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On Guard!

(Continued from Page 1)
 last Sunday 15,000 factory work-
 ers, in a moment of grave na-
 tional crisis, travelled to Rome
 to listen to the Holy Father.
 This remarkable tribute to the
 Supreme Pontiff strongly sug-
 gests 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 Amer-
 ican-Soviet agreement of June 11,
 1942. According to very substan-
 tial press reports, the Soviets em-
 phasized "collaboration," "coopera-
 tion," and "understanding" be-
 tween 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 illus-
 trated volume is being distributed
 to important visitors to establish
 the delusion that religion in Rus-
 sia once more enjoys freedom. All
 Soviet pretensions to the con-
 trary, the cold hard fact is this:
 Russia still maintains the fake ar-
 ticle of religious liberty in its con-
 stitution. The declared constitu-
 tional right of religion in Russia,
 as found in the notorious Article
 124, which the Stalin government
 refuses to change, grants "liberty
 of confession and worship," but
 expressly omits freedom of propa-
 ganda—such freedom being still
 reserved for the champions of
 atheism and anti-religious convic-
 tions. 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 democra-
 cy, we repeat the rawdy rejoinder
 of Ex-Governor Al Smith: "Allow it
 anyway you like but it's still be-
 layney!"

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 Wel-
 fare 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 con-
 cerned about the moral and spir-
 itual 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 de-
 nied all reports of sexual promiscu-
 ity 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 prophylac-
 tic 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.
 Ovesta Culp-Hobby."

The War Department followed
 O'Donnell's allegations with a vig-
 orous 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 al-
 leged super secret agreement in
 these words:

"It is impossible for us to be-
 lieve that responsible officials of
 this nation which maintains that
 it is fighting for Christian civil-
 ization could countenance, much
 less sanction or issue, any such
 order. It and its implications
 would be an insult to the Wes-
 ern's Auxiliary Training Corps
 and the heroes from which they
 came, an insult which their par-
 ents 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 co-
 operation 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 back-ground. Corporal Sherman W. Cooke, of Forest Hills, N. Y., and Sailor John T. Wagon, 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 Hampson Naval Training Station; Lt. Col. A. D. Elliott, Post Command-
 er, 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 dedica-
 tion ball which will be attended by men from the Naval Station and the Ordnance Depot. Music will be provided by the Hampson 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 3,000 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 hospital-
 ity, 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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