'Moscow—The Second Munich?' Asks Monsignor Fulton Sheen

The greatest danger to the world is not Bolshevism but what might aptly be called Communazism, according to the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen who presents an analysis of Russian relations in the November issue of THE SIGN, national Catholic magazine published by the Paulist Fathers.

Reminding his readers that he predicted two years in advance the 1939 coalition of Germany and Russia against Poland, Monsignor Sheen also warns that Anglo-American appeasement of Moscow's ambitions in the Baltics will result in a second Munich.

Attempting to look ahead, The Sign writer predicts that Germany and Russia may once again unite as they did in 1939.

He writes:

"This war which is now going on between Germany and Russia is an interlude between "peaces" as the Armistice of 1918 was an interlude between wars. Unless the British and American forces invade the Balkans which Stalin does not want, or unless the British and American forces get to Berlin first, or unless there is some great 'act of God,' it would be realistic to expect that Germany and Russia will once more sign a treaty of peace and embrace in a kiss of death to Europe and the world."

Monsignor Sheen explains his prediction as follows:

"(1) There is no essential difference between the ideology of Nazism and Communism or even Fascism for that matter. All three agree that a collectivity is superior to the person. They differ superficially inasmuch as Nazism says the collectivity is the race, Communism says it is the class, and Fascism says it is the nation. It is only war propaganda and loose thinking which has made us lose hold of their fundamental identities. Nazism and Communism by their nature are anti-God, anti-human, and anti-democratic. Since birds of a feather flock together, be not surprised if Ribbentrop once again flies to Moscow to be greeted by Stalin as he was the first time with the words: 'Our friendship deeper than blood. And so it is: Nazism and Communism are one under their shirts.

"(2) This ideological unity is borne out by the three-fold classification of prisoners Russia is making on its battlefront: (a) Communists, (b) Nazis, and (c) Catholics and Democrats. The German Communists are treated as Russia's own. The Nazis are told they are wicked not because they are Nazis, but because Hitler betrayed them. It is Hitler who is wrong, not Nazism. The Catholics and the Democrats are of course beyond Communist redemption. Liquidation alone is their lot, by which they will be delivered over to that other and only merciful redemption of the Lord God, King of Kings."

Pope Pius XII Lauds 'Spirit of Notre Dame' on Centenary

In a congratulatory letter to Notre Dame University on the occasion of its centennary observance, Pope Pius XII acclaims the "Spirit of Notre Dame" and describes it as that "very real and wholesome spiritual atmosphere which hovers over your campus and which is spread to the corners of the earth by your alumni, whose training has prepared them to serve as edifying examples of the virility and real value of truly Christian education."

The letter from the Holy Father to the University of Notre Dame was read as a special feature of the 100th commencement of the University held last Friday, October 29.

Notre Dame was one of the stops made by the present Pope when he visited this country as Cardinal Pacelli in 1936 and the visit has remained close to his heart.

Launching the commencement day exercises was the baccalaureate Mass celebrated in Sacred Heart Church by Most Rev. John F. Noll, D.D., LL.D., Bishop of Fort Wayne. Most Rev. William P. O'Connor, D.D., Ph.D., Bishop of Superior, Wis., delivered the baccalaureate sermon. The flag presented to the University by the Class of 1944 was blessed at the Mass.

Following the awarding of 215 bachelor degrees, one doctor of philosophy degree and forty master degrees, Hon. Harry F. Kelly, governor of Michigan, alumnus of Notre Dame of the Class of 1917, veteran of World War I, former president of the Notre Dame alumno association, delivered the Commencement address. Also awarded at the exercises were honorary doctorate of laws to Bishop O'Connor, Governor Kelly, and Leo T. Crowley, United States foreign economic administrator.

MASS AT RESORT HOTEL, NOW ARMY HOSPITAL

Wounded soldiers, recently returned from the battle fronts, hear Mass in the parlor of the fashionable Greenbrier Hotel, in White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., former mountain resort converted by the Army into the Ashford General Hospital. Chaplain William J. Brennan, Brooklyn priest, celebrates the Mass. INP photo. (N.C.W.C.)

Anglican Archbishop Finds No Religious Propaganda In Russia

LONDON, (NC) That there is no freedom of religious propaganda in Russia and that godless societies are still in existence, although there appears at present to be a definite trend toward religious toleration, are among observations contained in a statement issued here by the Anglican Archbishop of York, Dr. Cyril Foster Garbett, through the British Ministry of Information, following his recent return from Moscow.

Dr. Garbett discusses the religious situation in Russia as affected by the war and by the recent action of Premier Stalin in approving of the election of a Patriarch for the Orthodox Church and the summoning of a council of Orthodox bishops.

He expresses the opinion that this latter action was motivated by recognition that "religion is inherent in the majority of the Russian people."

Answering the question whether there has been a revival of religion in Russia, Dr. Garbett observes that all through the most difficult times large numbers kept their faith and that "the terrible losses and sufferings of the war have brought again into the open what was always latent, the deep religious strain in the Russian national character."

"There are still large numbers of churches used for secular purposes," he continues, "but I was told that the number of those used for worship gradually increases. There is no freedom of religious propaganda, as we have in this country, but there is Russia all [illegible] by the [illegible]

Unmerited, Says Bishop Kelley Of Tributes In His Jubilee Magazine

OKLAHOMA CITY (NC)—"I don't deserve it; I don't deserve it," repeated the Most Rev. Francis C. Kelley, Bishop of Oklahoma City and Tulsa, as he paged through the Golden Jubilee supplement prepared by The Southwest Courier, official diocesan paper, in honor of his 50 years in the priesthood.

The first copy was handed to Bishop Kelley just a year after he was stricken with his present illness. During this time he has remained quietly in his room, save for an occasional walk on the lawn in the rear of his home.

"Why was all this done for me?" Bishop Kelley asked.

A photographer who called at his home found him sitting in his favorite chair, a smile playing about his lips that betokened his pleasure. Later he took up his pen and jotted down his impressions of the tributes of Bishops and numerous other friends, and the articles and pictures on various aspects of his career.

'The Man I Know'

Referring to the photograph taken of him and published in The Southwest Courier, he wrote:

"The man shown above is getting an insight into the life of a person whom he should know better than anyone else in the world. He is puzzled, suspicious and dubious, but enjoying the jubilee edition as if every word of it were true. Profoundly he wishes that it were true and more profoundly he wishes that the Recording Angel will believe every word of it. But to the man shown above it reads like a jail sentence in Purgatory—which is not nearly as far off as it used to be. He is going to follow the reading of the supplement by preparing a brief of his case for the particular judgment, urging counsel for the defense of letting this edition go to press.

"The people who wrote the grand and wonderful compositions printed in the jubilee supplement wanted to do a good deed. But the man they wrote about did not [illegible] them. Perhaps they wanted to cheer him up. Well, he was cheered, all right, but at the same time he was guilty of vanity. For [illegible]

"Now I am growing weary, so I must put down this pen. I leave this sorely undeserved. I am deeply grateful to all my too human friends who have flattered me. Please pray for me. Remind the Master that down in the Southwest He has a tired servant who wants to be sure that, at the time He wills it, he will meet Him face to face."

NEWSPAPERS LAUNCH DRIVE TO DEFEND MORALS

MANAGUA, (NC) —Following the decision of the censorship authorities here prohibiting the showing of an immoral film, the principal Nicaraguan publications have decided to initiate a campaign in defense of Christian morals. Only one paper took the side of the banned film on the ground that it would serve to "educate the public." This contention was refuted by Dr. Luis Manuel Debayle, General Director of Health.

Cathedral of Munster, Bishop's Home Hit, German Radio Reports

LONDON. — Munster Cathedral and the Bishop's residence there were hit by bombs when U. S. Fortresses and Thunder-bolts made a big new attack on the city (Oct. 10), according to a German radio transmission heard here.

The Germans said the raid "resulted in considerable damage to churches, historical buildings and monuments," but the cathedral and the Bishop's residence are the only places named as being hit by bombs. It was stated that one of the towers of the cathedral had collapsed.

"Military Maps" point the way to second reading — "On Editorial Features" page.

Ohio Priest Gets 'Ohio Scrap' Via Jap Bombs

CHUNGKING — Japanese bombs have finally caught up with Father Russell Sprinkle. The most-bombed Maryknoll missioner in the Orient is in Memorial Hospital at Wuchow, slowly recovering from serious injuries suffered the other day when he was buried alive in the ruins of Maryknoll Mission chapel in Wuchow.

Father Sprinkle is an awesome figure to natives of his South China neighborhood, and something of a legend. He has survived an incredible number of Japanese air raids in South China, where, with some 150 other Maryknoll Missioners, he still serves the unending swarms of refugees spiritually as well as with food and medicine.

Ironically, the first bomb that shook Father Sprinkle off his feet almost seven years ago, was, in a manner of speaking, a gift from home. After the raiders left on that occasion, the priest picked up a shrapnel fragment and was startled to see on it the rusty legend, "Cleveland, Ohio." The fragment was a bit of American scrap.

Father Sprinkle is a native of Ohio.

Many Narrow Escapes

Last Spring a flight of twenty-eight Nipponese bombers pounded Maryknoll's city mission in Wuchow, supplementing the high explosive with incendiaries. In this raid, one bomb blast actually ripped the priest's Chinese jacket from his back. The bomb smashed a nearby building to brick dust, powdered Father Sprinkle with dust, but otherwise did not hurt him.

The other day a swarm of Japanese bombers smashed at Wuchow again, and again the Maryknoll Mission was hit. This time Father Sprinkle was buried alive in the ruins of the chapel and fellow priests were certain he must be dead. In fierce tropical heat Father Peter Reilly of Boston and Father Lynch of Pittsfield, Mass., dug at the brick until their fingers were raw and bleeding.

The rescue took more than two hours. Two heavy ceiling beams pinned Father Sprinkle's chest and hips, but after his head and chest, battered and discolored, had been exposed, he received last rites calmly from Father Reilly.

When, at last, the beams pressure was released, the priests tenderly lifted Father Sprinkle and through streets littered with Chinese dead, bore him to the Memorial Hospital. Dr. Wallace, the American physician in charge, examined Father Sprinkle. Firmly he nodded to the brick-powdered missioner. "Close call," he told them. "But he ought to be back on the job in a few months."

H. G. Wells Gets Bid From Catholic Editor To Learn About Church

LONDON.— (NC) —In a lively exchange of letters between H. G. Wells and the editor of the Catholic Herald, weekly newspaper published here, the editor invites the noted novelist to lunch to hear something of the Catholic Church which, it is claimed, he attacks without understanding.

"An hour's conversation with Father Martin D'Arcy or Father Heenan would give you a totally different idea about us," the Catholic editor says. "Or if you don't get over your tendency to laugh at priests, I would be only too glad to do what I could over lunch one day. Is it a date?"

The discussion started with the Catholic Herald's review of Wells' new book entitled "Crux Ansata: an Indictment of the Roman Catholic Church."

Some idea of its purpose and contents may be gathered from the fact that its first chapter deals with the subject "Why do we not bomb Rome?"

The Catholic Herald called it, among other things, "an angry book."

H. G. Wells now writes: "So far from being an angry book, unless the reader is very obtuse, there is a fair amount of cheerful derision in it, as anyone who is permitted to read it will realize. It is deplorable, perhaps, that I have always been disposed to laugh at pontiffs and priests, but laughter is not anger and there is real respect and sympathy mingled with my cheerfulness—if you will read the book."

The Editor of the Catholic Herald replies in part: "What I can't understand is why you are so frightfully ignorant about us. Before attacking a person or an institution it is only commonsense—as well as normal courtesy—to inform oneself about him or it."