

## Italy's Hopes Pinned on U.S. Premier Says

Washington — (NC) — Desperately in need of outside help and looking to the United States as the one country which can give that assistance, Italy is determined to overcome its economic post-war problems, Alcide de Gasperi, President of Italy's Council of Ministers, declared during his visit here this week.

Italy's extreme adversity is one reason for its unity in these greatly trying days, de Gasperi told the N.C.W.C. News Service in an exclusive interview. Another reason for its cohesion is the fact that Catholicism is the religion of virtually all of its people.

There is no reason to believe that communism is rising to dominant power in Italy, de Gasperi told a conference attended by more than a score of press and radio representatives.

### Spurns Red Philosophy

"One must distinguish between communism as a political activity, and communism as an ideology," the Prime Minister said. "One must admit that, as a political entity, a party having a place in the present Government of Italy, communism does exist. As a philosophy of life that has certain definite aims, communism will not be accepted by the people of Catholic Italy."

De Gasperi added that he does not believe communism will achieve a dominant place in Italy politically. He pointed to the results of the recent elections wherein the Christian Democrats won one-third of the seats in the Constituent Assembly while a half-dozen parties share the other seats.

The Prime Minister would not hazard a forecast as to the part the Christian Democrats will play in the future of Europe. As for Italy, he said, their broad program is the application of Christian ethics to every branch of human activity — political, social and economic. "We feel," he explained, "that every human activity must have a foundation. In Catholic Italy we believe that basis ought to be Catholic."

### Encyclical Cited

Asked if this meant the application of the principles of the Papal Encyclical *Rerum Novarum* and *Quadragesimo Anno* to industrial and social life, the Prime Minister answered: "Naturally."

What the Christian Democrats in Italy would like to achieve first, de Gasperi said, is the alleviation of the food shortage, elimination of unemployment and the complete establishment of public order. These objectives entail the stamping out of black market operations and the pacification of political and economic unrest which has shown itself in certain quarters as a result of

## Princess of State and Church Meet



In the Tokyo Imperial Club, His Eminence Norman Cardinal Gilroy, Archbishop of New York, attended the reception given for Japanese Ministers of State, members of the Allied Commission for Japan, and other guests. Left to right are: Prince Takamatsu, Prince Takahashi, Archbishop Paul Marella, Apostolic Delegate to Japan; Bishop Thomas McCabe of Port Augusta, Australia; Archbishop Peter Takano of Tokyo, and Cardinal Gilroy. (AP Photo)

shortages and unemployment, he explained.

Prime Minister de Gasperi said the Government of Italy has recognized the Concordat between Italy and the Holy See as being valid and in full effect, and he foresees no change in this situation in the future. There was some agitation for the abrogation of the Concordat on the ground that it was effected during the Mussolini regime. This sentiment was neither large nor effective, he said.

At his press conference held at the Italian Embassy, Prime Minister de Gasperi said he is hopeful for the success of his mission to this country because of the atmosphere of friendly confidence and active cooperation which has attended all of his negotiations here.

Asked what help, if any, has already been promised Italy as a result of his visit, Mr. de Gasperi said he could not discuss this matter except to outline in general the objectives of his visit, which are to increase the wheat and coal supplies of Italy, to establish credit facilities, and to arrange for the purchase of discarded Liberty ships, on certain conditions, to enable Italy to bring in material it needs to help reestablish its economy.

The Prime Minister emphasized that he has met with the most cordial good will on his visit here, that the United States is the one country which can supply the assistance Italy needs, and that the U. S. Government has imposed no political conditions for the help he asks.

Mr. de Gasperi told his press conference that the resignation of James F. Byrnes as Secretary of State had come as a surprise to him. He lauded Mr. Byrnes for his kindness and said he had manifested every desire to help Italy in its present plight.

## DIVORCE ISSUE RAISED IN ITALY

Rome (RNS) — One of the thorniest questions to be debated by the Constituent Assembly in the near future is whether divorce will continue to be forbidden in Italy, as provided in the Vatican Italy concordat of 1929.

Article 31 of the concordat declares that the state recognizes marriage as indissoluble.

The issue will come before the Assembly when an article in the proposed new Constitution reaffirming the Lateran pact is proposed for ratification.

As presently constituted, the Assembly is made up of 304 Communists, Socialists, Republicans, and Action Party members, who may be expected to demand legalization of divorce in defiance of the church-state pact, and 257 Christian Democrats, Liberals, and others who would oppose this innovation.

Should the Assembly decide to abrogate Article 31 of the Vatican-Italy concordat, it will mean departing from a tradition unbroken except during the Napoleonic domination from 1798 to 1815, when divorces were allowed.

### Cardinal Receives Honorary Degree

Cleveland (NC) — An honorary doctor of laws degree was awarded to His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, by John Carroll University at a special convocation at the school here.

Cardinal Spellman was accompanied to the university by Bishop Edward P. Hoban of Cleveland. In a brief address he accepted the degree, the Cardinal paid tribute to the role of American Catholic universities in guiding men in their quest for a just and lasting peace.

## 317 REDS, PINKS DENIED U.S. JOBS

Washington — (NC) — A total of 317 persons, who included 317 communists and fellow party-liners, were barred from jobs in the Federal service during 1944-45-46 on grounds of questionable loyalty. It has been disclosed in the 43rd annual report of the Civil Service Commission submitted to Congress.

The report sharply criticized inefficient handling of personnel problems in government offices and said there were too many top operating officials who gave too little time to personnel matters.

In addition to the 317 reds and pinks who were barred, the report disclosed that the 263 others ruled ineligible to hold government jobs were found to be pro-pink, pro-fascist, pro-Japanese, or otherwise of questionable loyalty. It detailed that 333 of the 580 were ruled out in 1944; that 144 were barred in 1945 and 81 in 1946. The commission asserted that during the three-year period it handled 246,294 cases and ruled 18,273 other persons ineligible for government jobs for reasons other than loyalty.

The commission complained that the investigation staff during the three years dwindled from 304 to 103. It said that lack of funds hampered investigation of job-seekers to such an extent that last year its investigators concentrated only on applicants for the more important government positions and even have curtailed inquiries along these lines.

### 20 Per Cent Join Church

Alexandria, La. (NC) — Brother Louis, of Menard Memorial High School here, has estimated from a poll of approximately 20 Catholic schools in the south, over the past six years, that 20 per cent of the non-Catholic pupils became Catholics.

## Card. Spellman Cites Basis for Durable Peace

Cleveland — (NC) — "I profess that only the love of God and the brotherhood of man can be the basis, the basis and the basis of a sound, just and durable peace."

In a sweeping, death-defying speech, America cast off the path of hope, a road to safety, a way to safety, prosperity and world peace — for America stands before all nations and peoples as a beacon of hope and a source of inspiration and courage.

This was the message of the Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, at the 11th annual Institute of the Cleveland Council on World Affairs here. Speaking at the concluding session of the institute, the Cardinal shared the platform before 12,000 people at Public Hall with retiring Secretary of State James H. Dwyer, Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg of Michigan, and Michael McAlister, a leading anti-communist.

Cardinal Spellman said his audience that the mission of the Church remains the same in this atomic age of demoralization and brutalization as it was 2,000 years ago: to help bring peace to mankind by bringing the light of God into man's life, to teach God's love, to serve and to save mankind. He said that the Church elevates its ministers not to personal privilege but to religious and social responsibility, and he stated his belief that all leaders of men should look upon their offices in the same way. "For they too are servants of God."

"The moral and spiritual contributions that America can make to the other nations of the world stir me to confessing," the New York prelate said, "even as the priest each morning at the beginning of Mass bows before the altar and confesses his own unworthiness to offer the Holy Sacrifice, so must I and my fellow countrymen acknowledge our many limitations and failures in the achievement of the sublime ideal of unity, liberty and peace embodied in this blessed nation."

"We must be well aware that even as the sun itself there are spots, so too on the proud shield of our national honor there are blots of racial and religious prejudice, economic prejudice, greed and intolerance," he declared.

There is dishonesty in public office and private practice, a lack of integrity in individuals and in social life, but there are likewise virtues in the American people," the Cardinal added: "a wide practical tolerance, a capacity and general desire to work, a deep earnestness to assist the less privileged and a willingness to exercise forgiveness and mercy. And above all there is in the American people a strong, deep, general and genuine desire for peace. These I regard as the basis for peace."

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## Reds Will Never Leave France, MPR Head Says

(Continued) — (NC) — As long as the Movement for the Liberation of France exists, the party's program is to remain in France, and it will be impossible for a communist to be elected President or appointed Premier of France.

This conviction was voiced in an interview here by Maurice Thorez, 35-year-old leader of the MRP, which grew out of the Resistance movement, one of France's strongest political parties.

The MRP considers the Christian democratic idea, the idea of applying to government the Christian principles which stand behind the exegesis of both right and left — to protect human dignity and liberty from the excesses of either monopoly capitalism or of totalitarianism. It views its strength as lying in its emphasis on the unity and cooperation of all leaders.

Mr. Thorez, who came to this city to speak before the Council on World Affairs, said that the MRP is not a communist party.

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