

Communists Most Active In U. S.-Occupied Japan

BY REV. PATRICK O'CONNOR, S.S.C.

Tokyo—(NC)—"We must endear ourselves to the people," said the slight, youthful appearing man on Tokyo-bound train. He was Sanzo Nozaka, Japanese Communist, returning from Moscow and communist-held North China, after 14 years' absence.

Arriving in Tokyo late at night, he attended a public reception and immediately went into conference with the central committee of the Communist Party, the session lasting until 3 a. m.

Next day a statement of cautiously revised policy appeared, signed by the committee and by Nozaka. Since then he has consistently taken the lead, though he is not a member of the central committee. "Soon there will be another congress, and I shall be elected," he assured me recently.

Since his return the Communist policy has been to soft-pedal the harsh notes of authentic Communism and play something more appealing to the popular ear. Long-range Communist aims are not discussed. Demands for the dethronement of the Emperor have been toned down.

Emphasis is on more food, better living conditions, the 8-hour day, land distribution and a "united democratic front." The chairman of the Communist election campaign committee indignantly has denied that the party is opposed to private property.

The Communist Party of Japan was founded in 1922, was affiliated with the Communist Internationale and soon found itself in head-on collision with the Japanese government. Some red leaders were imprisoned; others fled to China and Moscow. Last October the prisoners left their cells to stand blinking in the Tokyo sunlight, free, happy and grimly determined. Under the new freedom established by the American occupation, the Japanese Communists now became a legal and active political party.

A Central Communist Committee was elected at a congress in December, with K. Tokuda as chief and Yoshio Shiga as editor of the Red Flag, weekly Communist paper. Both of these men had spent seven bitter years in prison from 1938 to 1945. They had learned Communism in the early days, when its world-revolutionary aims were stated frankly and pursued directly.

Some 200 Japanese Communists, soon to return from the Communist base in China, doubtless will support the Nozaka policies. (It is interesting to note that 100 of them are now making a stop-over in Hailu, administrative center of Russian-occupied northern Korea.)

Party Claims 5,000
The Communist Party in Japan claims a membership of 5,000 as of January 31. On December 31, 1945, they say, they had 2,500 members. They claim a paid circulation of 300,000 for the Red Flag, and hope to reach the 500,000 mark in April.

The Communists have more to say and are more active than any other party in Japan today. They control most of the Japanese newspapers out of all proportion to their national following.

They can probably be explained as follows: 1. The Communist Party is new because it is a novelty as a party in Japan. 2. It has a clear program. 3. It has a clear leader.

Nomura Lauds Peace Efforts by Bp. Walsh

Tokyo—(NC)—Efforts of several prominent American Catholics to avert war are recalled with warm admiration by the Japanese diplomat who delivered his government's final note to Secretary of State Cordell Hull in Washington on December 7, 1941—the day of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The diplomat is Admiral Kichisaburo Nomura, last Japanese Ambassador at Washington, who insists he did not know of his government's plans for the Pearl Harbor attack and that his own efforts were bent constantly on keeping the peace.

Admiral Nomura said that he admired particularly Bishop James Edward Walsh, M.M., Superior General of Maryknoll, and the Father James Drought, M.M., former Maryknoll Vicar General, who died in May 1943, "for their religious spirit."

The Admiral emphasized that while Bishop Walsh did not go into political details with him, the prelate, nevertheless, was a strong and encouraging influence throughout lengthy efforts to reconcile the United States and Japan toward maintenance of peace.

The Admiral recalled that: "On Sunday, August 17, President Roosevelt warned me that if Japan attempted further aggression, the United States would be compelled to take all necessary measures to defend her interests."

"From that time," the Admiral continued, "I was in constant anxiety lest Japan go further and war would break out. I kept warning my government that if once war began between the two countries, it would last for years. Tokyo finally wired back: 'Your message already understood. You need not repeat it so often.'"

Describing the critical months immediately preceding Pearl Harbor, Admiral Nomura related: "After the freezing order (of Japanese funds in the U. S.) a meeting between Roosevelt and Konoye (Prime Fumimaro Konoye) was proposed, but the United States doubted whether Konoye was strong enough to hold his position. Washington wanted a preliminary agreement reached first, then the two government heads would meet merely to ratify. This preliminary agreement could not be reached."

Admiral Nomura said that he had no advance knowledge of the Pearl Harbor attack when he was handling the negotiations between his government and Secretary Hull the Japanese note breaking off negotiations, he declared, he had not heard of the attack.

Although the war is over, there can be no peace where children are hungry and cold," Mrs. Luce said as she recalled seeing "men who have known battle scraping their plates in the mess hall to make a stew for hungry children," who began lines five hours before the stew is ready to be distributed.

She declared the children of Belgium are 80 per cent in the pre-tubercular stage; Polish children have a diet 85 per cent short of required calories, and French children are getting a maximum of 1,200 calories, some 400 less than what the Germans at the end of the war considered the "very frontier of famine."

U. S. to Exhibit Vatican Statue

Rome—(NC)—The Pope has granted a request of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York that the statue of the Good Shepherd in the Vatican Museum be taken to the United States as an exhibit in the World War II exhibition.

The statue, which is a masterpiece of the Italian Renaissance, was created by the sculptor Donatello in the 15th century.

HIS FIRST OFFICIAL ACT



The first official act of a new Cardinal is the taking possession of his titular church in Rome. In this picture, His Eminence Edward Cardinal Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit, kisses the Cross as he takes formal possession of the Church of Santa Susanna. Outside the walls, Father of the church, Rev. Wilfrid G. Hurley, C. S. P., of San Francisco is shown handing him the Cross. The ancient church is under the care of the American Paulist Fathers. Acme radio photo. (NC Photos)

U. S. Urged to Head Off World Atomic Arms Race

Newark, N. J. — (NC) — World peace — even world survival — depends upon prompt American initiative in heading off the atomic armament race before it gets beyond control, the Rev. E. A. Conway, S. J., of the Catholic Association for International Peace, stated in an address before the Catholic League here.

Father Conway is treasurer of the National Committee on Atomic Information, a "clearing house" set up in Washington recently by 80 national organizations in cooperation with atomic scientists to present the scientific facts and political implications of atomic energy to the public.

"The Canadian spy scare will be only the first of a series of alarms, and excursions, culminating within five years in an international nervous breakdown unless the United States acts promptly to bring about both national and international control of atomic energy," he said.

"As the race now stands France, Great Britain and Russia have all formally declared that they are entries. The atomic scientists agree that any of them can develop its own bomb within five years. Every month of delay in setting up effective controls will increase the difficulty of reaching agreement on these controls. Meanwhile, as the race accelerates, tension will grow, fears and suspicions will increase, spy scares will multiply and the first nation to lose its head will lose its bombs."

Urn Crucifixion Story Doubted

New York — (NC) — A thorough study of the ancient inscriptions found on burial urns in a cave near Jerusalem does not offer sufficient evidence that they are anything like an eyewitness account of Christ's crucifixion.

This is the opinion of the Very Rev. James M. Voyle, O. P., Secretary of the Pontifical Commission in Rome, discussing the inscriptions found and their possible interpretations in an article in the March issue of The Month and Pastoral Review published here.

Reports in the secular press had referred to the inscriptions as "the earliest record of the trial and conviction of Jesus Christ by Pontius Pilate" and as "lamentations at the crucifixion of Christ recorded by Jewish disciples."

There is no convincing reason to believe that the name Jesus in the inscription refers to Christ, the author says, because the name Jesus, or Yeshua in Hebrew, was a common name during the Herodian epoch. Besides, he says, the inscriptions which were said to be expressions of grief could also be interjections of joy.

Primate Sees Spain Guarding Christianity

Rome — (RNS) — Spain must be the vanguard of Christianity because the first attacks of the Church's enemies have always been against our country," Enrique Cardinal Pla y Deniel, Archbishop of Toledo, declared in an address here.

The Spanish primate spoke at services marking the formal taking over of his titular Church of San Pietro in Montorio.

"Spain has always been the defender of Catholicism, and God has predestined great things for her in the supernatural order," Cardinal Pla said.

to criticism of the present regime, the cardinal made obvious allusions to those matters. He regretted, he said, "the world's lack of comprehension" of Spain and of the supernatural mission of the Church.

He asserted that "the Spanish race is an ardent lover of true liberty and has never tolerated injustice toward the Church, while on the other hand, the Church has never shown a submissive attitude toward any temporal power."

"We love Spain because we know the things for which she stood and continues to support," the cardinal stated.