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## Vatican Concern Felt For Catholic Millions In Poland Compromise

International News Service Staff Correspondent

ROME (RNS) — The "Compromised solution" concerning Poland which was arrived at by the Big Three conference at Yalta caused momentary disappointment in Vatican circles.

Particular concern was voiced over "the fate of millions of Catholics living east of the Oder-Nisse in Poland." Unless there is a mass migration to the west these Poles would come under Soviet rule.

Vatican quarters also were concerned over the "practical application" of the Yalta agreement which provided concessions of German territory to the Poles in exchange for the areas to be acquired by Russia. The question was asked whether this would assure "enhancement of a great and truly free Catholic nation."

The Holy See at the same time was pre-occupied with the possible fate of two Polish corps now fighting on the Italian and western fronts. Doubts were expressed over the report that three Polish corps had committed suicide after reading the Big Three compromise passages relating to Poland.

Some believed that a broadcast order by the Lublin Government directing the two Polish corps to return to Poland might be an invitation to a mass Red slaughter.

The Vatican revealed meanwhile that pressure was taken in the fact that the Pope's viewpoint regarding punishment of war criminals was "taken into account" at Yalta, according to the published communiques.

## Fear Fate of Church Under Soviet Rule

(Continued from Page 1)

tory that the new government to Russia.

Commissioner Alvin E. O'Konski, O.S.B., a son of native Poles, told the House in an impassioned speech that Poland is being "told down the river" by the Allied powers as her reward for fighting the Nazis "starved and for five years."

O'Konski charged that the "Big Three" dedication concerning Poland a platitude is "nothing but a sop." "After they got 30 million Russians and 10 million Germans into Poland then they'll call a plebiscite and ask the country what government they want," he shouted.

At the very hour the statement of the "Big Three" was made public to the world, the Corresponding Committee of American-Polish Associations in the House was meeting in Washington.

The Rev. Alphonse J. Schmitt, Superior of the Vincentian Fathers, who represent the American branch of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, said:

"The Pope's words are well known in the fact that the main object of the Black Sea Conference was reduced on the Conference of Yalta and that the main object of the Conference of Moscow."

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## On Guard!

By Rev. Patrick J. Flynn

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Satan, the Dark Angel of Impudence, Christ is about to begin His Passion. He is about to make this sacrifice which will redeem the world. He is ready to die on the Cross. The Kingdom of God is about to overthrow the dark Empire of Evil wherein the souls of men have been enslaved so long . . . It is now five minutes to twelve for Satan. He is desperate. He is aware of Christ's intent. He has time to challenge Christ. Once before Satan had tempted Christ and had failed. In the desert, on the pinnacle of the Temple and on the mountain top Satan had tempted Christ with lies. Here in the Garden Satan has a new plan. This is Satan's last chance to halt the conquest of Christ and he comes armed with a new strategy.

The Dark Angel is always superb in debate and he has every reason for exuding himself at this critical hour in Gethsemani. Listen to him as he argues with the merciful Christ . . . "Thou feel, O Christ! . . . Few are going to die on a Cross? Why? . . . You'll be crowned with thorns, mocked, scourged, and spit upon! . . . You'll be scorned, and scoffed, and betrayed! . . . For whom are you going to suffer all this? . . . Look at Peter. In a few hours he will deny you! . . . What gratitude! . . . Even now Judas is coming with thirty pieces of silver in his hand and he'll betray you with a kiss! . . . What loyalty! . . . Are you dying for men like these? . . . Thou feel, O Christ!" . . . Satan builds up to the climax of his argument. Christ and the Dark Angel behold in vision the men and women of all time. Satan speaks to them scornfully . . . He speaks of their ingratitude to Christ. "Your indifference to the Sacraments of the Cross, Christ and Satan also behold our day and our world . . . The Prince of Darkness points to all of us. Scornfully he calls Christ's situation to our ingenuous hearts. "Thou feel, O Christ! You'll build them a thousand thousand churches, but still they will not come to you. Your priests will preach a thousand thousand sermons about your death on the Cross, but their hearts will still remain hardened. You'll implore priests to grant divine pardon to them but they'll neglect it, refuse it, and even abuse it. Thou feel, O Christ. You'll build a million altars. On these altars every morning until the end of time your Blood will flow again and your Body will be offered again. I would harp all my Empire of Evil for one drop of your Blood, but these men and women to whom you offer your Body and Blood, see how they

waste it. See how they neglect it. Thou feel, O Christ!"

This is the temptation that beseeches Christ in the Garden. It is the temptation of truth: Satan's challenge to Christ in the challenge of the truth — the truth about ourselves, our coldness, our indifference, our impotence, our inaction. Satan is the fresh dawn of creation. Satan brought the glorious Garden of Paradise crashing down to rule with a LIE! Now he rules the Garden of Gethsemani and places the seed of Christ with a TRUTH! It is the truth of man's ingratitude for the Sacraments of the Cross. The just Christ is tempted to hate us. Tempted to turn back and abandon us forever. But Christ doesn't abandon us. For once Christ who is justice turns His back on Justice. For once Truth walks at truth! Christ conquers Satan by ignoring the truth — the truth about us.

Lent is a good time for modern men and women to enter the Garden of Gethsemani. The old drama still goes on. The Dark Angel still accuses us to Christ. The Father of Lies still points to us scornfully but when he mocks our impatience he speaks the truth.

## NCWC Youth Head Hits Compulsory Training

ALEXANDER (RNB) — Sound a warning against peacetime military training in the U. S., the Rev. Paul Tanner, youth director of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, said here that conscription "is being advocated widely by the press and other intelligent agencies" without "knowledge of its sordid history in other countries."

Father Tanner, addressing a regional conference of Catholic Boy Scout chaplains and lay leaders from New York and New Jersey dioceses, asserted that adoption of such legislation at this time would be "one of the greatest catastrophes to American youth."

## Strasbourg Cathedral Can Be Repaired

PARIS (RNC) — A thorough examination of Strasbourg Cathedral has established that 20% of part of the edifice has suffered irreparable damage. The most serious destruction was wrought by two bombs that struck the Cathedral last August. One ripped open the cupola, over the choir, and the other pried the roof of a lateral nave.

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