

Catholic Daughters Aid Al Smith Memorial Drive

New York — (NC) — New York State Court Estelle

Daughters of America, through its State regent, Miss Marie C. Curry, have pledged wholehearted support of the Alfred E. Smith Memorial campaign now in progress.

Outbreak of War Forced Russia To Tolerate Religion, Survey Shows

Amsterdam — (NC) — While the Soviet Government took steps during the war to reconstitute the Russian Church, and muted, at least for foreign consumption, the official campaign against religion, these actions were by no means the result of the Government's desire, which remains steadfastly bent upon promulgation of Marxian materialism, not only in Russian and the recently annexed territories but also throughout the world.

These observations are contained in a study made in Moscow of recent religious conditions in the Soviet Union. The relaxing of the anti-religious campaign and reconstitution of the Moscow Patriarchate, it is stated, were the result of the invasion of Russia by the German armies and the fear evoked in Government circles by the Hitler "crusade," which set out avowedly to restore the Russian Orthodox Church on Soviet soil.

Quoting from Communist Party rules and regulations concerning the war against religion, "which occupies a special place" and "must be carried on systematically and unremittingly," the study asserts that the suppression of the Comintern was but a "dissembling gesture," made necessary by the Nazi invasion of Russia.

"Hitler," it continues, "played one of his most formidable moral trump cards when he solemnly proclaimed his 'crusade.' In the Ukraine the dissidence of Bishop Polycarpus Sikorsky, Orthodox, caused a sensation within the ranks of the Moscow Hierarchy, while efforts were made by the Government to hush this news and the fast spreading repercussions, which became the talk of the Russian capital."

Pointing out that the Government underwent spasms of moral tremor and extreme political anxiety in the face of this "crusade," and that his "marked one of the turning points of its attitude not only toward worshippers but particularly toward the clergy, upon which it was suddenly necessary to rely for appeals to patriotism," the study reviews efforts of the Soviet Government to obtain sympathy and aid in America, recalls the special protocol entered into between President Roosevelt and Foreign Commissar Litvinoff in 1943, regulating in principal re-

ligious freedom for Americans living on Soviet territory, and the statement of President Roosevelt, published in Pravda, stating that the Soviet Constitution guaranteed freedom of worship.

The suppression of anti-religious propaganda, the closing of anti-religious museums, the publication in the Soviet press of articles extolling religious belief, the eagerness of the Soviet censorship to let pass photos and articles on the intense religious activity of the country — these were indirect results of the invasion of Russia and the consequent necessity of obtaining aid and sympathy abroad, the study states.

Asserting that the Government's apparent change of attitude toward religion in no way indicated an abandonment of official Godlessness, the study cites the present conduct of Soviet authorities, the complete absence of chaplains from the Soviet armed forces, the instructions in Marxism carried on among the soldiers, the rules and regulations of communist manuals still in use, the criticism published by Pravda of March 17, 1943, in a book review of Mr. Walter Lippman's "United States War Aims," the continuing restrictions against religion, and, finally, the absence of any official government statement indicating a change of policy or repudiating Marxism.

Recent figures published abroad on the number of churches in the USSR, are misleading, it is stated, since they refer also to the annexed territories of Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Moldavia, and principally to the annexed territory of Poland.

Prior to these annexations, it is asserted, "there were no other churches, Protestant or Catholic, left open to Divine worship in the original Soviet Republics, with the distinctive exception of one Catholic Church in the Soviet capital."

As a result of the persecution of religion and the shooting and exiling of the clergy, the study declares, "the shortage of priests in Russia, to speak only of the Russian Orthodox Church, creates an appalling situation. In Moscow alone, even basing one's self on a wilfully over-estimated

number of priests, there is only one for every 40,000 worshippers."

Yet, notwithstanding the persecution, it is affirmed that "from private but most reliable sources it is known here in Moscow that approximately 70 per cent of the Soviet population, in the 1935 Census, had dared to declare themselves as 'believers.'"

To this day in Soviet Russia, it adds, the press has remained silent on the officially-recognized number of believers in the country.

Few people know, it continues, that in Russia an official government distinction has always been made between a Soviet citizen-believer exercising his full civil rights as a citizen, and a group of Soviet citizens forming a legally-approved religious body.

"The numerous Orthodox Church heads of America and elsewhere who have voiced their justified complaints with regard to this legal discrimination in Soviet religious legislation are not asking for personal rights or privileges. They simply think, as do many other observers of good will, that normal benefits of civil rights must not be restricted simply because of the religious or ecclesiastical status of the societies, groups or worshippers, or parishes who apply for them.

"These Church heads of the Orthodox faith abroad are voicing the sentiments of millions of mother-country Russians, who have not the means nor the opportunity of expressing their legitimate grievances."

Commenting on the fact, often reiterated abroad by Soviet apologists, that Russia is the only country in the world having a law against racial prejudices, it is pointed out that notwithstanding this law "millions of potential or actual political suspects of racial minorities have been deported from the annexed territories as far away as the redoubtable Kamchatka Soviet concentration camps. These national minorities, it adds, have been "quietly wiped off the surface of the civilized world."

"While the United States may not have such a law, the study comments, "it has a sacred spirit of true democracy which precludes even the necessity of promulgating such a law." In this connection it quotes the words of President Roosevelt in his message to Congress in January 1942:

"We are inspired by that faith which has its roots struck far back into the first chapter of the Book of Genesis, in which it is said: 'God created man to His image and likeness.' We are striving to preserve our fidelity to this divine heritage. We are fighting, just as our fathers fought, in defense of the doctrine teaching that all men are equal before God."

The message of the American president, the study reveals, was printed in Moscow by Pravda at a time when the Soviet Government "was in urgent need not only of the deluge of war material brought by American capitalist industry," but was also "making a badly disguised bid in the choir of Christian nations fighting against un-Christian principles and methods."

"In former times," it continues, "the Soviet press carefully selected such spiritual quotations in its foreign news items or simply omitted the passages. Necessity," it adds, "is not only the mother of invention but also of political dissimulation."

"The United Nations cause may be helped without distorting history," the study concludes. "The American nation has no need of practicing a policy of dissimulation towards anybody and has had towards a nation whose principles it has never accepted."

SCHOOLS OF REICH STUDY SUBJECT

New York — (RNS) — Intellectual reconstruction of Germany is a matter of international responsibility, Roman Catholic leaders declared at a meeting here sponsored by Pax Romana, world secretariat of national Catholic university federations.

The Rev. John Courtney Murray, S.J., editor of Theological Studies, who presided, said the aim of the meeting was to explore the responsibility of German universities for the rise of Nazism. This responsibility, it was asserted, arose because the universities gave course to the doctrine of National Socialism and to the system itself, as well as to "the liberal agnosticism and excessive nationalism which prepared the way for its success."

Reviewing what is known about the present intellectual state of Germany, the meeting discussed ways and means in which German universities can be given a new structure free of government control and be made instruments of human progress.

An Eye for Beauty... GAMROD-HARMAN 75 EXCHANGE ST. MAIN 3710

Thousands of RUGS Clean Enough To Eat Off Of! That's How STAUB'S CLEAN RUGS Both sides—and thru and thru! No wonder Staub's Rug Cleaning gives rugs longer life—returns them bright and new looking! STAUB & SON INCORPORATED 25 Years' Experience in Rug Cleaning

BOY, I'M HUNGRY! WHAT'S COOKING? YOUR FAVORITE RABBIT AND WE'VE PLENTY OF The Flavor that's in Favor TO GO WITH IT! Campbell's Soup