambition to join with us in preserving and expanding in changed and changing social conditions our national heritage. We fully appreciate their many native gifts and aptitudes, which ennobled and enriched by a true Christian life, will make them a powerful influence in the establishment of a Christian social order.

We recall the words of Pope Pius XII expressing his paternal solicitude for the colored people of our country. In a letter addressed to the American Bishops on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the establishment of the American Hierarchy, His Holiness said: "We confess that we feel a special paternal affection which is certainly inspired of heaven for the Negro people dwelling among you; for in the field of religion and education we know that they need special care and comfort and are very deserving of it. We, therefore, invoke an abundance of heavenly blessing and we pray fruitful success for those whose generous zeal is devoted to their welfare." (Sertum Laetitiae, 1939.)

We send our cordial greetings to our Brother Bishops of Latin America. We have been consoled by recent events which give a sincere promise of a better understanding by our country of the

peoples of Mexico, Central and South America. Citizens of these countries are bound to us by the closest bonds of religion. They are not merely our neighbors. They are our brothers professing the same faith. Every effort made to rob them of their Catholic religion or to ridicule it or to offer them a substitute for it is deeply resented by the people of these countries and by American Catholics. These efforts prove to be a disturbing factor in our international relations. The traditions, the spirit the background, the culture of these countries are Catholic. We Bishops are anxious to foster every worthy movement which will strengthen our amicable relations with the Republics of this continent. We express the hope that the mistakes of the past which were offensive to the dignity of our southern brothers, their culture and their religion will not continue. A strong bond uniting in true friendship all the countries of the Western Hemisphere will exercise a most potent influence on a shattered post-war world.

POPE'S PEACE PLANS

We urge the serious study of the peace plans of Pope Pius XII which insist that justice be inspired by love first, love of God, and then love of every human being. "The command of love among individuals found in the Gospels, said Benedict XV, differs in no respect from that which should reign among states and peoples." (Pacem Dei, Benedict XV, 1920) If we are not to have a Christian peace then we shall be given only armistice and we shall begin to prepare for a third world conflict.

We conclude by urging, again, unceasing prayers, the prayer of all prayers by priests, the Holy

Mass prayers addressed to the Blessed Virgin that she will intercede with her Divine Son for mercy on a war-blighted world. We ask that Tuesday, Dec. 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of our Blessed Mother the Patroness of our Country be set aside as a special day of prayerful supplication. In its observance, the priests and faithful of every diocese will follow the timely instruction of their Bishop. We recommend the recitation of the Rosary in common, both in our churches and in our homes. We trust that the children of our country will in response to the many appeals of our Holy Father, offer their innocent prayers to God for peace. Let us all unite in praying for a victory and for a peace acceptable to God.

Signed by the members of the Administrative Board, N.C.W.C. in the name of the Bishops of the United States:

- EDWARD MOONEY, Archbishop of Detroit.
- JOHN T. MCNICHOLAS, Archbishop of Cincinnati.
- SAMUEL A. STRITCH, Archbishop of Chicago.
- JOHN J. MITTY, Archbishop of San Francisco.
- JOSEPH F. RUMMEL, Archbishop of New Orleans.
- FRANCIS J. SPELLMAN, Archbishop of New York.
- JOHN MARK GANNON, Bishop of Erie.
- JOHN F. NOLL, Bishop of Fort Wayne.
- KARL J. ALTER, Bishop of Toledo.
- JOHN A. DUFFY, Bishop of Buffalo.



HIERARCHY APPOINTMENTS. Most Rev. Edward F. Heban, (left) Bishop of Rockford, Ill., who has been transferred to the Titular See of Lystra and appointed Coadjutor Bishop with right of succession to Archbishop Joseph Schrembs, Bishop of Cleveland, and Rt. Rev. Msgr. Martin J. O'Connor, pastor of St. Joseph's Cathedral and Vicar General of the Diocese of Scranton, who has been appointed Titular Bishop of Theopis and Auxiliary to Bishop William J. Hefey, of Scranton. (N.C.W.C.)