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On Guard!

(Continued from Page 1)

Last Sunday 15,000 factory workers, in a moment of grave national crisis, travelled to Rome to listen to the Holy Father. This remarkable tribute to the Supreme Pontiff strongly suggests that a confused nation is turning once again, as it has done so many times in the past, to the Pope in a desperate plea for Christian leadership.

The most lavish praise of the United States ever published in Soviet Russia marked last week the first anniversary of the American-Soviet agreement of June 11, 1942. According to very substantial press reports, the Soviets emphasized "collaboration," "cooperation," and "understanding" between themselves and the United States, but they were eloquently silent about any reference to the Four Freedoms, especially the Freedom of Religion.

Soviet Russia is now claiming to be a protagonist of liberty. An elaborately printed and fully illustrated volume is being distributed to important visitors to establish the delusion that religion in Russia once more enjoys freedom. All Soviet pretensions to the contrary, the cold hard fact is this: Russia still maintains the fake article of religious liberty in its constitution. The declared constitutional right of religion in Russia, as found in the notorious Article 124, which the Stalin government refused to change, grants "liberty of confession and worship," but expressly omits freedom of propaganda—such freedom being still reserved for the champions of atheism and anti-religious convictions. This means that in Russia you can worship as you wish (if you can find a church open) but you can not preach, or teach, or write about religion. Even today propaganda in the constitutional privileges of the League of the Goddess!

When Wendle Wilkie was in Moscow, Mr. Stalin said to him: "Mr. Wilkie, we are a democratic country." To this and all other hypocritical gestures of Stalin in the name of liberty and democracy, we repeat the rawdy rejoinder of Ex-Governor Al Smith: "Allow it anyway you like but it's still be-lony!"

The WAACs are under the fire of verbal criticism. A week ago religious leaders, including the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Michael J. Ready, head of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, after visiting the training centers of the Woman's Army Auxiliary Training Corps at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, and Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, issued a joint statement reassuring parents concerned about the moral and spiritual welfare of their daughters.

On the basis of this reassurance came a bombshell. The same day that Mrs. Roosevelt in her White House press conference flatly denied all reports of sexual promiscuity among the WAACs serving in North Africa, John O'Donnell, Washington correspondent for the Daily News of New York, made this shocking report:

"Contraceptives and prophylactic equipment will be furnished to members of the WAACs, according to a super secret agreement reached by the War Department and the WAAC chieftain, Mrs. Oveeta Culp-Hobby."

The War Department followed O'Donnell's allegations with a vigorous denial and branded the charges as Nazi propaganda. Let us hope, at least, that this is not another case of "where there is smoke there is fire."

The CATHOLIC NEWS of New York promptly reacted to the alleged super secret agreement in these words:

"It is impossible for us to believe that responsible officials of this nation which maintains that it is fighting for Christian civilization could countenance, much less sanction or issue, any such order. It and its implications would be an insult to the Women's Auxiliary Training Corps and the heroes from which they came, an insult which their parents and families would resent deeply and bitterly."

Grace of Matrimony

"In order that the grace of this sacrament may produce its full fruit, there is need . . . of the cooperation of the married parties; which consists in their striving to fulfill their duties to the best of their ability and with unwearied effort." Encyclical on Christian Marriage (N.C.W.C., Washington, D. C.)

U. S. AID FOR AFRICAN ORPHANS



More than a thousand dollars was collected by American soldiers and sailors in a large town in North Africa recently to aid the orphans who were bombed out of their convent home, pictured in the background. Corporal Sherman W. Cooke, of Forest Hills, N. Y., and Sailor John T. Wogton, of Brooklyn, are shown presenting the money to two of the orphans and their chaplain, a Father Cassone, U. S. Army Signal Corps photo. (N.C.W.C.)

Commons Told Britain Has Made No Promise Not To Bomb Rome

LONDON (NC)—Britain has made no promise not to bomb Rome, it was stated in the House of Commons by Under Secretary for Air Capt. Balfour when he was questioned on this much debated point which came to life again with the acceleration of the air attack on continental Europe.

Dedication Of USO Club In Geneva Set

(Continued from Page 1)

Community Service; Captain Harry A. Badt, Commandant of the Sampson Naval Training Station; Lt. Col. A. D. Elliott, Post Commandant, Seneca Ordnance Depot and representative of the Federal Works Administration, Federal Security Agency and USO.

The Geneva USO Club is a joint occupancy, operated by the National Catholic Community Service. The co-operating agencies are the Young Men's Christian Association and the Jewish Welfare Board. The Travelers Aid Association provided personal services for the servicemen.

The building was renovated by the Federal Works Administration and the Federal Security Agency, and will be jointly dedicated by the Federal Security Agency, the Geneva War Recreation Committee and the USO.

The public is cordially invited to attend the dedication ceremonies. After the dedication the evening will be completed with a dedication ball which will be attended by men from the Naval Station and the Ordnance Depot. Music will be provided by the Sampson Naval Training Orchestra.

The Geneva USO opened temporary quarters in the basement of the Masonic Temple on Oct. 5 of last year and has operated daily since then. Attendance has steadily increased at the Club during the last eight months rising from about 5,000 in October to over 35,000 for May, the first month in the new building.

Monday, last, saw over 14,000 servicemen and civilians checked in at the front door and it is estimated by Anthony F. Williamson of the National Catholic Community Service, Club Director, that over 100,000 servicemen and civilians will have attended the Geneva USO by the day of the dedication.

The National Catholic Community Service committee in Geneva is comprised of representatives of every Catholic organization in the city. The Catholic groups contribute valuable assistance to the Club's success by providing hostesses, transportation, home hospitality, volunteer typing, snack bar assistance, cookies for distribution, etc., as do other religious, fraternal and civic organizations.

Captain Balfour said: "No assurance or agreement exists of any kind whatever that Rome shall not be bombed. On the contrary, as stated in the House on previous occasions we shall not hesitate to bomb Rome if the course of the war should render such action convenient or helpful."

It is recalled here that after Italy had entered the war the Holy See made known the Holy Father's wishes that Rome might be spared from bombing because of its sacred character. France gave a promise not to bomb the Eternal City but Great Britain could not go further than to promise that Vatican City itself would not be attacked. It was added that no promise could be made about Rome because Britain's action would have to depend upon Italy's conduct.

Oppose Parrot Cry
Catholic feeling here concerning the bombing of Rome has been soured and solidified largely by the fact that anti-Catholics have made a party point of the parrot cry "Bomb Rome!" Long before there appeared to be any special need to attack the Italian capital with bombs, the "Bomb Rome!" cry arose with such insistence in so many quarters that had previously showed unanimity on political matters that a common inspiration seemed evident.

The Catholic Press here has never opposed the idea of bombing Rome if it should be clear that such an action was a military necessity; but quite naturally it has opposed the "Bomb Rome!" cry when it appears evident that what it really meant is "Bomb the Pope!"

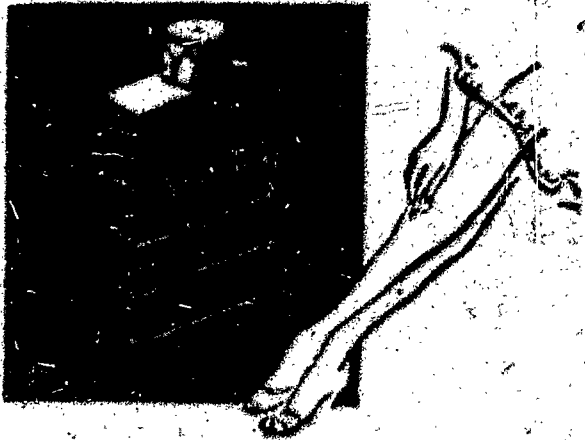
Most thoughtful people here see that the bombing of Rome would be fraught with the very great danger that a bomb might, by inadvertence, fall on Vatican City's neutral territory, and it is realized that in such an unfortunate case the sympathy of Catholics in many parts of the world would be lost to Britain.

Some months ago it was suggested that the Italian propaganda machine would "plant" a bomb over Vatican City border if British planes should drop bombs in the vicinity.

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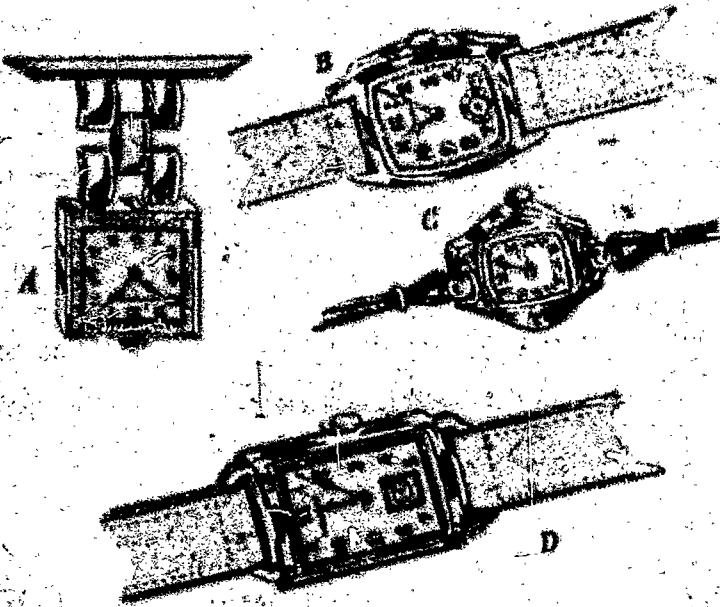
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