

# Scorching Indictment of United States Red Cross in Russia Issued by Father

Here is the complete text of Father Braun's statement as released by the NCWO News Service.

In view of the official denial issued by Mr. Edwin H. Powers, national publicity director of the American Red Cross, concerning accusations against the American Red Cross made by me and in consideration of the nationwide publicity given to this denial I find it just and proper to present to the American public my own responsible statement under my own signature.

On October 30 of this year, for the first time since my return from Moscow, I agreed to address a meeting of the National Council of the Knights of Columbus in my native city of New Bedford, Mass. Among the revelations made that evening I accused the American Red Cross in Moscow of not respecting the will and intentions of the American people at large who contributed large sums of money for the relief of Russian suffering.

I explained that Red Cross supplies intended for needy Russian people, bought with large donations from the American people, never reached the needy in Russia, but were used to maintain that atmosphere of totalitarian domination, thank only to which the pseudo strength of the dictatorial regime is maintained. I testified that needy people in Moscow during the war, starved and almost without clothing, waited a long time for the American Red Cross to arrive.

Eventually these poor destitute Russians saw Mr. Hubble, the American Red Cross director in Moscow drive in a beautiful new Buick car ostentatiously bearing the insignia of the Red Cross on the front bumper. They also saw the Red Cross station wagon with the distinguishing station wagon painted in English and Russian circulating in the city, both cars driving to cocktail parties, receptions and other similar functions, when they were not being used for skimming parties. The poor, thin, old and undernourished Russians, except for a very small number, did not even attempt to see Mr. Hubble simply because it is politically unhealthy for nationals to visit foreigners in embassies and legations. It was not until the director of the American Red Cross was assimilated to the Diplomatic Corps and enjoyed all the privileges attached thereto, including high level surveillance in front of his house.

**AWAITING RELIEF**  
Millions of needy Russians in the capital were vainly expecting some palpable manifestation of corporate relief apart from hospital and surgical supplies. Instead of direct aid, Mr. Hubble for this relief, they came over to me knowing that I was an American citizen and wanted to know where they could go to receive the help and assurance they were normally and rightfully expecting.

I had the sad opportunity of witnessing the indescribable poverty, want and hunger of many an old father and mother whose sons had died or had been wounded at the front. I daily came in contact with worthy Russians who in normal times would never have sought alms or relief from their ordinary miserable distress. But here a war was raging on and conditions in Mos-

## Served Moscow



Bishop Pie-Eugene Neveu, A. A. Administrator Apostolic of Moscow, word of whose death in Paris has been received by the Augustinian Fathers of the Assumption in New York. Bishop Neveu, 91, served the parish of St. Louis de France in 1927 to 1934, and was the last representative of the apostolic succession in Quebec proper, returning to his native France because of ill health. (NC Photos)

cow, considerably bombed from the air, with five direct hits on the Kremlin, were no brighter than those in the invaded areas.

Moscow had been completely surrounded with the exception of one single issue in its periphery, and remained in a state of siege long after the Germans had gone, with martial law in effect. The entire Diplomatic Corps had been evacuated 1,000 kilometers away from all danger and had not of course witnessed the memorable scenes of panic which ensued in late October of 1941.

Again I repeat that I do not condemn the American Red Cross as such, but I vehemently protest against the alignment away of those enormous charity contributions by an organization which had pretended to accept them for the relief of human suffering in Russia. I protest and declare that the intentions of the majority of the American people who contributed to the nationwide campaign fund of the American Red Cross were frustrated.

**ORIGINAL INTENT**  
Dealing with unprincipled leaders such as are to be found plentifully over there always bring about disastrous results. The UN is actually dealing with such people coming out at the present moment with an unprecedented frontal attack of political and diplomatic hypocrisy in the question of world disarmament when their own plants as well as those of territories occupied by them are working night and day building up war material and working at a white heat on the atomic bomb with the help of imported German scientists. This is going on not in Madrid as Mr. Oscar Lange says, but right in Moscow, ever since V E Day.

On November 1, 1946, in the absence of Mr. Basil O'Connor, national president of the American Red Cross, who was then attending a Red Cross meeting on the West Coast, Mr. Edwin H. Powers, national publicity director of the American Red Cross, talking to the New Bedford, Mass., Standard Times from Red Cross Headquarters in Washington, said:  
"Contrary to what Father

Braun said, the American Red Cross did not sign or contract with the Russian Government making the latter Government sole distributor of Red Cross supplies in Russia. Red Cross supplies sent to Russia are distributed there by the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of Russia. The Red Cross does not distribute its own supplies in any foreign country. It depends on voluntary agencies in those countries to handle aid sent by the Red Cross. In Russia the welfare agency handling Red Cross supplies is the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. However, the Red Cross keeps a small staff in each foreign country working with distributing agencies to see that supplies reach those for whom they were intended. Red Cross headquarters in Washington never received word from our representative in Russia that supplies were not going to those for whom they were intended."

## GOVERNMENT IN DISGUISE

The American Red Cross officials of this country should have known that these Alliance agencies are nothing more than disguised government departments. In 1936, after the whitewashed purges plunging the entire country in mourning, the Russian section of the International Red Cross, of Geneva and the Russian political Red Cross, both operating until then autonomously and independently but very effectively, were forcibly dissolved by the Soviet Government.

Their two Directors were both cynically sold by agents of the Secret Police that in the Soviet Union, there was no longer any need for this type of relief and that in the future, the N.K.V.D. (alias the G.P.U., which was known as the M.V.D.) would look after the needs of the Russian people.

Speaking in the name of mercy and in defense of my formal accusation against the American Red Cross administration in Moscow, I deliberately declare that on Saturday June 26, 1944, I finally managed after a lot of trouble to obtain an interview with Mr. Hubble, Director of the American Red Cross in Moscow. This man was then in process of installation and very busy ordering from abroad the necessary articles for his projected house-warming. He was temporarily living in an apartment with Black military which was not in the best way being alleviated. I had answered these people that I would see the proper authorities and do everything in my restricted power to assist them.

**VERY GRAVE MISTAKE**  
Mr. Hubble listened to me attentively and, visibly disturbed by what I had to tell him, replied in the following manner, speaking in the name of the American Red Cross: "When we negotiated the sending of Red Cross supplies to the Soviet Union, we committed the very grave mistake of accepting their conditional clause stipulating that from the time these supplies would be delivered to Soviet representatives at various American ports they would thereafter assume exclusive responsibility for their distribution."

Very unfortunately, this is a diametrically contradictory statement to that made by Mr. Powers in denial of my charge. It may be that Mr. Powers is after all unaware of this conditional clause, but since it was signed with the Soviet authorities here in the United States before the shipments were ever sent, there must be a record of it somewhere. It is on the basis of this unpardonable "mistake" that I formulate in part my accusation against the American Red Cross.

Furthermore, when, in an effort to do the honor of the American Red Cross in the face of the needy Russians who were continually coming to me, I as an American Catholic priest asked Mr. Hubble if he could not let me have a few cases of supplies for personal distribution, he answered that he was completely ignorant of the fate of these shipments.

## SEES CONTRADICTIONS

He first began by saying that this distribution of mine would be insignificant, and then said it was impossible, for he, himself, did not know where the supplies went to. This statement, coming from a Red Cross director, is another contradiction to Mr. Powers' denial in the press, saying that the Red Cross keeps a small staff in each foreign country working with distributing agencies to see that supplies reach those for whom they are intended.

It so happened that, as a result of my long stay in Moscow, I knew precisely where these supplies were being distributed by those to whom the American Red Cross had liberally signed away under contract the exclusive right of control. I knew it long before I sought this interview with Mr. Hubble. But before going to see him, I waited until I had sufficient reason to go and disturb the inadmissible activity of this director repre-

## MISSIONS ACCOMPLISHED



"The Peace-time Soldier's Duty to God" is the theme of a series of missions which the Rev. Brian Murphy, C. F. R. M., of Jamaica, N. Y., is giving at Strategic Air Command bases at various places in the United States. Father Murphy, who spent 44 months overseas as an Army Air Force Chaplain, is seen receiving the well wishes of Maj. Gen. St. Clair Street, Deputy Commander of the Strategic Air Command. The text of his talks will continue in mid-December. (NC Photos)

senting what I had always been brought up to look upon as an organization of corporal mercy for the relief of want, hunger and general human suffering. I let a few of these requests accumulate, much to my patriotic distress, simply so that I might have grounds to stand on before approaching Mr. Hubble, without running the risk of being accused of meddling in his affairs.

When Mr. Hubble candidly explained his ignorance of the fate and destination of these supplies amounting to millions of American charity dollars, I told him where the supplies were going. I told him I knew for an absolute fact that these were being almost exclusively, but always secretly, handed out to the G.P.U. (alias N.K.V.D., now recently metamorphosed to M.V.D.) people, who are the last to have any claim to the fruits of American charity or contributions.

These so-called "protected" bandits and torturers of human consciences and liberty are storing these dollars in their own greatest charity scandal of the world has seen for a long time. It must be said, however, that in order to save their faces during some official visit or inspection, the authorities will take care to show some blankets, surgical instruments and a few spoons used in hospital nurseries, etc.

**A 25-COURSE DINNER**  
The American public has never been told that in all of the USSR there is not one single distributing point open to the general needy public where the supplies are handed out as the American people surely must think they are. It is not at all in the interests of the Soviet Government to let it be known that the American nation is feeling for their war-ridden land to the extent of sending there the necessities of life so sorely needed. I told this to Mr. Hubble, who did not in the least appear to be disturbed.

My talk with him, which lasted about fifteen minutes, brought no results for those whose worthy cause I had gone to defend. What I had in mind was not only the appalling and crying need for help for the destitute Russians, but the intentions of the American contributors to the formidable campaign launched by the American Red Cross.

Instead, Mr. Hubble took pride in telling me that he had just given a 25-course dinner party precisely at a time when the American Red Cross was in the face of the needy Russians who were continually coming to me. I as an American Catholic priest asked Mr. Hubble if he could not let me have a few cases of supplies for personal distribution, he answered that he was completely ignorant of the fate of these shipments.

On April 12 of this year, an Associated Press news item from Moscow reported: "The Soviet Union will have received \$27,000,000 worth of medical supplies and hospital equipment in contributions from the American Red Cross by the end of May, according to Elliott W. Shirk, director of Red Cross activities in Russia. Approximately 50% of the donations consist of clothing, bedding and household supplies for orphanages, invalid homes and destitute individuals in war-ravaged areas," said Mr. Shirk.

**"ABSOLUTELY RIDICULOUS"**  
This official statement again is not in complete accord with Mr. Powers' denial of my declarations. It is absolutely ridiculous to maintain that "no

clothing was sent to Moscow, where Father Braun was located, because the need was not so great as in the areas invaded by the Germans."

The very numerous Russians of war-ridden Moscow would continually recall in their conversations with me the heavily lumpy years when the National Mission and the American Relief Association had been known to establish centers in Moscow, Saratov, Petrograd, Smolensk, Omsk, and many other localities where the needy only had to show their nakedness and hunger to receive a parcel of food or clothing.

During the siege of Moscow, I once visited a former well-to-do family whose father had been struck by the G.P.U. at the age of 72 and arbitrarily condemned to ten years' concentration camp on political grounds. The poor mother in an extreme effort of traditional Russian hospitality, brought out of a hiding place a tin of A.R.A. hardtack which she had been storing away for an extraordinary occasion. We fasted on that and some boiled water with some lemon juice and called tea for the circumstance.

## AFRAID AMERICAN

The venerable lady asked, as many had done before her, what the American Red Cross was doing in the capital. Again I was accused of being an American. A short time after this, I was again in this home, standing by the dead frozen body of this very same lady, who had died of starvation. A few weeks later, it was her son's turn, and I recited the funeral Service over these two bodies in a room which registered several degrees below zero.

The small staff of the American Red Cross in Moscow consisted of the director, Mr. Hubble, who had a private secretary; a young American working as clerk, one translator, one chauffeur, one chef or cook, a janitor and a few maids.

All were living in a specially appointed house which day and night, but foreigners were forbidden to enter. The house for cocktails, luncheon and dinner parties, of which there were not too few.

I did not hesitate to talk about this sad and appalling situation to influential people in Moscow who had a right to know, and the American Ambassador of the time expressed great satisfaction upon learning that I had had the conversation related above with the director of the American Red Cross. I myself happened to be present at the reception upon learning that Mr. Hubble had tried in vain to obtain some sympathy in these high quarters.

Not long after my vain attempt at trying to obtain some token consideration to hand out piecemeal in the name of the American Red Cross, I had another occasion to have a talk with Mr. Hubble. It was quite unexpected, during a reception given at the British Military Mission of Moscow. Mr. Hubble approached me with a glass of vodka and asked: "You'll drink with me to the American Red Cross, won't you?" I replied that I was prepared to drink to any worthy cause.

**"BOUND TO BURST"**  
After providing me with a drink he immediately faced me in an attitude of open hostility and told me: "You've been taking some pot shots at me." I asked: "What do you mean by pot shots?" "Yes," he said, "you've been talking behind my back." Mr. Hubble then proceeded to tell me the other day, let me tell you that there is nothing I said in your address which I am not prepared to repeat in your presence and it is the following: I know that the American Red Cross is a very powerful organization. I know that it collects enormous sums of money for the relief of suffering. I know that Mr. Norman Davis (now deceased, R.I.P.) has a finger in more than one political pie back in the United States, but nevertheless this outrageous scandal of the American Red Cross in Moscow is bound to burst sooner or later. It is too big, and it cries to heaven for justice. You can depend on my doing anything in my power to help it burst."

That put a rather tragic end to the conversation. Soon after, I learned that Mr. Hubble had a nervous breakdown and had been replaced by Mr. Elliott W. Shirk. Whereas I had consistently refused repeated invitations on the part of Mr. Hubble to lunch or dine with him, I once accepted a luncheon invitation from Mr. Shirk, but I took care to warn him, upon leaving, of my intention to speak out, as justice demands that I do.

Although Soviet law specifically forbids any priest, minister of cult, or, for that matter, any religious body, from taking part in works of corporal mercy, such as alleviating the distribution of relief, hospital work, etc., under penalty of criminal procedure, I never refused to share what I had in the face of such indescribable distress. It is a tra-

dition as old as Christianity, which prompts people to appeal to their pastors for spiritual as well as corporal assistance in times of need.

## HELP FROM G.I.'s

There was always a certain amount of help distributed, and it came principally from the good and kind-hearted G.I.'s and the officers of the American and British military missions, along with many substantial contributions from resident or departing journalists. Many of these men realized the dire poverty in the midst of which they were living, and they knew the hardships of the worthy Russians.

How often did they not pool their own personal supplies and bring them over so they could reach the needy? In a discreet way something always came through — shoes, sweaters, underwear and food; not only from Moscow friends but from Americans living in places as far as Vladivostok, Murmansk, Archangel and from the American Foreign Guild Command.

Even the few wives, who were stationed for a time in that ill-fated Police American Air-base — an "unofficially" protected from German air attack that it was almost entirely wiped out in one night by Messerschmitts, Heinkel

were never allowed our own air coverage and protection, although we did have the nominal title of allies of that time — these good American girls from Boston, Cincinnati and Stamford, Conn. respectively, used to be on the lookout for bags of relief material when their base was finally liquidated. Never in a long time had I seen such an abundance of goods and supplies — from Vladivostok, Murmansk, Archangel and from the American Foreign Guild Command.

Why not there, this matter a lot to me, and a lot more to the poor who received it. I can assure those good American girls that the relief material which they brought to the station was not only accepted, but it was distributed to the needy. It is to be commended that these girls were instructed that the goods they brought were to be distributed to the needy. It is to be commended that these girls were instructed that the goods they brought were to be distributed to the needy.

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**BREAST-O-CHICKEN TINY TOT RECIPE**  
Little folks who are developing a taste for variety in foods will appreciate Mother's thoughtfulness in serving this Breast-O-Chicken tuna recipe. It's a hunger satisfying, nourishing sandwich, too. Clip this recipe and remember it next time you find Breast-O-Chicken. Brand at your grocers. Supplies are still short. You may have to be patient.

**TINY TOT SANDWICH**

1/2 cup Breast-O-Chicken Tuna	1 egg, hard-boiled
3 slices bread	1 tbsp. mayonnaise
1 tbsp. peanut butter	1 tbsp. currant jelly

Butter one side of each slice of bread. Spread first slice with peanut butter. Cover with second slice, spread with egg sandwiched with mayonnaise. Cover with third slice, spread with Breast-O-Chicken Tuna and mayonnaise. Spread fourth slice with currant jelly. Cover with fifth slice, top edges. Cut into three thin layers in one inch strips. Make 4 sandwiches.

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