Canada Paper Exposes Chilean Red Leader's Plot To Smear Church

QUEBEC (NC)—Chilean Communist Senator Elias Lafferte is alleged to have warned the Mexican Communist leaders at a secret session last May that the Catholic Church must be dislodged, particularly among the lower classes, "so as to make proselites for our cause."

Senator Lafferte is described as "one of the most important Red leaders in America." "He termed Catholicism the most dangerous enemy of Communism in the conquest of power in America" and "in a sensational passage in his speech launched the attack Communism should employ on this continent, first to discredit and then to defeat the religious forces which form an obstacle to Moscow in the Bolshevization of America."

"In this moment when the war effort of the United Nations must be planned together to put an end to the Axis powers," the text continues, "the chances are superb—not only for the infiltration of Communism throughout the world among the proletariat, but also in the intellectual and cultural world, in the military domain, and in finance and international commerce."

The leaders were reminded that "while we are favoring the United Nations war against Hitler and Japan, our attack and strategy ought to include the liquidation of Anglo-American Capitalism and the attainment of complete economic as well as political autonomy."

The Catholic Church, apparently, is regarded as the most formidable foe of Communism, since about one-half of the speech is devoted to this force, "which it will not be easy for us to overthrow," and with which, "for strategic purposes, we pretend to be in sympathy," so that "even in the U.S.S.R. the Soviet Government has been itself obliged to grant facilities to religions." "But," the speech continues, "neither we nor Catholics have any illusions' on this subject.

Slandering the Church

"It is essential now that we discuss the problem of the Catholic Church," the speech continues, "for this is a problem not just in one Latin or American nation, but the problem of this whole continent . . . It is essential that we know the weaknesses and the defects of the spiritual power of the Catholic Church, and even to exaggerate these in the timing . . . I have divided these instructions into three categories, to wit: Catholic Romanism is essentially immoral, Catholic Romanism is idolatry, and the Catholic priesthood is an agent of immorality. Strategically it is urged that we cause to penetrate into the minds of children, indigenous peoples, workers and students the worst accusations against the Catholic Church, so that they will separate from it and enter our ranks as fervent sympathizers of the Cause.

"We must say that the system of iniquities upheld, taught and practiced by informed and persistant Catholics is without equal. That it is audacious, aggressive, intolerant and cruel, blind, obstinate and blasphemous; moreover that it is insidious, adaptable and sometimes conciliatory, pompous, servile, royal and deceitful. That there has never been any other religion or philosophy that undertook such a frightful task of corruption and, one might say, of universal degradation."

After again emphasizing the importance of Mexico as "the centrifugal force for the whole continent," the speech called upon the leaders present to return to their particular sections and continue their work of undermining religion.

Relieve London Priests Resting From Flying Bombs

LONDON.—(NC)—Priests of the Nottingham Diocese have volunteered to come to London temporarily to relieve parish priests and curates needing a rest from the flying bombs, it has been announced.

Three Catholic Churches in Southern England have been badly blasted by flying bombs, but there have been no casualties among the clergy.

Home-Front Catholics Urged To Imitate Soldier Mission Zeal

NEW YORK (NC)—A vastly increased interest and generosity toward Catholic missions would result if the 28,000,000 Catholics in the United States would follow the example of American troops now fighting in the South Pacific theater of war, according to Lt. Col. James E. Dunford, priest of the Archdiocese of Boston and Army Division Chaplain at Bougainville, Solomon Islands.

Father Dunford, one of the first American chaplains to go to the Pacific theater, is a veteran of the Solomons and New Guinea campaigns. Back in the United States for the first time in two and a half years he visited the national office of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith here.

"Our troops personally have witnessed the heroism and self-sacrifice of the missionaries and will do all in their power to help them," said Father Dunford, adding that the troops have been impressed deeply by the courage of Bishops, priests, Brothers and Sisters who have been working in the islands for years.

Mission Achievements

"The missionaries had none of the facilities afforded our troops and yet they have accomplished seemingly impossible results," he continued. "On practically every island we visited we found that once savage tribes had been transformed into well-trained, and in many instances, well-educated Christians. On several occasions when an interpreter was not available, it was astonishing to find natives able to converse in English."

Leper Colonies

With a number of his troops, Father Dunford said, they visited several of the leper colonies in the islands and marvelled at the patience and generosity of the Sisters. In one camp, alone, he said, 168 lepers were cared for by five Sisters.

The natives of the island have a sincere affection for American troops and have been impressed by their faith, the chaplain said. He added that the Most Rev. Edward Bresson, S.M., Vicar Apostolic of New Caledonia, told him he had never seen anything like the faith of the Americans and their love for their chaplains.

Extreme Unction for Yank

Acme Photo

Lying face down on his stretcher, with his hands clasped in prayer, a badly wounded soldier receives Extreme Unction, the Church's final rites, from Chaplain Anthony Delavira, Brooklyn, somewhere on the battlefield in France.

'Russian Influence' Over Poland Decried by Polish Group Here

That Poland and her suffering people should not be placed under the "Russian Sphere of Influence," in the post-war world is the conviction of Rochester Chapter, No. 59, National Committee of Americans of Polish Descent, Inc., expressed in a prepared resolution released this week.

Soviet Russia's arbitrary acts toward Poland are reviewed. The Resolution Committee declares that "thirteen millions of Polish citizens have now been illegally incorporated by Russia into its atheistic communistic regime, without their consent, and that only about 120,000 of these are Russians—but millions are Christian Poles."

It is the sincere conviction of the Rochester group as expressed in the resolution sent to Secretary of State Hull that:

"The unilateral Machiavellian acts and demands of Soviet Russia, coupled with her refusal to submit her alleged claims to arbitration, constitute aggression and a violation of the Atlantic Charter and the Four Freedoms;

"The dictatorial conduct of the government of Soviet Russia is disrupting the unity of the United Nations and thereby giving aid and hope to our Axis Enemies;

"This second World War began because of the unwarranted aggression of Germany against the Republic of Poland and we do not believe that there will be an understandable Victory until all of the sovereign territory of Poland and of other innocent victims is restored to them in full;

"A 'Russian Sphere of Influence' is obviously the very converse of what an 'American Sphere of Influence' would mean;

"Recognition of a 'Russian Sphere of Influence' over the peoples of Poland and other countries would be tragic and would be virtual acquiescence in the present and further aggressions of Russia, and would be adverse to the Ideals and the best interests of the United States of America; and

"Ultimately Russian as well as Axis aggressions constitute a menace to the welfare and safety of the United States of America."

The resolution signed by Henry M. Laboski, president, stresses the fact that "millions of Poles have died and are dying not only for their own freedom but for ours as well, and also for the freedom of the Russians."

Establishment of a puppet government by Soviet Russia to supplant the duly constituted government of the Republic of Poland in England is declared the culmination of a long series of grievous wrongs, perpetrated by the Soviet dictatorship against the Polish people.

Also signing the resolution are: Karolina Ptaszek, vice-president; Edmund F. Lorentz, executive secretary; Stanislaw Orzechowski, treasurer; Stanley Kiodinski, financial secretary; Ligia Adwent, recording secretary; Matthew Kowalski, auditor, and Anthony Dzienglelewski, auditor.

Name Liberty Ship For Priest-Inventor

SCHENECTADY. — A Liberty Ship now under construction has been named for the Rev. Joseph Murgas, priest-inventor who died in 1929, according to information received here by the Slovak Catholic Federation of America.

Father Murgas' name was assigned to the ship at the request of the Slovak League of America in recognition of a successful War Bond campaign sponsored by the League.

Father Murgas was born in Slovakia in 1864. He came to America in 1896 and was stationed in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., where he held a pastorate until his death. He held a patent from the Government in wireless telegraphy.

VFW Head Tells Of Pope Greeting Soldiers Daily

WASHINGTON. — (NC) — With remarkable democracy and zeal, which has made a deep impression on those who benefit by it, His Holiness Pope Pius XII devotes himself daily at noon to receiving between 4,500 and 7,500 Allied men and women of the armed service, according to Carl J. Schoeninger, of Detroit, Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Upon his return from a trip to the European fighting fronts Mr. Schoeninger recounted his audience with the Holy Father. He was particularly impressed by the keenness, alertness and apparent good health of His Holiness, as well as by his graciousness. The two talked in English, he said, the Holy Father using the language in the most facile manner.

Leads Schools In Bond Buying

TULSA, Okla. — Monte Cassino school for girls, conducted here by the Benedictine Sisters, led the Catholic schools of the United States in per capita purchase of war bonds during the twelve-month period to June 30 last, it was announced by the U. S. Treasury Department. Each student bought an average of close to $6,000 in bonds.

K. of C. Convention Votes To Educate Children of Members Killed in War

TORONTO—A program to provide a college education for sons and daughters of members of the Knights of Columbus who may lose their lives in World War II or who may die within 10 years after the war, or who may be disabled totally as the result of military service, was adopted at the 62nd annual Supreme Council meeting of the K. of C. here.

The program prepared by the organization's War Activities Committee, empowers the Board of Directors to establish rules of eligibility for the scholarships, to select Catholic colleges, and to establish, when occasion arises, additional rules.

The committee's report recommended that a $1,000,000 trust fund be established to finance the program and that the fund be raised through semi-annual assessments and voluntary contributions.

It was reported to the convention that the total membership of the organization Knights of Columbus is now 480,000 and that for the year ending on June 30, a total of 42,000 new members had been admitted.

Defend Poland's Stand

Reminding that the Polish people struck the first blows in World War II against tyranny, the Supreme Council asserted in a resolution that it is "unthinkable" that the Polish people "should fail to gain by their courage and suffering the full liberty and freedom which they cherish so passionately and in accord with all the democratic peoples of the world."

Stressing the fact that efforts are being made again to partition Poland and to prevent "the creation of a governing body" by that nation, the resolution recommended action consistent with the propositions embodied in the statement issued on July 23, 1940, by the State Department, which declared:

"The people of the United States are opposed to predatory activities no matter whether they are carried on by the use of force or by the threat of force. They are likewise opposed to any form of intervention on the part of one State, however powerful, in the domestic concerns of another sovereign State, however weak."

Remember?

"If we look back on our lives, we shall find that the heaviest cross that was ever laid upon us, which seemed at the time to crush us to the very earth, was in reality the beginning of God's mercy for us, and the turning-point in our lives."—Fr. Dignam.

War Prisoners in Europe Sent 10,000 Correspondence Courses from N.C.W.C.

For what is believed to be the first time in any war, 10,000 correspondence courses carrying three full-year college credits have been sent to American war prisoners and civilian internees throughout Nazi-occupied Europe, according to Rt. Rev. Msgr. Patrick A. O'Boyle, Executive Director of War Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference, allied with the National War Fund.

Prisoners requesting these courses will be reached through International Red Cross channels via Geneva, Switzerland, and the Swiss Catholic Mission, presided over by the Most Rev. Marius Besson, Bishop of Lausanne, Geneva and Fribourg.

Arranged between War Relief Services-N. C. W. C. and the Rev. Michael J. O'Connell, C. M., President of De Paul University, these courses include textbooks and supplementary reference material covering 265 subjects, including foreign languages, higher mathematics, economics and philosophy, and necessary supplies.

Courses are available to prisoners only upon request.

Examinations will be monitored by International Red Cross delegates sent to the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, for grading.

After the war all records and papers will be transferred to De Paul University and students who have attained passing grades will receive full credit without payment of fees.

Advanced courses and a still wider variety of subjects will be made available to war prisoners as requests reach the offices of War Relief Services, N. C. W. C. here.

The distributing agency, the Swiss Catholic Mission, is a member of the Consultative Board of Intellectual Relief and Cooperation, which in turn cooperates with the International Red Cross in providing "intellectual aid" for war prisoners and civilian internees in Nazi-occupied countries.