

Vatican Spikes Moscow's Religious Liberty Claim

Vatican City—(NC)—With veracity and logic, Observatore Romano has made reply to a number of often-repeated, calumnious statements broadcast by Radio Moscow, especially one to the effect that the recent Encyclical "Orientalis Omnes" of His Holiness Pope Pius XII was a "political document of the highest importance" attacking the Carpathian Ukraine and Soviet constitution granting religious freedom.

The Observatore writer declares that rather than being an attack against the Carpathian Ukraine, the Encyclical is a defense of that land because it defends the sacred natural rights of the Catholic people of that territory. Furthermore, Observatore comments it was these very people, and not the Holy Father, who were first to cry out against the wrong which they had to undergo. The writer observes that the Holy Father has but heard their cries of sorrow and come to their defense.

A "Nonsensical" Claim

Focusing on the Moscow claim that freedom of religion and freedom of conscience are allowed by the Soviet constitution in the Ukraine, Observatore declares that the facts deny such a "nonsensical" claim and that only by virtue of supreme irony or stupid ignorance would it be possible to claim such freedom for the Ukrainian people.

As a matter of fact, Observatore states, the same constitution which pretends to proclaim freedom of religion allows at the same time freedom of anti-religious propaganda — and abuse of freedom contradictory to an antithetical to real liberty. Vatican writer states:

The Observatore writer then turns his attention to Moscow's favorite canard — that the Vatican had defended and collaborated with Adolf Hitler. Citing the Holy See's record, the writer reminds Moscow that before Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Russia, the Vatican was the first victim of Hitler's concept of the "new order" — the "new order" of treatment, as subsequent to July 20, 1934, he violated even more intensively and extensively the Concordat that he signed with the Holy See — which the Encyclical "Mit Brennender Sorge" amply documents.

As for the Vatican defending Hitler, the writer asks why then — and again it is a matter of public record as revealed recently at the Nuremberg trials — did Hitler threaten to invade the Vatican itself and, indeed, to exterminate the Catholic Church?

Vote Against Union Said Sin Against Justice

New Orleans — (NC) — Addressing workers of the Douglas Company, the Rev. Thomas A. Brant, of the Committee for Social Action of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, urged them to vote for a union in a balloting held by the National Labor Relations Board. The ballot contained three choices, C, A, B, and L.

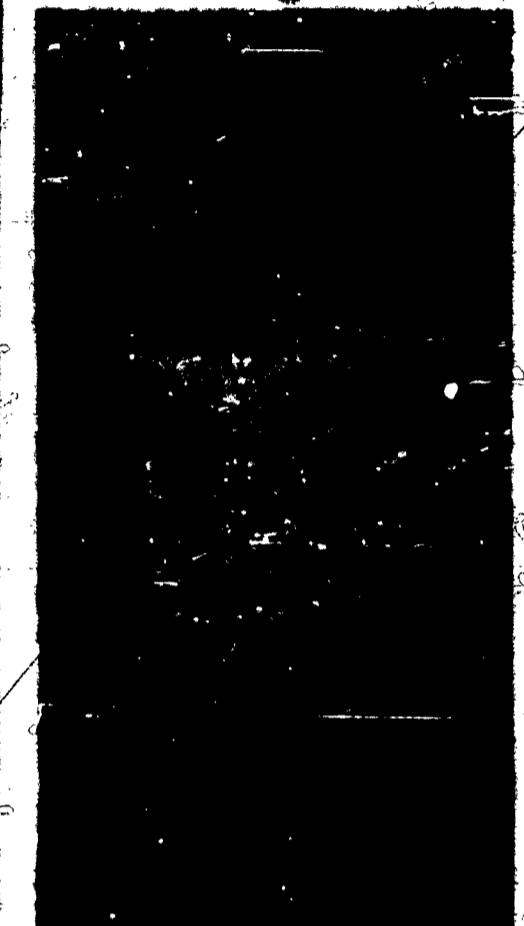
Brant said the central point of the ballot was the union. He said that the union was the only way to bring about justice and that a vote for the union would be a sin against justice. He said that the union was the only way to bring about justice and that a vote for the union would be a sin against justice.

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Fifty Russian Refugees Become Catholics in Italy

New York — (NC) — Fifty Russian refugees at a camp in North Italy have left the Orthodox Church and have joined the

Atom Teacher



Dr. Lisa Meitner, woman scientist, who has been appointed to the faculty of Catholic University of America. She is noted for her studies on atomic energy which pointed the way for the history-making atom bomb. (NC Photos)

Church of Rome, according to a Vatican broadcast picked up here.

The Vatican radio also told of a solemn Mass in the Byzantine-Slavonic rite offered at the camp at which all the refugees assisted, including 350 Russians, many Yugoslavs, Greeks, and Albanians. The Mass was celebrated by Father Vargulin, it was reported, an Italian priest who changed his rite in order to dedicate himself to the Russian apostolate.

The new Russian Catholics, the broadcast said, sang the creed in old Slavonic, and received Communion under both species. Preaching in Russian and Italian, Father Vargulin said that for Christians there were no national differences.

Atom Bomb Expert Sees Peace Need

Washington — (INS) — Dr. Lisa Meitner, mother of the atom bomb, said that lasting peace "is more desirable than the creation of weapons which might lead to the extermination of mankind."

In a news conference at Catholic University Dr. Meitner refused to comment on the political implications of the atomic bomb, she said.

"I have no intention to suggest that atomic energy could be controlled beyond expressing my sincere hope that no occasion will again arise where it will be utilized in war.

"A lasting peace is more desirable than the creation of weapons which might lead to the extermination of mankind."

The tiny woman scientist will lecture on nuclear physics at Catholic University until June. She said she thought she would return to Sweden at that time to do research work.

Dr. Meitner refused to predict the possibility of using atomic energy to produce power, she said. She said that she was sure that in the future, atomic power could be used to run only the very large power plants.

The scientist revealed that she did not know anything about atomic bombs until newspapermen told her that the first bomb had been dropped on Hiroshima. She said that America knew much more about the bomb than anyone in Europe.

Raise Losers' Diet President Asked

Notre Dame, Ind. — (NC) — Officials of the University of Notre Dame have urged President Truman to intensify American relief efforts in Europe and the Far East to avert further suffering and loss of life among the stricken people. In a telegram made public by the Rev. J. Hugh O'Donnell, C.S.C., president of the University.

The telegram, which was signed by 145 administrative officials and faculty members of the University, urged the Administration to spend sufficient funds to the war stricken to raise the minimum diet in all countries, including Italy, Germany, Austria, Hungary and Japan, to a 2,000 calorie a day, and to liberate countries to 2,000 calories per day.

Heat—White Light—Silence Missioner Tells of Atomic Bomb Blast

Tokyo — (NC) — They were there when the atomic bomb fell. And they live to tell the tale.

In Hiroshima city, on the morning of the atomic bombing, the Catholic mission consisted of six Japanese priests and twelve Italian, English and American missionaries. They were all present when the atomic bomb fell. They were all present when the atomic bomb fell.

Four priests were in the parish house, only 500 yards from the center of the explosion. The Rev. Father Thomas Kopp, M.S., had returned from the mission in the morning and was in a hurry to get to the parish house. He was in a hurry to get to the parish house.

They were in the midst of a tremendous blast of white light. Just behind the magnificent flashlight used by photographers and let it become multiplied a millionfold. There was no doubt that a deadly silence, which lasted for four or five seconds. Then the sound of the falling bomb made the earth shake.

Father Kopp said it seemed as if part of the sun, like a ball of fire, had hit the earth. Much more the blinding core of the explosion, the other priests saw the most terrible flash. Then came the air of falling masses, and a vast cloud of dust spread

PAPAL HONOR FOR GENERAL



The decoration of the Order of St. Sylvester, oldest pontifical order of knighthood, is pinned on Major General William Donovan of New York, by Cardinal-designate Francis J. Spellman, in the chancery of St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York. (NC Photos)

Reds Silent on Fate Of Five Missionaries

Tokyo — (NC) — A bleak silence is the only response thus far to queries about what has happened to five Catholic missionaries, their parishioners and their churches in the southern part of Sakhalin Island, which has been occupied by the Russians since the end of the war.

MOSCOW PATRIARCH ECHOES RED CHARGES AGAINST VATICAN

(BY N.C.W.C. NEWS SERVICE) The text of a letter written by Alexia, the Orthodox Patriarch of Moscow and of all Russia, in which he called upon the Holy See to "tear away the ties which unite you to the Vatican," has been made available to the N.C.W.C. News Service.

In his Encyclical "Orientalis Omnes Ecclesias," delivered January 19 on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the reunion of the Ruthenian Church with the Holy See, His Holiness Pope Pius XII mentioned the Patriarch's letter and its aim.

The Holy Father also mentioned — but in a letter did not — that successful tactics were being employed to induce Ruthenian Catholics to break with the Vatican and that, on political pretext that Catholics are enemies of the State, Bishops, priests and members of the faithful have been imprisoned and made to suffer because of loyalty to the Catholic Church.

The Alexia letter brings over with the often-repeated — and more often refuted.

Southern Catholics Endorse Social Bills

St. Louis, Mo. — (RNS) — The annual meeting of the Catholic Committee of the South here was devoted almost entirely to a review of pending and proposed social measures in the national and state legislatures.

The meeting went on record in favor of early enactment of the mandatory version of the full employment bill by Congress and called for continued strict price and rent controls. The committee approved the 65-cent per hour minimum wage bill and endorsed the President for his "aggressive" interest in a national program for adequate housing.

The Rev. Thomas O'Connell, of Richmond, Va., chairman of the committee, announced that an executive session had "expressed itself in complete accord with the principle of non-discrimination on religious or racial grounds in employment and educational opportunity."