

Vatican Maintains 'Greatest Reserve' On Atomic Bombing

Vatican City—(NC)—A bulletin issued by the Vatican Press Office declares that, contrary to reports of various Vatican statements, the greatest reserve has been maintained relative to atomic bombing.

Observatore Romano in a Page One article entitled "Atomic Era," asks if this new scientific discovery is really the beginning of a new era for humanity, as very many persons seem to think in the first moments of enchantment at the news of this unheard of event.

Whatever be its historical development, this article says, the discovery takes its place in the world among those technical advances which concur toward the perfection of life. However, the article reminds, it is not from this source that revolutionary changes occur to bring the dawn of a new day for humanity.

These dawn, it says, come only from great conquests, from salutary revelations, since, in the last analysis, it is necessary to raise it to the spiritual level to discern whether discoveries such as this represent a step forward or a regression, an elevation or a depression, a step toward a higher civilization or toward barbarism.

Observatore notes an article entitled "Man Returns to the Caves" in the Socialist paper Avanti in which it is stated that the great cycle in which men received the messages of Socrates, Buddha, St. Francis, Mazzini, Marx, Tolstol and others was sealed forever at Hiroshima.

The Avanti article, citing Secretary Stimson's announcement of the passage of humanity into the atomic era, said it would be an era of terrible tyranny from which the only liberation for man could come through social humanism and revolutionary agitation.

An editorial in Observatore states that numerous correspondents of secular news agencies have sought "impressions" on the atomic bomb. The writer of the editorial makes reference to his comment in the same column on June 22, 1944, at the first report of the use of flying bombs on London, which said:

"It is an application of aerial warfare which emphasizes, so to speak, those constitutional defects, through the unfortunately indiscriminate employment of which harm results to civil populations. The target, never exact in the case of piloted planes, is extended to indeed vaster proportions."

The writer notes this comment and then adds that the new destructive invention would bring forth still more destruction, and adds: "All battles of life, in every time and field, are marked by this fatal counter-balancing of offense and counter-offense, unfortunately in a continuously surpassing efficacy, so that the reprisal is most often out of proportion. This spirit prevails in the moral field of just defense as it does in the military field of strategy and tactics; hence the force of opposing passions in the abyss created by aversion and rancor, which separates peoples and thus removes farther away true peace, is ever wider extended."

"True peace," the writer continues, "means the end of hatred and a pacification of spirits rather than the cessation of hostilities."

Redeployed Chaplain Arrives in Pacific

Honolulu—(NC)—The Rev. Neil S. Cashman, Army chaplain and priest of the Archdiocese of St. Paul, is one of the first chaplains to arrive from the European theater for duty at the Central Pacific command base. Father Cashman saw action in the Tunisian and Italian campaigns.

Vatican 'Sources' Are Classified

Vatican City—(NC)—Scorpio Stampa, a press bulletin issued daily under the auspices of Observatore Romano, calls attention to the fact that it has issued no statement regarding the attitude of the Holy See on current international questions, and that opinions that may be gathered in this connection by certain agencies are from private sources.

It is believed here that this comment was occasioned by a report of the Pucci agency.

A secular press report printed in this country quoted "a Vatican source" as saying that the Vatican expects Japan soon to surrender to the Allies, and asserted that "Msgr. Enrico Pucci's Vatican press bulletin said today that the Vatican viewed the European military and political situation 'with apprehension.'"

Canadian Bishops' Consecration Sept. 8

Ottawa—(NC)—Two Oblate priests will be consecrated Bishops on September 8 at St. Albert, Alberta, by Canada's Oblate Cardinal in a historic church which has long been especially dear to members of this community.

The Bishops-elect are the Most Rev. Anthony Jordan, Superior of the Holy Rosary Scolasticate of the English-speaking Oblates at Ottawa, who recently was named Vicar Apostolic of Prince Rupert; and the Most Rev. Henri Routhier, Provincial of the Oblates at Edmonton, recently appointed Coadjutor to the Vicar Apostolic of Grouard.

French Cardinal Asks State Aid to Schools

Lille—(NC)—His Eminence Achille Cardinal Lienart, Bishop of Lille, addressing a group of Catholics on freedom of teaching and the need and justice of State aid to the free schools, emphasized that the question is "a burning one" involving the very existence of Catholic schools.

His Eminence urged parents of children attending the free schools to take a more active part in protecting their schools and recommended the creation of a diocesan or a departmental committee in which parents, teachers and the diocesan director of the free schools will participate.

Developments in Rumania Awaited by Papal Nuncio

Rome—(CIP)—According to a well-informed Rumanian priest now living in Rome, the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Andrea Cassulo, is still in Rumania, waiting for further developments. According to the same priest, the political and religious situation in Rumania is rather calm at present.

Catholic churches have been closed in Bessarabia, which has been annexed by the Soviet Union (there were few Catholics there), but not in Rumania proper. According to the same source, the Rumanian Orthodox Church, to which the overwhelming majority of the population belongs, is at present strongly influenced by Russian propaganda.

Fr. Parsons Decries Use of Atomic Bomb As Terror Weapon

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was defended on the ground that they were a military objective.

Finally, apparently, at the end of the German war, the cities themselves, with their water and electrical supply, became military objectives, for without them munitions could not be made.

So the question comes: How far can you enlarge this concept of military objective and still remain within the moral law?

In my opinion, the process should have stopped at the factories, and never goes on to include the workers' houses, and still less the city itself. The reason for this is that the house is primarily a home, the seat of the family, of women and children, not an adjunct of a munitions plant; and the city is a community whose prime purpose is the common good of the citizens, and not the making of war.

Still less defensible therefore, on the basis of the above argument, is mere terror bombing—bombing whose prime purpose is not the destruction of material objectives, but whose intent is to terrify the population, to destroy their morale, to break their will to fight on. Such was much of the German bombing, and such, also, has apparently been some of our own, at least in Japan.

In the specific case of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, what was the intent of the atomic bombing, as distinguished from the pinpoint bombing of military installations carried on by the Super-fortresses for the most part?

It had an obvious, indeed an admitted, connection with the ultimatum delivered on July 26, 1945, at Potsdam and the speeches directed at Japan by Captain Zacharias. It was, in fact, as a writer has expressed it, the second part of that ultimatum.

In other words, the use of the atomic bomb, in these specific cases, was not against military objectives as such, though it may be that some such objectives were incidentally destroyed. It was intended to terrorize the

Japanese people, to make them cease war-making by impressing them with a realization of our superior might.

I do not know of any moral argument that may be used to justify this type of bombing. The end sought, to stop the war, save millions of lives, protect billions' worth of property, none of that could justify the means used, if the means is itself immoral. So until someone comes along to justify successfully this type of non-military bombing as right or

indifferent in itself, I do not see how it can be defended.

Card. Gibbons Manuscript Exhibited by Fordham U.

New York—(NC)—An original typed manuscript of an article entitled "A Century of Peace" by the late James Cardinal Gibbons which appeared in The Century Magazine almost 50 years ago is being exhibited in the Duane Library at Fordham University here.



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