

National Ambitions Prove Stumbling Block In Peace Conference

By ELMER MURPHY

WASHINGTON (NC)—Although little is being said about the trend of the "exploratory" discussion of the United Nations spokesman who are laying out possible paths to world peace, it is apparent that they are encountering staggering difficulties. It is one thing to lay out a plan on paper. It is quite another to devise one that will meet the strains and stresses of nationalistic ambitions.

Of the good intentions of the four allied powers which are undertaking the task, Russia, China, Great Britain and the United States, there is no question. They want an insured peace. They are probably in general agreement as to the method of bringing it about. This includes the establishment of an international police force which will arrest aggressors who threaten to disturb the peace. It may not be always on patrol. It may be called to action only when occasion arises. But it will exercise the function of a police force none the less.

Small Nations Dim
Authority to act, according to the plans under discussion, will repose in the Big Four. They will constitute the Council, or whatever it may be called, which will guard world security. Supposedly smaller nations will have a place in the picture but what it may be is still vague.

This arrangement is not without precedent. At the close of the Napoleonic wars, the so-called Holy Alliance was established. It bound its members to take as a guide "the principles of religion, justice, charity and peace." On paper it sounded impressive but it did not last very long. Its weakness lay in the fact that it would have assured the four powers who entered into it, Russia, Prussia, Great Britain and Austria—possession for all time of the territory they occupied. It fell to pieces even before its strength could be tested.

The second attempt was the League of Nations established at the close of the First World War. This, too, failed for much the same reason. The victorious belligerents who set it up could not agree fully upon any basis of action.

Must Be Settled
The question now arises whether this same procedure is to be followed again, whether the major powers shall take to themselves the responsibility for preserving the world peace without, at the same time, fixing permanently the boundaries of the various countries of the world, especially the smaller countries which will not be able to challenge the decisions of the major powers.

Up to the present time the intention seems to be to reach a settlement on a political basis. But there are some who contend that the moral aspects of the problem should not be ignored. They insist that the rights of nations—small as well as large—should be defined and that some sort of international constitution or international bill of rights, applicable to nations be established. Something of the sort seems to be implied in the Atlantic Charter. Whether it could run the gauntlet of political obstacles is another question.

As the situation now appears the aim of the conferees now exploring the possibilities is to set up machinery to enforce an international code without having a code to enforce. The object seems to be to let the major powers decide what constitutes aggression.

New Book on St. Joseph Out

MILWAUKEE.—The Man Nearest to Christ, a "thesaurus of everything on St. Joseph" by Francis L. Filas, S.J., has been named the most recent selection of the Science and Culture Book Club.

The Rev. Joseph Husslein, S.J., editor of the Science and Culture Series in his preface to the book commends it as a "summary of all available knowledge of a scientifically accredited and popular nature, concerning St. Joseph and the growth of devotion to him."

Father Husslein states that "The Man Nearest to Christ" includes in it a wealth of information never hitherto attainable by English readers.

—Whoever knows how to return a kindness he has received must be a friend above all price.—Sophocles.

Permanent FEPC Advocated by Church Leaders

WASHINGTON, D. C.—

Establishment of a permanent Fair Employment Practices Committee to continue in peacetime the anti-discrimination activity begun by executive order during the war was pleaded here by Catholic, Protestant and Jewish leaders.

Among those who appeared at hearings of a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor were Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam of the Methodist Church's New York Area, representing the Federal Council of Churches, the Rt. Rev. John A. Ryan, of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, and Rabbi J. K. Cohen of New York, chairman of the Commission on Economic Distribution of the American Jewish Congress.

Monsignor Ryan warned that job discrimination may be practiced against Catholics as well as Negroes and Jews after the war, and criticized employers and labor unions for discriminatory policies.

"When an employer refuses to hire Negroes because he dislikes to have them in his presence, his reason is clearly racial, or, if you prefer, psychological," he said. "When he excludes all Negroes because he found some unreliable, his motive is economic. When his refusal is dictated by an assumption that Negroes should be kept in menial occupations, his conduct is uncharitable and contemptible."

War Relief Aide



Eileen M. Egan, Catholic writer and former Lisbon correspondent for N C W C News Service, who has returned from Spain where she was in charge of refugee work for War Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference, a participating agency of the National War Fund. Miss Egan will assume executive duties at the agency's headquarters in New York (N C W C).

Bible Read In Canada Public School

NEW YORK (RNS)—Since the war, Protestant groups in Canada and the United States have continually advocated Bible reading in public schools.

This week for the first time in history a select passage of the Bible was read to thousands of returning school children throughout the Province of British Columbia.

Under an amendment to the Schools Act, passed at the last session of the legislature, the school day in the Canadian Province must be opened by reading of a passage from the Bible, chosen by the Council of Public Instruction, and the superintendent of education.

Teachers or children who object to such Bible reading on conscientious grounds are exempt from the readings.

Pamphlets entitled "Why the Bible in Public Schools" are being distributed to church-goers in Asheville, N. C., by white and Negro Protestant ministers to stimulate interest in teaching of the Bible in the public high schools of the city.

GOD'S WILL

"The important thing is not the action in itself, but only at the precise minute it is willed by God." —Pere Plus.

Gen. Patton Tough?—One Person Doesn't Believe It—She's His Old Nurse

LOS ANGELES.—Lieut. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., the current nemesis of the Nazis in the war in France, has his soft side, too and much of it is wrapped up in a kindly, white-haired 98-year-old woman, bed-ridden for ten years in a hospital here.

She is Miss Mary Scally, an Irish nurse, who cared for the general from the time he was three months old, watched him grow into a "fine brood of a boy," and develop into a great soldier. When Gen. Patton

left Southern California to win fame in the North African campaign, the last person he visited in this section was Miss Scally.

Folks can't talk all they want about General Patton being hard-boiled, but Miss Scally knows better. She remembers the devout boy, although a non-Catholic, who frequently attended Mass with her at the San Gabriel Mission. And one of Miss Scally's most treasured possessions is a Rosary which the General sent her from overseas.

The Bishop's Appointments



SEPTEMBER

- 10 Sunday—St. Bernard's Seminary—Ordinations—8:30 A. M. Holy Sepulchre Cemetery—Blessing of the Graves—3:30 P. M.
- 11 Monday—Nazareth Academy—Low Mass—8:30 A. M.
- 12 Tuesday—Sacred Heart Academy—Low Mass—8:30 A. M.
- 13 Wednesday—Aquinas Institute—Low Mass—8:00 A. M.
- 14 Thursday—Our Lady of Mercy High School—Low Mass—8:00 A. M.
- 15 Friday—St. Andrew's Seminary—Low Mass—8:00 A. M.
- 17 Sunday—St. Thomas the Apostle, New York City—Jubilee Sermon—11:00 A. M.
- 22 Friday—Aquinas Institute—Teachers' Institute—3:00 P. M.
- 24 Sunday—Nazareth Convent, Pittsford—Pontifical Mass, Twentieth Anniversary Nazareth College—11:00 A. M.
- 27 Wednesday—Holy Family, Auburn—Low Mass, Holy Family High School—9:00 A. M.
- 28 Thursday—St. Agnes Institute—Low Mass—9:00 A. M. St. Ann, Hornell—Baccalaureate Service—St. James Mercy Hospital Nurses School—4:00 P. M.

Notre Dame Convent In Paris Sacked

ZURICH, Switzerland—When the Germans evacuated the Convent of Notre Dame in Paris, which had been requisitioned for the billeting of troops during the occupation, it was discovered that shrines had been desecrated and sacred vessels and art treasures plundered, according to a special dispatch published in the newspaper La Suisse Geneva.

The dispatch also related that when the French Forces of the Interior had driven the Germans out of a house near the Church, where the German command had resided, the house was burning and it was discovered that about 100 of the Germans' own dead were in the burning building. Among thirteen hostages shot by the Germans during the occupation, the dispatch said, was the parish priest.

Religion in Soviet Russia Now

LONDON (CIP)—The pros and cons of religious freedom in Russia can be summarized from a report just received regarding the situation of the Orthodox Church there:

PRO: 1. There are more priests and more opportunities for attending divine service than there were before the war.

2. Religious statements which do not cast an unfavorable light upon the Government are featured in the press.

3. The press is forbidden to publish open attacks on the Church and remarks inimical to religion.

CON: 1. The Committee in charge of the relations between the Orthodox Church and the State has several members on its board who were formerly prominent in the Militant Godless Association.

2. The prohibition forbidding the giving of religious instruction to those under eighteen years is still in force.

3. Priests are forbidden to engage in social work although they

may take up collections to purchase tanks and airplanes for presentation to the Red Army.

THE MAIN OBSTACLE to religious freedom in Russia thus continues to be the prohibition against religious education. One factor, however, which may tend to relax this in the future is the fact that men whose whole adult life has been spent under the Soviet re-

gime are now being ordained to the priesthood. This should tend to reduce the fear of Old Regime propaganda against the present Government.

Indeed this is not so much the present danger as that the Soviet Government will so control the clergy as to constitute a kind of State clericalism, which is equally inimical to true religious freedom.

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