

PIUS XII AS HE IS TODAY



In his picture, just received from the Vatican, His Holiness Pope Pius XII is borne aloft in the grotto in a procession to the Sistine Chapel. (N.C.W.C.)

Papal Words of Cheer For Envoy of China, Counsel For Italian

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

A contrast is noted by students of such matters in this country, in two discourses delivered by His Holiness Pope Pius XII within the space of a few days to the diplomatic representatives of two countries...

The essence of these remarks has just reached this country, they having been given their first publication at the Vatican in recent days. They were spoken on Feb. 25 and Mar. 1, when the Sovereign Pontiff received the new Chinese Minister and the new Italian Ambassador, respectively.

It is noted that while the Holy Father's remarks to the Chinese Minister were strikingly a message of encouragement, his discourse to the Italian Ambassador has the tenor of a counsel.

VATICAN CITY.—(N.C. Radio).—Remarks uttered by His Holiness Pope Pius XII on two notable occasions earlier this year have just been given their first publication with the appearance of the fourth volume of the discourses and radio messages of the Holy Father.

The occasions were, first, the presentation of credentials by Dr. Cleeve Kang Sz on Feb. 25, when he formally became China's first Minister to the Holy See, and, second, the presentation of credentials by Count Ciano, son-in-law of Premier Mussolini, who relinquished the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs to become Italy's Ambassador to the Vatican.

Pope Pius XII, the volume reveals, expressed to the Chinese Minister his wish that his spiritual children of distant China may see in their homeland and in the world the dawn of a just and enduring peace, so that, in the fraternal collaboration of all its citizens in a new and happy China, its people may enjoy in large measure the fruits and benefits of the Christian Faith.

His Holiness concluded his remarks by charging the Minister to convey his cordial greetings to the President and Government of China, as an augury for "a tranquil and peaceful future for the Chinese people so dear to Our Heart."

To Count Ciano, the Italian Ambassador, the volume shows, Pope Pius XII said on the occasion of the presentation of credentials, Mar. 1:

"If a lesson can be learned from the present cruel world conflict, it is undoubtedly the absolute necessity for the peaceful coexistence in nations of those principles and moral values deriving from the eternal truths, in whose light a philosophy that has rejected juridical thinking based on the mor-

al law appears destitute of solid and rational support and unsatisfying; namely, the doctrine of conquest and survival.

"The earth's peoples are explaining now for the past errors of their thinkers and teachers. From theoretical errors and inflated passions behold the birth of today's tragic aberrations and disasters."

Pope Pius told Count Ciano that actual bitterness makes peoples desire a return to the abandoned truths and that this is true also for the Italian people, "whose better and more mature elements" are persuaded that the bond of moral values "in no way detracts from sane and righteous liberty of action."

Term 'Fantastic' Any Peace Plan Given To Archbishop Spellman

VATICAN CITY.—(N. C.).—Vatican circles declared to be unfounded and "fantastic" the report in the Daily Express of London that His Holiness Pope Pius XII, acting in the name of Italy, presented a peace proposal to the Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of New York and Military Vicar of the United States Armed Forces, who recently visited the Vatican.

Various reports reaching the United States have hinted, or said outright, that the Holy Father has presented some peace proposal to Archbishop Spellman. One report had it that this was the nature of a message which it was said His Holiness had sent by airplane, in the care of a Vatican attaché, to Archbishop Spellman in the Near East. One source professed to know that this "plan" was still too vague to be called a peace proposal.

VATICAN CITY.—The speculation of some Swiss observers, especially the correspondent of Journal de Geneve, that the Holy See will soon initiate diplomatic action for peace is not justified by the concrete facts.

Reports reaching this country from Switzerland in recent days

Vatican Radio Spikes Nazi Try At Blaming War On Church

VATICAN CITY (N.C.)—Retorting sharply to the charges made over the Nazi-controlled Paris Radio that the Catholic Church is responsible for starting the present war—ridiculous charges which it denounces as flatly "propaganda"—the Vatican radio station has made public a letter which His Holiness Pope Pius XII recently addressed to the German Hierarchy, comforting them in their afflictions and encouraging them to hope for better times.

Pope Pius XII, in the letter, which was dated October 25, 1941, protested at various efforts made in Germany "to destroy that which the Christian religion has given to the German nation." Publication of the letter at this time is taken to mean that the Vatican is determined not only to refute the Nazi charges, but unwaveringly and publicly to let the world know it is maintaining its protest against Nazi excesses regarding religion, and backing up the German Bishops.

At the same time, additional proof is had here that the Catholic Hierarchy in Germany is steadfast in its implacable opposition to the secularizing influence of Nazi Statism. This comes in the declaration of one of Germany's most distinguished prelates to his people that it is a question now whether Germany will continue to have a place for Christ, or whether everything will be geared to the temporal and the material.

KINA reports that the Most Rev. Joseph Frings, Archbishop of Cologne, consecrating his See to the Blessed Virgin Mary, recalled past episodes in the veneration of the Blessed Mother and asserted that rarely has a consecration taken place in such calamitous times. The Archbishop compared the terrific air attacks on cities in his archdiocese to the devastation wrought by the Norman invasion. At Critical Stage

"Great is the exterior misery that is oppressing us," Archbishop Frings said, "because there is no family that does not suffer from the death of a dear person, such as a husband, father or son. But it is not only an exterior misery that oppresses us; it remains to be seen whether Cologne will preserve its ancient pride in being a Catholic city; whether our country will continue to be a place for Christ, or whether all German spiritual life will be constructed on a purely temporal basis; whether or not our youth will be educated in the Faith of Christ."

A broadcast over the Paris Radio on May 23 said that from the beginning Germany's aspiration was union of all people of the same blood and race; that the Vatican waged a bitter campaign against Racism, and that these attacks continued despite all efforts on the part of the Nazi Government. This same broadcast added that because of the Vatican's fight against Racism, Goering was obliged to take measures to repress the "political activity of the clergy, and therefore, war was declared by the Vatican."

The Vatican radio on Wednesday stated the Church's attitude toward National Socialism as expressed in the Papal Encyclical Mit Brennender Sorge. It pointed out that factually and historically the charge made over the Paris Radio was unfounded.

What Everybody Knows

"All know the facts today," the speaker said. "They know how, objectively and actually, the present situation of the Church in Germany came about. Further response is unnecessary to the charges of the Paris Radio, which are explainable only as propaganda."

"One thing is most certain. The Vatican did not declare this war, nor did the Catholic Church in Germany provoke the situation in which it finds itself. Everybody knows this."

Feels He Need No Longer Blush At Being Catholic

MEXICO CITY—Eusebio Cristobal, an Indian from Oaxaca attending the National Action Convention here, said that a few years ago in Mexico one was supposed to "blush" at being a Catholic, but now "it can be admitted publicly and a real profession of Faith made."

Germans Fail To Keep Promises, Lithuanian Bishops Point Out

LONDON—Best evident of the present relations between the Church and the German authorities in Lithuania is revealed in a summary of a memorandum handed to the Communist-General in Kaunas by the Lithuanian Catholic Bishops on Oct. 13, 1941.

Rise In Anti-Clerical Propaganda, Declared Menacing In France

VATICAN CITY.—(N. C.).—News from France indicates a possible rise in anti-clerical propaganda in that country.

One manifestation of this phenomenon is a criticism which Assolimat has leveled against statements by His Eminence Achille Cardinal Lienart, Bishop of Lille, and His Eminence Emmanuel Celestine Cardinal Suhard, Archbishop of Paris. The publication accuses the Princes of the Church of obstructing the Government program.

The attitude of the Cardinals, the Assolimat attack says, "gives the real nature of the advance made by clericalism in two years by encouraging the passions of the masses and leaning on the clique still in power at Vichy."

Cardinal Lienart told a meeting of diocesan youth in Lille on March 21 that remarks he had made regarding forced labor imposed upon Frenchmen by the Nazi occupation had been twisted and put to propaganda purposes. It was reported in the press that the Cardinal had exhorted French youth courageously to accept forced labor under the Nazis. His Eminence told the Lille meeting that he protested, "with all possible force against the use that has been made of my words by the press, knowing full well that I could not have my denial published."

Gift Aids Hospital Patients Hearing Religious Services

WINDSOR, Ont.—The Dean Wagner Assembly, Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, has presented an altar to the East Windsor Hospital, which is operated by the East Windsor Health Association, and a public address system which permits patients in the various wards to hear the service if they are unable to be present.

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It is stated in the document that the Bishops in their annual conference had discussed questions concerning the situation of Catholics in Lithuania and decided to inform Dr. von Reichen of their opinion on the present conditions and to ask him to cancel all measures that put restraint on religious freedom and the education of Lithuanian youth.

Their claims were summarized in seven points, highlights of which are:

1.—Regarding the Church's property. With nearly the whole of the Church's property nationalized, the Bishops pointed out that German authorities had several times declared their intention to restore property rights in Lithuania in the near future. Stressing the Church's stand on property they declared that Catholics cannot recognize an expropriation as legal. The Bishops compared the situation of property rights under the Bolshevik and present regimes. They explained that the Lithuanian people condemned Bolshevikism and its consequences, among them all confiscation of private property.

2.—Lithuanian workers deported to work in Germany industry in the Reich. The Bishops observed that most of the workers were Catholic. Promised when urged to go to Germany to have the religious care of Lithuanian priests, the workers found that these promises were broken. The Communist-General was asked to take necessary steps to keep the Germans to their promise.

3.—Dealing with the German order to enlist the graduates of Lithuanian higher schools for labor service abroad. The Bishops pointed out that these would be without any care from their parents and without religious and moral support. The moral status of young girls in labor service in Germany was cited. The Lithuanian people and all Bishops were certain that the young men and girls would do their labor service to the best purpose in their own country.

4.—Obstacles placed by the Germans in the way of theological education in Lithuania were attacked. Pointed out was that during 1941-1942 academic year the normal studies at the Theological Faculty had been disturbed. Cited was the Concordat and Lithuanian law for preservation of Catholic education.

5.—Activity of religious circles in Lithuanian schools. The Bishops emphasized that scientific circles were being permitted in Lithuanian schools while religious circles were forbidden. This, parents and all Catholics, regarded as unequal treatment of the school circles and as persecution of religious convictions.

6.—Catholic press difficulties. While luxury papers were permitted, the Bishops pointed out that not a single paper could be published for the Catholic population.

7.—General religious freedom and freedom of action to the Church in its special sphere. Even without a Concordat the Bishops declared for the right to establish Catholic organizations, so necessary for religious action.

The Bishops' memorandum expressed the hope that the Communist-General would take necessary measures to solve all the above mentioned questions in the near future.

Fire In Seminary

Quebec, Que.—Firemen from eight stations were called to the Petit Seminaire, one of Quebec's historic institutions, when a small fire was discovered in a stairway. The fire was quickly extinguished with little damage.