

Card. Griffin Asks UN Stepinac Probe

London—(NC)—His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster, has protested publicly in London against the "mockery" of the trial of Archbishop Stepinac of Zagreb, and the persecution of Catholics in Yugoslavia. He called upon the United Nations to hold an inquiry into "these wicked crimes against humanity."

"We are here to protest against the mockery of the trial of Archbishop Stepinac, the unjust sentence passed upon him, and his continued detention in prison," the Cardinal told a Catholic meeting at Westminster, London, today. "We are here to protest against the denial of human rights, the infringement of human liberty and the religious persecution of the Catholic Church in Yugoslavia."

"It is not a mere coincidence that the Archbishop's trial started on the day when the Nuremberg trials were finished. Those in the dock at Nuremberg were tried and found guilty of crimes against humanity, the very crimes which Stepinac and his companions are perpetrating against the people and against the Church in Yugoslavia."

"Complete Mockery" — The United Nations Charter of Human Rights has been made a complete mockery in Yugoslavia.

"Surely it is time that the United Nations Organization should hold an inquiry into these wicked crimes against humanity, because they are crimes not only against the unfortunate people living there, but crimes against ourselves as being members of the human family."

The Cardinal told the meeting today the Archbishop's record from the year 1941 when the appalling Pavlovic began a campaign of extermination against the Serbs in Croatia, who were mainly Orthodox, by offering them the choice of death or accepting the Catholic faith. Archbishop Stepinac opposing this measure said: "We call God to witness that we have always been opposed to any compulsory attachment to the Catholic Church."

The Archbishop's continued protests compelled Pavlovic to stop his persecution and to recognize the Catholic Church as an official body in Croatia. Again on the Feast of Christ the King, 1942, shortly after all Yugoslav Jews were ordered to wear the Star of David, the Archbishop came out in their defense.

In a packed cathedral on March 13, 1943, Archbishop Stepinac preached against the persecution of the Jews. He wrote to Pavlovic: "No worldly power, no political organization has the right to persecute a man on account of the race to which he belongs." (Anti-Jewish) Jews were withdrawn in Croatia. God Reprieve For Reds

In the same month, Archbishop Stepinac again protested to Pavlovic to stop concentration camp abuses; in May he protested against atrocities by Italian troops against defenseless populations; in November, 1943, he secured a reprieve for two communists, Vlado and Voda Kuna, sentenced to death by Pavlovic. His palace became a refuge for Serbs, Croats, Catholics, Orthodox, Jews and Communists; Pavlovic appealed vainly to the Vatican.

"And yet," Cardinal Griffin said, "on October 11, 1946, the Archbishop was condemned to 10 years' forced labor, after being found guilty of the most heinous and unrelenting collaboration with the enemy."

2 MILLION FOR EUROPE



Rev. J. W. McCann, National Chairman of Relief Activities for the National Council of Catholic Women, and Miss Ellen Egan, War Relief Services National Catholic Welfare Conference, inspect a box of the two million garments donated by the Catholic women's organizations of the United States through the N. C. W. for children in war-damaged lands. (NC Photos)

Russian Religious Revival Seen by Card. Tisserant

Chicago—(NC)—Religion in Russia is on the road back, the Cardinal said. The Cardinal, Secretary of the Holy See, told reporters here. "The sense of religion is not dead among the Russian people," the Cardinal said. "The education of priests in the Russian Orthodox Church has begun during the war years. I saw Russian soldiers who were brought to Rome as prisoners of war of the Germans. Faith was not an uncommon thing among these men, and many took the opportunity to procure religious medals that they could not get in their own country."

Describing conditions in his native France, Cardinal Tisserant maintained that the communists "have passed the peak of their power" and are on the downward slope. He said France's economy and foreign trade are showing signs of steady improvement.

In Chicago the prelate visited

Near East Missions

Francis Cardinal Spellman, President
Very Rev. Thomas J. McMahon, S.T.D., National Secretary
Rev. Andrew H. Regan, S.T.L., Assistant Secretary

No Mother For Them

On Mother's Day, please don't forget those motherless children who are Sisters have gathered from the streets of Athens into their orphanage on the island of Tinos, off the coast of Greece. A hundred dollars will maintain a homeless child for a year. Your mile will keep him from hunger.

LOVELY MOTHER

By June we hope to have enough to build that Shrine Chapel of Our Lady of Fatima in the Holy Land. Won't you do your share? Have you read Miss Green's pamphlet "East Meets West" and its prayers to Our Lady?

WHITE SON

She did not even see his mother and he died the day after he heard he was a leper—the privileged mother of Father Damien of Molokai. Many leprous little children are in our hospital at Shertallay, India. Add to our DANIEL LEPER FUND, and help them.

ADOPTED DAUGHTER

Sister Mary Francis, a novice at Mary Girl, India, can be your adopted daughter, praying for you daily, as she nears the end of her training. Can you give three hundred dollars for her two years' training?

MARY THE TELLER

Over our fund for Near East missions, "MARY'S BANK." Our Lady presides. During her month of May we beg you to help those dear, cloistered Carmelite Sisters of Greece and Turkey. They are always near starvation.

HOW MOTHERS DO

How Mothers prepare for the great event of First Communion! Ten dollars will purchase a First Communion outfit for a poor Near East child. Write for a picture.

BOUQUET

Why not make a Eucharistic bouquet to a poor Near East chapel for the feast of St. Pachel, patron of Eucharistic congresses, honored on May 17? A special chalice and ciborium can be given for a hundred dollars.

"OTHER SON"

Please don't forget those students for the priesthood who had to flee before the Russians. Can you make one your "other son" by giving six hundred dollars for his entire course? A dollar monthly to THE CHRY-SOSTOMAS helps much.

HEAL A CHILD

Fifty dollars will provide a medical kit for the Sisters of Perpetual Help at Maronitis, Syria. They heal sick children. Can you help?

WHAT IS HOME?

After Mother has gone to God, the family disperses. Keep your family together spiritually. A hundred dollars enrolls all living and dead. Grateful missionaries will offer thousands of Masses for you.

JUST A LITTLE ONE

Table is a little town high in the hills above the Holy Land. Can you build a little chapel-school there for a thousand five hundred dollars? Write for a picture. There are all too many demands on THE BASILIANS, our School Club, whose members give a dollar monthly. Even twelve dollars a year can do a lot.

HER PICTURE

"So many of my humble chapels are without a picture of Our Lady," writes Bishop Hakim from Palestine. Can you give one for twenty dollars? Surely the Holy Land should not be without Our Lady.

FOUR DOLLARS

Bishop Khourani sends a special plea for little glass bells. Each will cost four dollars. They herald Christ's coming. You bring to greet Him.

DELIGHT THE ANGELS

Most offerings delight the angels and help us to support poor missionaries.

Send all communications to:

Catholic Near East Welfare Association

480 Lexington Ave., at 46th St. New York 17, N. Y.

U. S. Priest in Moscow Declares the Soviets Do Not Hamper Him; Other Priests Active

(Father Laberge has been stationed at the Church of St. Louis of the French in Moscow since late in 1945. He was ordained an Assumptionist priest in Rome in 1939. Before his assignment to Moscow, he was stationed at Assumption College in Worcester, Mass. The following article was submitted to regular Soviet censorship.)

By REV. G. A. LABERGE, A.A.
Moscow—(NC)—The distinction of being the only Catholic priest in Russia has been given lately to me as it had been given to my predecessor, the Rev. Leopold Braun, A.A., as pastor of Moscow's Church of St. Louis of the French.

I must in truth surrender this distinction, which has never been mine any more than it belonged to Father Braun.

The fact of the matter is that at all times several Catholic priests have functioned in duly established parishes within the Soviet Union. Not counting the considerable number of priests in the new territories of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Eastern Poland and Bessarabia, there are to my knowledge three other priests freely functioning at present within the 1939 borders of the Soviet Union one each in Leningrad, Tiflis and Zytomir, and in all probability there are others.

Even in Moscow itself there was, besides the Church of St. Louis, a large Polish parish with a resident priest up until 1939. The priest in Tiflis has never left his parish. In Leningrad there was an interruption from July, 1941, until November, 1946, however, the church there, Our Lady of France, was never closed. The faithful gathered every Sunday and holiday for joint prayers. Baptism was administered privately by grand old Madame Sushko, a French woman, who at the age of 80 was entrusted with



FATHER LABERGE

the care of the church as an overseer.

Priest in Leningrad

During the siege of Leningrad by the Germans, this heroic woman would run under bombs, unafraid of regulations, dogging wardens and militiamen, to watch over the church to which she had vowed to give her life. Shortly before she died in January, 1947, at the age of 83, she had the happiness of seeing the church to which she had given her last energies again in charge of a resident priest. He was sent to Leningrad, in agreement with Soviet authorities, by the Archbishop of Riga in Latvia.

There is, for example a woman in Odessa who, as overseer of a large priestless Polish parish, is presently engaged in negotiations with Soviet officials which no doubt will soon result in the assignment of a resident priest.

Missioner Escapes Chinese Communists

Techny, Ill.—(NC)—Mgr. Thomas Megan, S.V.D., Prefect Apostolic of Sinsiang, Honan Province, China, has escaped from Chinese Communists, who had kidnapped him, according to cable advices from Shanghai, received at the Society of the Divine Word headquarters here.

Monsignor Megan, who has had many brushes with the communists, terrorizing his prefecture, had been captured on April 26 when his jeep was blown up while he was riding between Yangwu and Fenghu, his two outermost stations.

Book Problem

Hardly a week passes without some of them coming finally to the happy realization that they can now resume where they left off eight years ago.

Hungary's Confirmations Up

Budapest—(NC)—Early reports show that there are 373 per cent more Hungarian Catholics receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this spring than last year.

Ministers Hit In Catholic Hospital Attack

Hartford, Conn.—(NC)—The promulgation of a resolution by 23 Protestant ministers of Hartford condemning three Catholic hospitals in Connecticut for charging six non-Catholic doctors for publicly supporting birth control legislation has been characterized as ignoring "the natural law" and "the genuine good of society" by The Catholic Transcript, diocesan weekly here.

The minister's statement, the paper asserts, is full of "illogic and bigotry."

The ministers issued their statement after the hospitals had dismissed the doctors because they refused to withdraw their names from a list of physicians supporting a birth control bill pending in the Connecticut General Assembly.

The doctors had at the time of their dismissal issued a statement charging that the action was a "serious threat" against the right of physicians to free and open speech on medical subjects. A Catholic hospital spokesman pointed out the incompatibility of a physician remaining on a hospital staff and at the same time publicly endorsing principles opposed to the hospital's code.

Service Revailed

The resolution of the Protestant ministers contended publicly that the hospitals should not be eligible to receive financial support from either the public treasury or from funds received by general public subscription.

Deploping the threat to the existence of Catholic hospitals contained in the statement, The Transcript declares that "they take no notice of the service to the community at large to Jews and Protestants as well as Catholics, which the Catholic hospitals have been rendering in Connecticut for scores of years."

Charging that criticism of the hospital's action as an infringement of the right to free speech is "irrelevant and nonsensical," the editorial continues: "The six physicians' signs freely and can speak freely. Their right to do so has in no way been interfered with. The hospitals have merely disassociated themselves from doctors who advocate a practice squarely and irreconcilably at variance with the hospital's fundamental and immutable code."

"In the present instance it is the natural law which is at stake. The natural law is basic to a Catholic hospital's code of ethics, should be basic to any hospital's code of ethics."

For Mother's Day!

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