

Nazi Enmity Toward Clergy Rises Says European Press

Rising opposition against the Catholic clergy, and Christianity in general, by the Nazi parties in the occupied countries was noted today in European press dispatches reported to the Office of War Information.

European Catholicism Combats Every Form Of Materialism

VATICAN (NC)—Strong and openly avowed purpose of Catholics on all sides to resist materialistic and neo-pagan tendencies is one of the outstanding facts of the present situation in Europe.

This is brought home in an impressive fashion by the consideration of only a few of the many pieces of evidence that are at hand.

The recent address of His Eminence Justin Cardinal Szebi, O.S.B., before the Juridical Academy of Hungary, which had important repercussions in the Italian press and in neutral countries like Switzerland, is a case in point. The courageous words of the Cardinal were directed in defense of those being unjustly persecuted in the name of ideologies which not only are anti-Christian, but which also have been shown scientifically to be unproved and untenable.

Even more significant was the pastoral of Bishop Von Preysing of Berlin, published on December 12, 1942, and containing an indirect but nonetheless undeniably clear condemnation of the methods adopted by National Socialism in the occupied territories. The Bishop of Berlin declared that no innocent person can be punished for the quality and thereby condemned the policy of shooting hostages. In his enumeration of the rights of individuals our attention is immediately riveted on the lot of the unfortunate Polish people and the outrages perpetrated on them.

Injustice to Nations

The Bishop states: "The fundamental rights bestowed upon mankind so that life, its freedom in personal preference, its contract marriage, rights which are independent of governmental grant—cannot be taken away from persons merely because we do not have the same blood or speak the same language. . . . We must understand clearly that the denial or the violation of the rights of our fellows is an injustice to other nations and to our own nation."

One remarks in the words of Bishop Von Preysing evidence of great courage for the tenor of his discourse runs in direct contradiction to the views expressed in German authoritative circles.

In France anti-clericalism has frequently taken on the dress of totalitarian and neo-pagan doctrines. A former Minister of State, Marcel Deat, calls upon the Church to conform to what he terms "the European revolution." But he likewise immediately met with Catholic reaction and opposition, even though this, by the force of circumstances now existing in France, could not be as open as it would have been otherwise.

His Eminence Emmanuel Celestino, Cardinal Suhard, Archbishop of Paris, returning recently to France after conferring with the Holy Father, declared in a pastoral letter to his flock that His Holiness was particularly concerned about the social question. The Cardinal added: "It is necessary that the study of the labor problem be undertaken and that this problem be presented fairly, that it, in its relation with the teaching of the Church, with the times in which we are living, and with relation to our national institutions. Once clearly stated, we must dedicate ourselves to the solution of this problem."

Echoed in Romania
This aroused social consciousness of Catholics has its echo in the words of Bishops throughout Europe, Germany and Italy as well as in the countries of Europe. . . . The force of these authoritative voices are but reaffirming the value of the Supreme Pastor whose Christmas Messages following upon his first Ecclesiastical Year with his concern that Catholics everywhere enter into a vigorous study of this

The most outspoken criticism appeared in Sturm, publication of the Dutch Nazi Party, which attacked the Catholic clergy in the Netherlands as the "prime instigator" of the general strike last May in protest against the German measure ordering the return of Dutch soldiers to the status of war prisoners.

The Nazi publication said the strikers were "mostly sheep of the Roman Catholic Church, who invited our people until they stood opposite German firing squads."

The article concluded with the demand that the "guilty" clergy receive "one punishment: a bullet."

The sat assertion that Christianity and Nazism are totally irreconcilable appeared in an editorial of the Norwegian Nazi periodical *Nasjonalist*, which said:

"We Nazis reject Christianity because we reject Judaism, and have acknowledged that both are inextricable allies. As a consequence, both are capable of doing anything against us."

In France, a fresh wave of opposition to the clergy was reported by the Swedish newspaper *Svenska Dagbladet*, which said the difference between the Catholic Church and the Vichy Government were more and more acute "and recent signs hint at a coming crisis."

The Swedish dispatch said the Nazi-controlled Paris newspaper, *Le Peuple*, had published a sharp attack on the attitude of the Church toward the mobilization of Frenchmen for labor in Germany.

The Paris paper was said to have aimed its criticism especially at the Archbishops of Lille, Lyon, and Toulouse. It declared that although Cardinal Lénart of Lille had protested against the German mobilization order, he said not a word against the Allied mobilization in North Africa.

India Food Scarce, 2 Catholic Schools Serve Free Meals

KARACHI, India (NC)—Despite a widespread food shortage, two Catholic schools here, have been providing free meals for poor and deserving students. The schools are St. Patrick's and St. John Vianney. Charitable projects of the St. Elizabeth Association enabled the schools to continue the meals when the food scarcity became acute.

Argentine's Leader Swears Before God To Fulfill Duty

BUENOS AIRES (NC)—"I swear to God and to the Fatherland that I shall fulfill faithfully the charge of President of the Provisional Government, which I have assumed

in solidarity with the Armed Forces of the Nation." These words pronounced in the most solemn way, were voiced at the ceremony during which, in presence of a great throng historic "Plaza del Mayo," General Pedro P. Ramirez and the high officers of the Army and Navy who entered his Government, took the oath of office to God and to the Fatherland upon the Holy Gospel in the traditional way followed by the Presidents of Argentina.

Present at the ceremony, which took place in the White Room of the Government Palace, was His Eminence Santiago Luis Cardinal Copello, Archbishop of Buenos Aires and Primate of Argentina as well as the members of the Supreme Court of Justice and numerous high ranking officers of the Armed Forces.

When he took the oath, General Ramirez read the following words: "Before the people of the Republic, source of all sovereignty, I take this solemn oath: 'I swear to God and to the Fatherland that I shall fulfill faithfully the charge of President of the Provisional Government



POPE GREETS DEAN. As recent ceremony in Vatican, His Holiness Pope Pius XII greets the Dean of the Sacred College of Cardinals, His Eminence Gaetano Guiseppe Pignatelli di Belmonte, Primate of the Congregation of Cremonense. The Cardinal is 77 years old.

'Peter's Pence' Finances War Prisoner Aid

Bringing incalculable joy to parents throughout the World, the Vatican Information Bureau is maintained under the personal direction of His Holiness, Pope Pius XII for the transmission of information about prisoners of war.

Operating this world-wide activity incurs expenses that mount as the war progresses. As each new batch of prisoners is taken by armies in the world struggle, the parents of those boys become concerned for their welfare and the Vatican Information Bureau begins to operate.

Financing this work alone is a tremendous burden on the Holy Father. His Holiness has to rely upon the generosity of the faithful, especially in those United States where they are permitted the freedom of religion and are, many, enjoying unusual prosperity as a result of war work.

His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, is appealing to his flock to be generous in the "Peter's Pence Collection" which is the annual donation to the work of the Holy Father.

The work of transmitting information about war prisoners is but one of the manifold duties incumbent upon the Head of all Christendom. Demands are made on the Supreme Pontiff for charitable works, in cases of disaster in various countries, such as the food shortage in Greece, and the innumerable works of the Universal Church.

Long before Community Chests were in operation, the Supreme Pontiff was acting as a clearing-house for financial difficulties throughout the world. The more money sent to the Vatican, the greater amount of good results.

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My dear People:

May I make my annual appeal for the support of our Holy Father in the Peter's Pence Collection? The support of our Supreme Shepherd is, of course, the responsibility of his children, a responsibility which the faithful of Rochester have willingly assumed and for which we have received most gracious appreciation and blessing from His Holiness.

We can readily understand the pitiful appeals for assistance which must come to him from all over the world. It will certainly make his burden a little more tolerable if we can increase our offering this year, and try to make up for the loss of any support from so many other countries reduced to poverty and want by war.

The Vatican has been most solicitous in trying to establish contact with our boys held prisoners in Italy and every week brings a new supply of encouraging messages for some families in the diocese. This service under the direct care of His Holiness has brought a ray of hope into many a darkened home. For this and other efforts on behalf of stricken humanity, our gratitude can find most sincere expression in a generous offering in the Peter's Pence Collection. This collection will be taken up on July 4.

Devotedly your Shepherd in Christ,

Francis J. Spellman
BISHOP OF ROCHESTER

Archbishop Spellman Learns Missions Go Forward Despite War

NEW YORK (NC)—A great Mission activity that is being pursued assiduously despite the war is being viewed first hand by the Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of

New York and Military Vicar of the United States Armed Forces. It was announced here by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. McDonnell, National Director of the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Monsignor McDonnell made public a telegram he had just received from Archbishop Spellman, a message that reviews the latter's visitation in the last two weeks. The message says:

"In the last fortnight, I have visited Missions in Ethiopia, Sudan, including Khartoum, and the Malakal regions. I was the guest in Uganda of Bishop Edward Michael, Vicar Apostolic of Uganda, and of Bishop John Resnick, Vicar Apostolic of the Upper Nile, visiting Missions, seminaries, schools, and hospitals, and administering the Sacrament of Confirmation. Masses were offered in the Cathedral and in the Chapel of the Uganda Martyrs. I saw the Americans, Father Goulet and Sister Angela. I regret that uncontrollable circumstances prevented a visit to the American Brothers."

"As Chairman of the Episcopal Committee of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, this visit of Archbishop Spellman to the interior of Africa has a particular significance," Monsignor McDonnell said.

"Passing from the northern section of that Continent, where Catholicity flourished so gloriously during the early days of the Church, His Excellency is now in the heart of the district which cradled the rebirth of the Faith on the Dark Continent. From Uganda came the 22 illustrious Martyrs, who mingled their blood with that of the countless missionaries to insure the growth of the Church. How fruitful was the sacrifice of these native youths who gave up their lives rather than renounce their Faith may be judged by the phenomenal growth of Catholicism in Africa. In the very section through which Archbishop Spellman is passing may be found the largest ciborium in the world, for it is not uncommon to distribute 10,000 Communion during First Friday Masses.

"As the cablegram states, Archbishop Spellman is viewing firsthand the great Mission activity which is being pursued so assiduously despite the war. True, the

rank of the missionaries have been depleted, because many of the priests are acting as chaplains for the armed forces, but the great work of conversion continues, and it is this fact which is of special interest to His Excellency."

Archbishop's Africa Itinerary Given

CAIRO—The Itinerary of the Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of New York and Military Vicar of the United States Armed Forces, has included Asmara, Addis Ababa, Khartoum, Uganda, Nairobi, Mombasa and Tanganyika since leaving Cairo. It is revealed in word reaching here.

It is expected that the Archbishop will next visit Madagascar, Mozambique and Johannesburg, followed by Durban, Pretoria, Capetown, Elizabethville, Leopoldville and Lagos on the African Gold Coast.

Welcoming Committee Formed In Chungking

CHUNGKING, China (NC)—A committee for the reception of the Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of New York and Military Vicar of the United States Armed Forces, has just been formed here under the direction of Bishop Louis Gabriel Jantzen, Vicar Apostolic of Chungking. Archbishop Spellman, who is making a visitation of Catholic chaplains on duty with American troops at various places, is expected to arrive in China's capital shortly.

Francis Yeh, member of the Legislative Yuan, has been appointed Chairman.

Other members of the committee include: Father Thaddeus Yang, a Chinese Benedictine; Father Kang, editor of "The Sun", the influential Catholic daily paper of Chungking; Father Leo Ferrary, American Franciscan; and a Catholic army officer stationed here, Major Grimm. The Rev. Mark Tennison, Maryknoll procurator in Chungking, is the member in charge of relations with the press.