Britain's Desertion Of Poland Would Be Craven, Says Prelate

LONDON (NC)—Britain has received more loyalty and devoted assistance from Poland than from any other ally and to desert that nation in her time of need would be cowardice, the Most Rev. Andrew Joseph MacDonald, O.S.B., Archbishop of Edinburgh, declared in his sermon at a Mass offered for the defenders of Warsaw.

"Poland is not merely in danger of being torn from the Poles," the Archbishop said, "but there is a defiance of the natural laws, of all moral rights and the very existence of the Polish race is threatened.

"It would be to the eternal disgrace of this country to sit silently by and acquiesce to this monstrous injustice, especially in view of the solemn obligation undertaken by this nation, in fact by the whole world."

Archbishop MacDonald also asserted: "From no other ally has Britain received more generous loyal and devoted assistance to the utmost limit of their power, than from the Poles. It is not without regret and a sense of shame that I feel the debt which we owe these allies in this hour of dire distress is not clearly realized by this country as a whole."

Scores Russia's Treatment of Poles in Warsaw

LONDON.—(NC)—The enthusiasm instilled by Allied victories in France and Italy has been dampened here somewhat by the Polish-Russian situation, especially with regard to the tragedy which befell the Polish patriots in Warsaw when Russian aid failed to arrive following their uprising.

The future of Poland marks the test for the future of all Europe, it is agreed by the British Catholic Press.

The Universe points out that reaction against Russia is growing as a result of the Warsaw incident

Condemnation of the Russian attitude has come notably from three surprising quarters — from Lord Vansittart, who advocates complete dissolution of the German nation following the war; from The Tribune, known as a decidedly left-wing weekly, and from The Daily Mirror, popular tabloid newspaper with a "parlor pink" tinge.

Pope Greets American Labor Representatives

By BURKE WALSH

ROME — (NC) — Following an audience with His Holiness Pope Pius XII, Luigi Antonini, representative of the American Federation of Labor and Vice-President of the International Ladies' Garment Workers, and George Baldanzi, representative of the Congress of Industrial Organizations and Vice-President of the Textile Workers Union of America, who are here making a study of labor conditions, declared themselves profoundly impressed by the personality and wisdom of the Holy Father.

Mr. Baldanzi said that he had expressed the sincere thanks of the American working classes to His Holiness for all that he has done in giving aid and shelter to all persons who had recourse to him without distinction as to belief or political conviction, particularly during the Nazi occupation.

"It is a great act of humanity," declared Mr. Baldanzi, "which American workers profoundly appreciate and for which they are deeply grateful to the Holy Father. They also express the same thankfulness for his social teachings, the aims of which coincide perfectly with the intentions and aims of the American people."

Catholic Digest Goes South American Way

ST. PAUL.—(NC)—The first issue of El Digesto Catolico, the Spanish edition of the Catholic Digest, has been placed on newsstands in South America, and its acceptance is far beyond expectations of its sponsors, the Rev. Edward F. Jennings, business manager of both editions, announced today.

El Digesto Catolico is published in Buenos Aires. It has at present representatives in two other countries, Brazil and Mexico. Arrangements are being made to have representatives in every Latin-American country.

The statement of policy on the inside front cover points out that it will be the purpose of El Digesto Catolico "to select monthly the best of Catholic writing and present it" in the hope that all Catholics may continue to speak "a universal language regardless of differences in race, nationality and politics."

"If we don't have peace at the mess table," said a soldier, "we'll have a mess at the peace table."

Report Denied on Slaying of Carmelite Nun at Lisieux

WASHINGTON—The startling report published in this country that all Carmelite nuns at Lisieux, France, including Mother Agnes of Jesus, sister of the Little Flower, had been killed in the bombardment of that city is definitely erroneous, according to dispatches received by the N.C.W.C. News Service.

The alleged death of the 83-year-old sister of the Lisieux Saint was announced this week in a special story appearing in the 30 diocesan editions of The Register, Catholic weekly published at Denver.

Letter in Own Hand

London sources state that the reported death of Mother Agnes of Jesus and her nuns at Lisieux is absolutely incorrect. A letter written in her own hand has been received at Stanbrook Abbey Worcester, England, from a sister of St. Therese, stating that all the Carmelite nuns at Lisieux are safe.

A letter also has been received, London reports, from a British Army officer who visited Carmel and actually talked with Mother Agnes, sister of St. Therese, who was reported to have been killed.

Burke Walsh, N.C.W.C. War Correspondent in Rome, radioed that the purported death of Mother Agnes and other Carmelites at Lisieux is unknown in informed circles at the Italian capital.

In announcing that the Little Flower's sister had been slain, The Register said that the information had been relayed through the motherhouse of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Portugal to that order's convents here in the United States.

Previous to story published by The Register, two Canadian war correspondents had cabled directly from Lisieux that the Carmelite convent and Basilica were undamaged and that all the Carmelite nuns were unharmed.

Ask Delay on Forced Military Training Act

CINCINNATI, Ohio (RNS)—Congress was urged not to pass a National Service Act or take any further legislative action on Compulsory Military Training until after the war in a resolution adopted here by the National Commission on Christian Higher Education of the Association of American Colleges. The Association represents 426 colleges and universities.

The Commission expressed the unanimous conviction that "during the stress of war it is not advisable to draft a long-range peace-time program "for either National Service or Compulsory Training, and based its appeal on the following reasons:

1.—Because the present Selective Service Act is effective for six months after the duration of the war.

2.—The millions of men and women in active service have a right to a voice on such an important change in national policy.

3.—Only after the war is over and the nature of the peace is more clearly indicated will it be possible to establish wise policies looking toward national defense and the preservation of the peace.

Masses of Padre Pio, Stigmatized Priest Thronged by Yanks in Italy

WASHINGTON (NC)—The rare privilege of assisting at Mass offered by the famed and saintly Padre Pio, Italian Capuchin friar, who is gifted with the stigmata, in a little mountain monastery at San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy, has been granted to thousands of American soldiers.

These memorable occasions, which have thrilled Catholics and non-Catholic alike, has been made possible through the American Red Cross. With the cooperation of Army officials and authorities at the monastery, William M. Carrigan, overseas field director of the Red Cross, who now is at his home here on a furlough, has conducted soldiers on tours to the monastery for the last five months.

Mr. Carrigan, a Catholic, is among the thousands who hold Padre Pio in reverent awe. He has made an extensive study of the monk's life.

Stigmata Appeared in 1918

The marks of the Stigmata, wounds in the hands, feet and side, like those suffered by Our Lord at the Crucifixion, appeared on Padre Pio on Sep. 20, 1918, Mr. Carrigan relates.

"Padre Pio was in prayer after offering Mass," Mr. Carrigan said, "when suddenly his hands, feet and side began to bleed from the Christ-like wounds. For a few days he hid his hands from public view, but one of the monks noticed blood stains on his sleeve and called attention to it. Padre Pio was reluctant to discuss the Stigmata when questioned by his Superior, but because of his obedience to his rule of life he showed the wounds to the Superior."

Wounds Defy Medication

A doctor was called, Mr. Carrigan continued, and medical treatment was given, but the wounds were only irritated by the treatment. After some months, Padre Pio begged that treatment be stopped. Since then the wounds have had no application except soap and water, and there has never been any sign of healing or of infection, the Red Cross official stated.

"Padre Pio's wounds give off an unusual perfume-like fragrance," Mr. Carrigan said. "He wears a small linen pad over each wound to absorb the blood and the only time his hands are exposed is during celebration of Mass. The rest of the time he wears fingerless gloves."

Assisting at a Mass offered by Padre Pio, Mr. Carrigan said, is an event which defies description. It takes the saintly friar sometimes more than two hour. to complete the ceremony, he said, and it is evident that Padre Pio experiences great suffering, especially during the Consecration and the Elevation of the Mass.

Mr. Carriagan said that Padre Pio eats but one light meal a day and seldom sleeps more than three or four hours. He spends most of the night in prayer and most of the day in the confessional. Mr. Carrigan said that medical science cannot account for the Stigmata, although the friar has been examined thoroughly and painstakingly by physicians. Mr. Carrigan said that one doctor who examined Padre Pio became converted through his association with the priest.

Receives Yanks

Mr. Carrigan said that Army officials and authorities at the monastery have been most cooperative in permitting soldiers to visit Padre Pio. The soldiers are given seats in the Sanctuary and up front in the chapel, the better to see and hear Padre Pio at Mass. When the services are over the priest receives the soldiers in a room in the rear of the chapel, where he blesses religious articles, offers counsel and gives his blessing. Hundreds of soldiers have written to their folks back home of their visit with Padre Pio.

$5,000 Goal Now Sighted For Selma

An additional $400 in contributions for the Colored Hospital conducted by the Rochester Diocesan Sisters of St. Joseph at Selma, Alabama, was received here this week at the Diocesan Office of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

As of Tuesday noon this week, Catholics of the Diocese of Rochester have contributed a total of $4,837 in response to an appeal issued several weeks ago in behalf of the Sisters and their work by the Rev. John S. Randall, Propagation of the Faith Director.

The generous response of the Catholics of the Diocese following the appeal for assistance to the Sisters at Selma has far exceeded the original goal of $3,000. "We are now hopeful," stated Father Randall, "that we may be able to send our Sisters working among the sick Colored of Selma a check for $5,000."

VATICAN REFUGEES GO HOME

The clamor of war having rolled past, the civilians who sought refuge on the Papal property of Castelgandolfo go home. Here a Vatican truck, painted in yellow (gold) and white to distinguish it as a vehicle of a neutral State, departs for Salerno, in Southern Italy, one of many in a motorcade dispatched by the Pontifical Commission for the Help of Refugees. Some 15,000 persons found refuge for months in the Papal villas and on the grounds of the Pope's summer residence. (N.C.W.C.)

Bar Petain from Mass on Sunday

ZURICH, Switzerland — Marshal Henri Philipe Petain, imprisoned Chief of State of the Vichy Government, is not even allowed to attend Mass on Sunday, it was reported in the Tribune Geneve.

The article stated that since the Marshal's arrival in Morvillars, the residents of the street adjoining the castle where he is interned, have been ordered to evacuate their homes and the number of guards about the castle has been trebled.

Chiang Kai-Shek Asks America To Send More Missionaries to China

MARYKNOLL, N. Y. (RNS) — Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, in a special interview at Chungking, China, with Bishop James Edward Walsh, Superior General of the Maryknoll Fathers, invited more American Catholic missioners to China after the war, according to a cable received at Maryknoll headquarters here.

Bishop Walsh told Chiang Kai-Shek that the Church in America was preparing many missioners for post-war work, and asked if China would like to have these priests and Sisters after the war.

"China will be privileged and pleased to have them," the Generalissimo replied. "We will encourage their work in every way possible."

Bishop Walsh expressed thanks for the liberal treatment given missioners of enemy nationality now at work in China. These missioners were not interned. If they were in zones of fighting they were moved 50 miles behind the front lines, but allowed to continue their work. The Generalissimo said the missioners were doing much to help his people and that he was grateful for their work.

Bishop Walsh, who is in China to visit the missions staffed by Maryknoll priests, is expected to leave Chungking shortly to begin his tour.

Montreal Papers Flay Articles by Gervasi

MONTREAL — (NC) Under the heading "A little knowledge a dangerous thing," The Montreal Daily Star, one of Canada's largest English-language newspapers, in a leading editorial takes issue with two articles by Frank Gervasi in Collier's Weekly for inaccurate and misleading statements.

The articles appeared under the headings "Revolt in Canada" and "Canada's Cross." The second article was an attack on Quebec.

The Star quotes a number of assertions made by Mr. Gervasi in these articles, and terms them "priceless flower of misrepresentation," "gross exaggeration," and "inaccurate interpretation."

The articles have also drawn formal protest from the City Council of Quebec City and other English-language newspapers such as The Montreal Standard and The Montreal Gazette.