

Reports Soviets Grabbing Relief Sent To Poles

LISBON (NC)—The Soviet Government is conducting a double-barreled campaign to coerce the Government of Poland into recognizing Russian sovereignty over territories of Eastern Poland seized by Russia during the German-Russian invasion in 1939 and 1941, according to information received here from a very reliable source.

By a recent Soviet decree all Poles deported into Russia's hands are to be considered citizens of Russia, and, simultaneously, the Soviets have resorted to the disruption of Polish relief activities and to the confiscation of relief supplies sent to the unfortunate Polish people in Russia from the United States, the information states.

It has been estimated that about 1,000,000 Poles were deported from Poland to remote Provinces of Russia after the Red Army occupied Eastern Poland and the Soviet Government had accepted that part of Poland from the hands of Herr von Ribbentrop, Hitler's Minister for Foreign Affairs. Now the information states, these unfortunate people are to be used as virtual hostages and to serve as a means of pressure on the Polish Government to make it agree to Soviet territorial claims on Poland.

Beatings, Starvation

The information asserts that Soviet officials have used such methods as beatings, starvation, ejection from homes, seizure of food rations and dismissal from work to compel Polish citizens to accept Soviet passports and to declare themselves Russian citizens.

Despite the fact that diplomatic relations between Poland and the Soviet Union are still maintained and that actual negotiations concerning rights of citizenship are continuing, the Soviet Government is evidencing that it intends by such inadmissible methods to force 1,000,000 starving deportees into the Soviet totalitarian system, the information states. This, it is noted, is in violation of Poland's legally established rights to her Eastern boundaries fixed by mutual consent in the Polish-Soviet Treaty signed in Riga on Mar. 25, 1921.

As a direct consequence of the Soviet campaign, the information states, all relief work organized for the Poles in Russia by the American Bishops' Committee, by their Polish-American brethren and by various American Catholic and Jewish groups is being disrupted.

It is stated to be the position of the Soviet Government that, since it does not allow Russian citizens to benefit from foreign relief other than through the Soviet official organization, the Poles, now considered to be "Soviet citizens," may not directly benefit by Polish-American relief. Stores of goods sent from America, consisting of food, clothing and medical supplies and boxes of religious articles from the United States, have been "sovietized," which simply means confiscated, the information states. Polish relief workers appointed by the Polish Embassy are being arrested, it is added.

First War Shipment By U. S. Red Cross Arrives In Ireland

DUBLIN—First consignment of American Red Cross supplies to reach Europe since the United States' entrance into World War II, has been received at Waterford, U. S. Minister to Ireland David Gray and Justice Canon Maguire, president of the Irish Red Cross Society, journeyed from here to Waterford to attend a civic celebration of the occasion.

Mayer F. Gaudin, in an address of appreciation asserted America's gesture was characteristic, "though engaged in the greatest war of her history, she should think of Ireland's needs and should make such a magnificent contribution toward them."

Archbishop Better

BALTIMORE—Removal of bandages for the first time indicated that an eye operation undergone by the Most Rev. Michael J. Curley, Archbishop of Baltimore and of Washington, will prove successful, barring unforeseen conditions and complications, it was announced here.

Catholic Papers Sent To Chaplains By Convent Alumnae

TORONTO—National Alumnae Association of the Canadian Federation of Convent Alumnae, from 1937 until approximately 1941, have sent 500 subscriptions to Catholic magazines and newspapers directly to chaplains of the Canadian Armed Forces for camps, hospitals and reading rooms.

Holy Father Leads His Roman Flock In Lenten Pilgrimage

VATICAN CITY (NC-Radio)—St. Peter's Basilica was the point of assembly for last Sunday's Lenten Station, and His Holiness Pope Pius XII descended from his apartment in the Vatican Palace to lead his Roman flock in the observance of this ancient custom.

The ceremony assumed the aspect of the Lenten Station of centuries ago as the Sovereign Pontiff, carrying the Crucifix, personally led the procession along the pinnacles and potential excruciations and prostrated himself with his flock to venerate the holiest of relics.

Thus the traditional pilgrimage, which in recent times have been mainly a historical symbol of an ancient ceremony, but which in latter years have been assuming much of their former character, reached the height of restoration Sunday when His Holiness, as in other times, personally led the pilgrimage. This is only the second time in recent decades that the Bishop of Rome has participated. The only other recent time was on Passion Sunday in 1933, when Pope Pius XI descended to the Vatican Basilica for a similar ceremony.

Stirring Scene

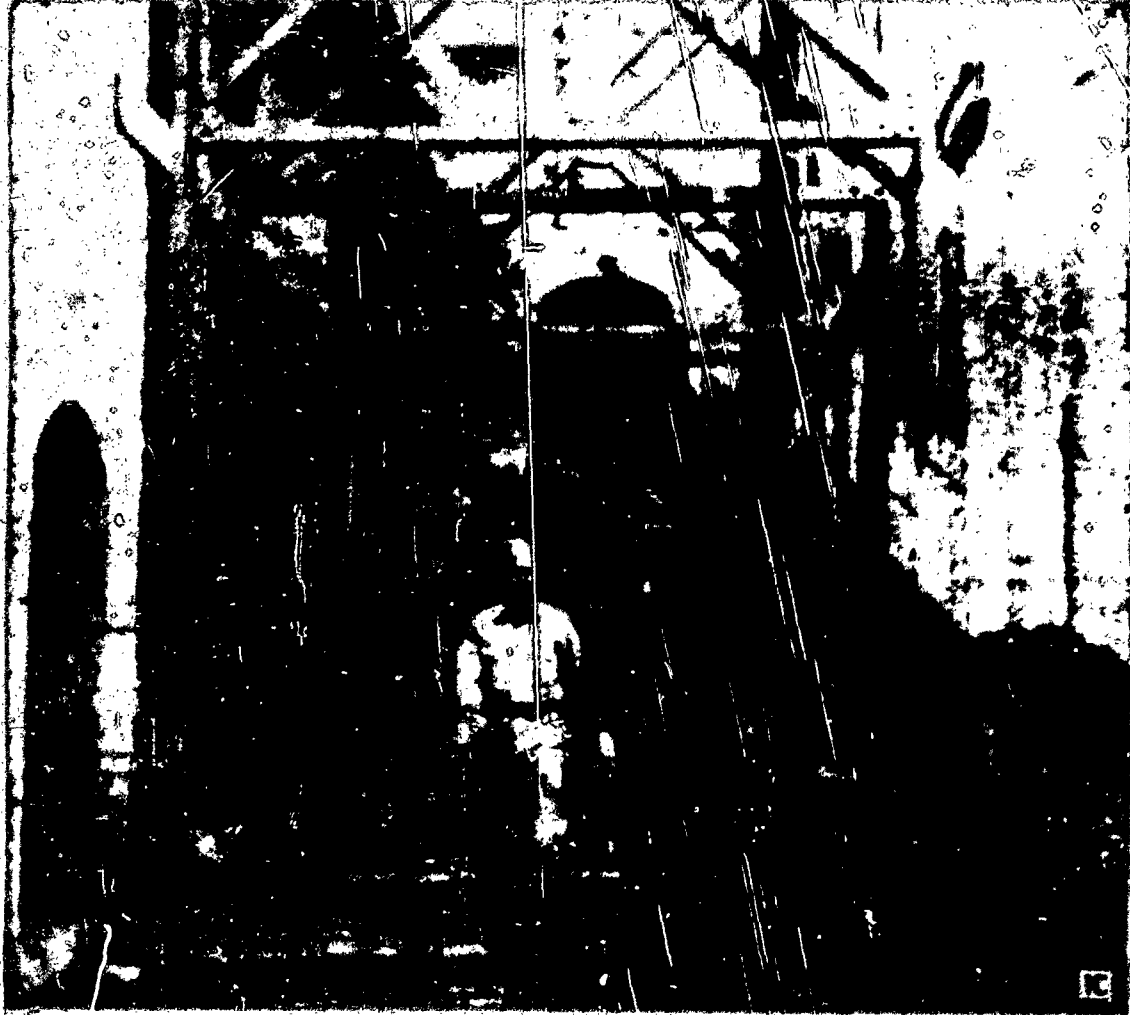
The Vatican Basilica presented a most impressive scene. The edifice was crowded with special sections reserved for priests, Sisters, representatives of Catholic Action and wounded officers and soldiers. The entire nave was occupied by members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the Holy See and by members of the Italian nobility. The Princes of Piedmont was seated in a special elevated place.

Walking in procession, Pope Pius XII was accompanied by Cardinals, Apostolic Nuncios, Archbishops, Bishops and other prelates. Entering the Basilica, His Holiness intoned "The Magnificat," which was taken up by the vast congregation. The procession stopped before the Choir Chapel, where the Sovereign Pontiff knelt in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament while the congregation sang "Adoro Te," "Tantum Ergo" and "Ave Regina Coelorum." Then, as the Litanies were sung, the procession moved slowly to the Confessional Altar, whereon His Holiness placed the Crucifix. As the Litanies continued, the Holy Father knelt before the altar.

Then following the chanting of the "Misereatur" and the recitation of the special Station prayers, the ceremonies were brought to a close with the blessing with the sacred relics—including Veronica's Veil, the spearhead from the lance, and a relic of the True Cross—imported from the balcony overlooking the main altar. As the time for the blessing came, Pope Pius XII turned with the entire congregation and knelt facing the balcony from which the bless was to be given.

had looted the mission, leaving the children and aged to starve. More than half the orphans perished and only five of the old folks survived.

AMERICAN TROOPS VISIT THE HOLY SEPULCHRE



Leaving the Basilica of Holy Sepulchre, the walls of which appear on the reader's right, members of a United States aviation detachment descend a gradually sloping flight of steps under structural girders set up to reinforce the walls of the Basilica.

Japs Slay 3 Priests, Ruin Missions, Reports Vincentian

WASHINGTON (NC)—Bearer of a story of the cruel murders of three priests along with scores of Chinese children and aged by Japanese soldiers and of their vandalism which virtually wrecked a century of mission work in one Province of China, the Rev. Vincent D. Smith, C.M., has just returned to this country after seven years in the Chinese mission fields.

First of the outrages related by Father Smith occurred last June. The missionary estimated that of 20,000 Catholics in the Province at that time, 1,000 had been killed, starved to death or were missing up to the time he left China.

Million Dollar Damage
The Most Rev. Charles Quinn, C.M., Bishop of Yunnan Vicariate, estimated that the damage to the churches, schools, rectories and other mission buildings of the Province would run well in excess of \$1,000,000, Father Smith stated.

Father Smith was with Bishop Quinn at Kiangsi when the first word that a Japanese invasion was imminent arrived last June. Bishop Quinn quickly assembled all monks, orphans and aged at his headquarters—a group of approximately 200, Father Smith said.

It was decided to leave the Rev. Humbert Verdini, C.M., an Italian priest, at the Bishop's headquarters with a group of 20 Chinese orphan girls and 20 aged Chinese. Because of the Axis tie-up of Italy and Japan, Father Smith explained, it was believed the Italian priest would not be harmed. Bishop Quinn led the rest of the party to a village 20 miles distant, there to await word of the Japanese departure from Kiangsi. The party was at the village only a short time when word came the Japanese were headed that way, so the refugees made for a mountain hillside of straw huts and stayed there for weeks, living on rice and vegetables, until word came that the Japanese had left the section. All at Mission Station



REV. VINCENT D. SMITH, of Chicago, who has returned from the Vincentian missions in the Province of Kiangsi, China, with the story of the cruel murders of three priests, many Chinese children and aged by Japanese soldiers who wrecked the missions.

A villager and a priest were dispatched to Kiangsi to learn how Father Verdini had fared. They found the Bishop's house burned to the ground, two schools and other mission buildings in complete ruins. Beside a pond in a garden to the rear of the Bishop's house, they found Father Verdini's hat in the pond and in a nearby lime kiln were the bones of the priest, children and aged—all of whom had perished at the hands of the Japanese.

The next priest to fall victim to Japanese ruthlessness was the Rev. Michael Potrat, C.M., a Frenchman, who was stationed at Yushan. Father Smith said Father Potrat was captured by the invaders in his mission and given such a severe beating that he lost his mind. He died several weeks later as a result.

The other priest murdered by the Japanese was the Rev. Joseph Kwei, a Chinese, who was helping out with the mission work. He was captured in Likatu by two Japanese soldiers, who informed

him they had been sent to kill him. One soldier withdrew several paces and leveled a rifle at Father Kwei. As the priest lowered his head, apparently in prayer, he was decapitated by the other soldier, wielding a huge sword, who had stood immediately to the rear of Father Kwei.

In Fuchow, Father Smith related, two American priests told him virtually their entire mission congregation of 40 orphans and 70 aged had been wiped out. Upon learning the Japanese were headed toward the mission, the priest left sufficient supplies of food for their charges, hoping the children and old folks would be unharmed, and fled to a village 20 miles away. When that village was menaced, they retreated to a more remote village. After two months they returned and learned the Japanese

Italian Cardinal Warns Of Irreligious Movements

NEW YORK (NC)—A statement by His Eminence Ildelfonso Cardinal Schuster, Archbishop of Milan, expressing concern over "organizations which encourage blasphemies, with political movements in the background" and declaring that Italy "must not be seduced by missions against Christ" was broadcast in German by the Vatican Radio. It was monitored by the Federal Communications Commission here.

The Vatican broadcast quoted the Italian Cardinal as stating that all these irreligious movements "derived from one source, which is easily recognized."

"Reports reaching me from various sources have filled me with sorrow, and are causing anxiety about the State," Cardinal Schuster was quoted as saying.

"There is talk of political decorations, and of organizations which encourage blasphemies with

political movements in the background.

"I do not believe partisans of such irreligious tendencies belong to the Archdiocese of Milan," the Cardinal went on. "Presumably they come from other regions. But we warn our beloved sons to be on guard and not allow themselves to be seduced by missions against Christ."

Pope said that Italy "has no need to borrow either her creed or social order from people of other civilizations." Cardinal Schuster concluded:

"The Italian people identify itself with Latin civilization, which, for over 17 centuries, has been welded together by Christianity. It is in this civilization that our entire life must be constructed."