Demilitarize Rome Under Pope's Guidance Urges U. S. Senator

WASHINGTON—Urging that Rome be demilitarized, Senator Styles Bridges, Republican, of New Hampshire, in a letter to President Roosevelt, has suggested that a special commission toward this end be created, consisting of United Nations and Axis representatives under the chairmanship of His Holiness Pope Pius XII.

Senator Bridges' letter, to the President, dated Apr. 7, reads:

"The Press reports several bombing attacks on military objectives in Rome. I know that you are as sensible as I of the cultural, historic and religious claims Rome has had on our civilization, and that you share the heartfelt wish of millions of people that every possible effort be made to spare Rome the ravages of war.

"I, therefore, respectfully suggest that you propose a special commission composed of two or more military representatives of the United Nations and an equal number of military representatives of the enemy, with the Pope as impartial chairman, to arrange the demilitarization of Rome. I believe that this is worthy of your most serious consideration and early action.

"Even in the midst of this terrible struggle we must not forget that we are Christians and that we must continue to be in the right if we are to prevail."

Senator Bridges said he put forward the plan after "consultation with many thoughtful citizens of our country, including laymen and clergy of various religious denominations."

"Thousands, and perhaps tens of thousands of American lives would be saved if Rome were demilitarized and made an open city," Senator Bridges added.

As Chesterton Said

The current inconsistency which sees the world rejecting the worldwide moral leadership of the Holy Father and at the same time energetically seeking to establish an international office of peace, was foreseen by the late G. K. Chesterton, brilliant English writer, who as early as 1930 predicted as follows:

"The world will more and more find itself in a position in which even politicians and practical men will find themselves saying, 'If the Pope had not existed, it would be necessary to invent him.'

"It is not at all impossible that they may really try to invent him. The truth is that multitudes of them would already accept the Pope if he were not called the Pope.

"I firmly believe that it would be quite possible, in this and many other matters, to play a sort of pious practical joke on large numbers of heretics and heathens.

"I fancy it would be quite feasible to describe in accurate but abstract terms the general idea of an office or obligation, which would exactly correspond to the position of the Papacy in history, and which would be accepted on ethical and social grounds by numbers of Protestants and freethinkers; until they discovered with a reaction of rage and astonishment that they had been entrapped into accepting the international arbitration of the Pope."

FAVORED AS 'PIN-UP' is this painting by Robert Helm, scholastic at Holy Ghost Mission Seminary, Norwalk, Conn., of Mary Immaculate, Queen of Peace. It is the answer to an appeal from Army Chaplain Paul Lippert, C.S.Sp., for a picture of the Blessed Virgin to offset the "pin-up" craze in his camp overseas. The Mission Unit of the Catholic Students' Mission Crusade will supply Father Lippert with sufficient copies to meet the demand.

4-F's in War Plants, Women in Homes Urged

WASHINGTON, D. C.—War-time employment of women is destroying some of the most sacred qualities of womanhood.

As the lesser of two evils, the Rev. Edmund A. Walsh, vice-president of Georgetown University and of the University's School of Foreign Service, urges passage of a national service act which would utilize the services of 4-F's in essential industry and thus force women out of war jobs which are "unsexing" them.

Father Walsh said "nobody can take the place of the mother in the home," and to get her back there all men rejected for military service because of physical disabilities "should be made to perform a service within their limitations."

"A national service act," he declared, "would be much the lesser of two evils, and all the hypothetical arguments advanced against national service are negligible compared to the actual evil I now see before my eyes.

"After God, the obligation and responsibility to children is on the mother and father, placed there by nature and the State. Whatever the Church or the school or social welfare can do, is only supplementary."

Father Walsh warned that juvenile delinquency, resulting largely from taking mothers from their homes for war work, is symptomatic of dangers which, if left unchecked, can lead to the collapse of civilization itself. "Women in war-time employment," he said, "are losing some of the most sacred qualities of womanhood on which the pillars of the world repose."

ST. FRANCES OF ROME —at the age of twelve was married to Lorenzo Ponziano, a Roman noble, notwithstanding her own desire to become a nun. During their married life of 40 years they never had a disagreement. She died on the day she had foretold, Mar. 9, 1440.

Former NCWC Writer Wounded in Italy

WASHINGTON.— (NC)— Maj. John V. Hinkel, serving with the Allied Control Commission "somewhere in Italy," who formerly was a correspondent for the N.C.W.C. News Service and a member of the staff of the New York Times, is recuperating from four wounds according to word received here.

The report stated that Major Hinkel was wounded when a German shell exploded just five feet from him. Four pieces of shrapnel pierced his thigh and hand, the advices related.

He was stationed in this city, where he makes his home, before going overseas last August to fill an assignment with the Allied Control Commission for Italy.

Major Hinkel, with the Rev. Joseph V. Thorning, wrote a series of articles entitled "Spain Today and Tomorrow" which appeared in the CATHOLIC COURIER in 1938. The articles were written in Spain at the time of the Civil War.

Avers Bombing of Rome Denies Reason, Truth

NEW YORK—Decrying the bombing of Rome, George E. Sokolsky, well-known columnist, observes that of all the cities of God, those that can never be forgotten and the mention of whose names light the fires of reverent memory, are Rome, Athens and Jerusalem.

"What are we, of this Western world, but the fruits of the culture and civilization that emanated from these cities like the rays of the sun in a dark and barbarous world?" he asks. "Our religion, our art, our law, our languages, our family system, our education, our way of life, are the products of these three cities."

Terming Rome the Mistress of the West he cites its turbulent history from "Remus and Romulus to Pacelli, who now sits as Pope to remind all of mankind that kings and princes seek refuge from the hates and intrigues of man, but the pure of heart remain with their people and trust their destiny to God."

"To Rome," continues Mr. Sokolsky, "has been poured the beauty and art of a grateful world, but from it has come the form and structure of our particular civilization. From Rome went the law, the religious and civil law that tamed the savage peoples of Europe, Asia and Africa . . . It is this law, the Roman law that still dominates the civil side of our lives, and the religious law that influences even those who may not be Catholics nor even Christians."

"And this same Rome," the article concludes, "has become a battlefield. Before it pagan warriors paused, but civilized warriors ride over it and drop bombs, passionless, scientific bombs that know neither right nor wrong but only that men must die and things must be destroyed. So this is what 20 centuries of civilization have wrought—and we speak of justice and righteousness and love! We have become an age of those who know neither reason nor truth."

FORESEES CHINA AS ALL CATHOLIC

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Post-war China will embrace the Catholic Faith as the one religion which is "neither Oriental nor Occidental."

This prediction was made Monday by the Most Rev. Paul Yu Pin, Vicar Apostolic of Nanking, China, at the annual Conference of the Catholic Association for International Peace.

Bishop Yu Pin pointed out that the Catholic Church began its work in China seven centuries ago. Until the last decade, he declared, the principal difficulty of the Church's progress in China has originated within the country itself. He said some of these problems centered in the ancient Chinese custom of worship of ancestors and worship of Confucius, which constituted a grave misunderstanding until recent years when the Church took a more sympathetic view of the traditions of the Chinese people.

Four Million Catholics

The seven centuries during which the Church has labored in China, Bishop Yu Pin said, have brought into the fold a total of 4,000,000 Chinese Catholics. He pointed out that while there are more Catholics in China than there are even in Ireland, the number does not measure up to 1 per cent of the vast population of that country.

Bishop Yu Pin was optimistic in his view of the Church's role in post-war China. He expressed confidence that there will be no more difficulties placed in the path of Catholicity from the interior of the nation. He said that the great post-war need of China will be a vast army of Catholic missionaries—priests, Religious and laymen—to spread the Faith among a people, who, he asserted, will be eager to embrace it.

English Carmelite Church Razed in Raid

LONDON.—The well-known Carmelite Church, Kensington, one of the most beautiful in London, was destroyed in a recent enemy air raid, it may now be stated.

K. of C. To Dedicate Flag Marking 70,000 in Service

NEW HAVEN, Conn.—Plans are being completed for patriotic exercises to be held here Sunday, April 16, on the New Haven Green at which the Service Flag honoring more than 70,000 members of the Knights of Columbus in the armed forces of the United States and Canada will be dedicated.

Ambassador to the Holy See, Sir Henry [illegible]

BUFFALO FUND DRIVE TOPS MILLION MARK BY $13,000

BUFFALO.—The million dollar appeal of the Catholic Charities of Buffalo for the Bishop's Fund for the Faith has been oversubscribed by $13,000.

The Most Rev. John A. Duffy, Bishop of Buffalo, acted as chairman of the campaign, which was conducted under the direction of the Rev. Eugene A. Loftus, Diocesan Director of Charities.

Speed Victory — Buy War Bonds!

Wounded on Battle Line Need Chaplains the Most Avers Priest-Hero of Army

WASHINGTON.— (NC) —Capt. Albert J. Hoffman, a priest of the Archdiocese of Dubuque who lost his leg when he stepped on a German land mine near St. Angelo Oliveta, in Italy, has been transferred to Percy Jones General Hospital at Battle Creek, Mich., from Stark General Hospital, Charleston, S.C., where he was convalescing the War Department has announced.

Disinclined to talk of the heroism which won him the Silver Star decoration and his captain's bar during the engagement for Hill 609 in Tunisia, Father Hoffman said in an interview before his departure from Stark General Hospital:

"In combat, no one stands out as doing anything heroic. Acts of heroism are commonplace. Probably the only reason anyone gets a medal is that his deeds happen to be noticed and reported. As to my spending most of my time in the front lines with the men—well, that is the way I look at it: The men brought to aid stations usually are under morphine. They will be cared for by the chaplains in the hospitals. The fellows wounded on the front, perhaps lying for hours before help reaches them, are the ones who need a chaplain. There is nothing more terrifying than the feeling of lying alone, lost and helpless. Those are the men who I have made my particular concern."

'Thy Will Be Done,' Prays Chaplain As He Bails Out Over Burma Jungle

NEW ORLEANS.—Capt. Harry F. Wade, CSSR, Army chaplain kept repeating "Thy will be done" as he baled out of an army transport plane over a Burma jungle.

To his family he wrote how sorry he was that the initial report "missing in action," had caused them unnecessary worry.

"I left for my first trip over the 'hump,' as we call the high ridges of the Himalayan mountains, on a Sunday evening," he wrote. "We were on our way back and I figured we should be in India in about three hours."

But when the three hours were up and there was no familiar scenery Chaplain Wade began to be worried. He "noticed that the pilot and crew were an example of self-complacency." About 2 A. M. his chute.

"When I jumped I was completely clear of the ship," he wrote. "I pulled the rip cord. The chute opened with an awful jolt and I found myself terribly alone, dangling helplessly, enveloped by a dreadful, misty, moonlit silence.

"I kept repeating 'Thy will be done' a thousand times over, and strangely I was unafraid. I knew there was lots of adventure ahead. How I would come out only God and His Blessed Mother knew. I left everything in their hands. Gradually I came closer to the mountain tops. The trees were reaching up fast to get me. I crossed my legs, covered my face and went crashing through. The chute caught in the tops, checked the fall and I landed safely [illegible] out a scratch. The undergrowth was terribly thick and it was pitch-dark. I disentangled myself and made myself comfortable until daylight."

For days Chaplain Wade followed a trickling mountain stream, drinking from it and eating chocolate bars. He had fish hooks and a line, and was armed with a pistol.

"As I neared the valley," he wrote, "signs and footprints of wild elephants, tigers and other game were plentiful. At night I could hear the elephants crashing through the jungle. I yelled periodically to scare them away."

On the morning of the sixth day, Chaplain Wade attracted a plane by waving a handkerchief on the end of a long bamboo pole. Food rations were dropped and later he was rescued.

REUTER'S REPORT OF NAZI DECLARATION ON ROME PUBLISHED IN ROMAN PRESS

VATICAN CITY.—The Roman press has published a report of Reuter's British news agency, of a German declaration concerning the transfer of the German military command to localities six or eleven kilometers from Rome. The Roman press states it is "symptomatic" that this semi-official British agency did not comment on or criticize the German declaration.

Speed Victory — Buy War Bonds!