

Germans Fear Chaos If U. S. Troops Leave Bishop Muench Says

Washington — (NC) — The Bishops and priests of Germany with whom he has come in contact would like to see the American troops remain in their country indefinitely.



BISHOP MUENCH

No people like to see their land occupied by the military forces of another nation. Bishop Muench pointed out, but "informed Germans" are convinced that the departure of the American armed forces at any foreseeable future time would be quickly followed by chaos and civil war.

Bishop Muench said the Germans conversant with affairs in their country are very apprehensive of the American policy which aims at putting Germany back on its feet, and especially of the policy of Lieut. Gen. Lucius D. Clay, the American commander, who is trying to put matters in German hands as a step toward ultimate recovery.

THE AMERICAN Bishop put first among the things which he discussed the appreciation of German Bishops, priests, religious and laity for "the magnificent help that has been given them" by the people of the United States. This appreciation was voiced on all sides, he said, at the meeting of the German hierarchy at Fulda, by the priest speaking at public functions, and by religious and laity he met singly and in groups. "We would have starved without this help," the Germans told Bishop Muench.

Although Germany, as a result of the war, has suffered a complete collapse of her economic machine, general conditions have improved in all respects except food, Bishop Muench explained. He traced the food crisis to the drought—comparable in its severity to the mid-western drought of 1936—which Germany has experienced during the past summer. As a result, the potato crop has been almost destroyed, thus depriving the Germans of their most important staple food.

IN THE FRANKFURT area, the Bishop said, a ration of 100 pounds of potatoes, to last one person for the coming eight months, has been established, whereas 300 pounds should be the absolute minimum.

In view of these conditions, Bishop Muench suggested that the American people prepare themselves to send an even greater number of food parcels to Germany during the approaching winter and the months beyond.

So far as clothing is concerned, there is a particularly urgent need of shoes for priests who have been expelled from the eastern provinces of the Reich and are now in charge of widely scattered parishes. Bishop Muench said

Pope Reminds Legislators Of Prayer's Power

Vatican City—(Radio, NC)—Viewing the world divided into opposing eastern and western spheres His Holiness Pope Pius XII reminded a group of U. S. legislators that during a similar cleavage in 371 when the western powers, "representing Christian civilization, defeated the colossal threat from the East at the battle of Lepanto," a great part of the credit for the victory was given to the prayers ordered by the reigning Pontiff at the time.

The Holy Father then pledged his prayers to the legislators to whom, he said, a large part of the world is looking while "war-shattered nations grapple with a situation which cannot endure much longer without grave peril to everyone."

The Pontiff made these remarks in English during an audience given a joint Senate-House committee studying State Department Services in Europe. The group was headed by Senator H. Alexander Smith of New Jersey and Representative Karl E. Mundt of South Dakota.

THE ANNIVERSARY of the Battle of Lepanto is a Thanks giving Day in the calendar of the Church, the Holy Father declared, "not only because the sanctuaries and altars of Europe were saved from utter destruction, but also because the prayers ordered by the then reigning Pope, St. Pius V were universally given credit for a great share in the victory."

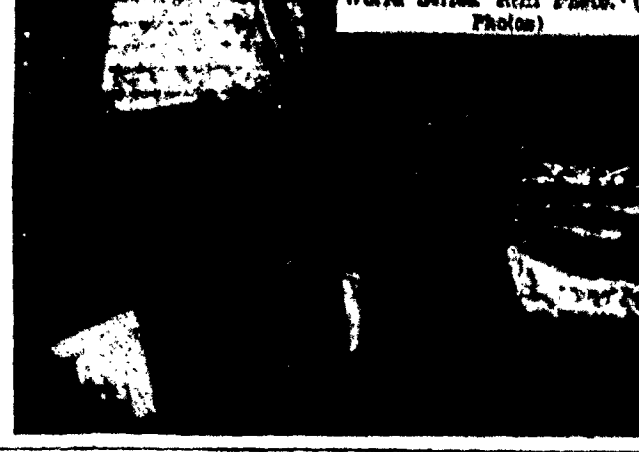
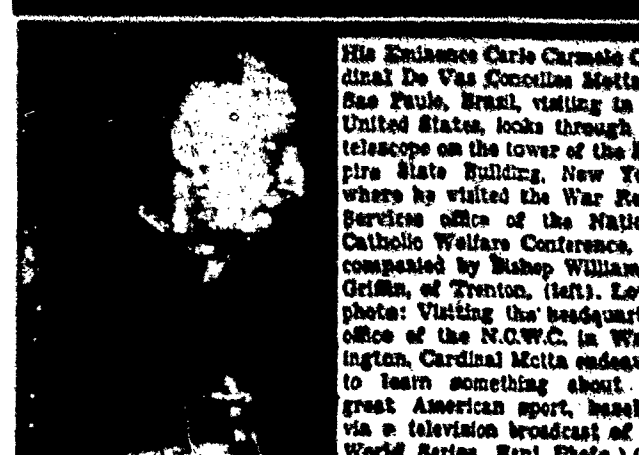
The day reminds us of the most effective assistance we can offer the defenders of the rights of God and man. We want you assured of our constant prayers in the ardent and urgent tasks confronting you.

"A large part of the world looks to you and your colleagues while the war-shattered nations grapple with a situation which cannot endure much longer without grave peril to everyone. Enlightenment from the Eternal Wisdom of the Father of Mercies is needed when bold policies must be formed and resolutions carried through that are fraught with such far-reaching consequences. We shall pray that God may guide you in your deliberations."

IN ANOTHER audience granted to members of the House subcommittee for the Armed Services, His Holiness reminded that "law and order may at times have need of the strong arm of force" because "some enemies of justice can be brought to terms only by force." The group was headed by Representative Dewey Short of Missouri.

Mrs. McCormick urged citizens of the United States to realize that this country must accept its responsibilities as a world power. "I don't see us as isolationists," she continued, "but we are isolationists inasmuch as we dread the responsibility of great power and shrink from its awful burdens. And they are awful. Our destiny has caught up with us and we hold the weights that will turn the scales of destiny."

A CARDINAL SEES AMERICA



His Eminence Carlo Carmelo Cardinal De Vas Coccolina Motta of Sao Paulo, Brazil, visiting in the United States, looks through the telescope on the tower of the Empire State Building, New York, when he visited the War Relief Service office of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, accompanied by Bishop William A. Griffin, of Trenton, (left). Lower photo: Visiting the headquarters office of the N.C.W.C. in Washington, Cardinal Motta endeavors to learn something about the great American sport, baseball, via a television broadcast of the World Series. (NO Photo)

Dismal Plight Of Hungarians Told Aid Unit

New York—(NC)—A survey depicting thousands of men, women and children roaming aimlessly through the cities of Hungary, homeless, starving and ragged, has been received at War Relief Service—National Catholic Welfare Conference headquarters here from Catholic Action in Hungary.

Lack of food and unemployment, the survey points out, are the most difficult problems of the nation and the majority of the unemployed are persons who belong in the professional groups. The survey states: "They appear hopeless and desperate. Many have tried to find manual labor, but have been unsuccessful due to the fact that there are too many skilled hands. The war has deprived them of their modest savings. They are now helpless, abandoned and undernourished."

The survey states that the food situation is pitiful. More than 75,000 persons from all walks of life in Budapest, alone, have been receiving one meal daily from Catholic Action, the city, or Danish and Swedish mission centers.

The report emphasizes that nations are running dangerously low, and unless foreign relief reaches the nation thousands will die of starvation during the coming winter. In the rural regions crops have been devastated by drought and hunger stalks the land.

TURNING TO the plight of the aged in Hungary, the report says: "The mortality rate has greatly increased during the past year among the older generation whose resistance was considerably lowered following the terrible hardships they suffered during the war. Added to this is the lack of proper nourishment they should be receiving today."

"In order to safeguard the budget of the State the old people have had their pensions reduced 50 per cent, making it difficult for them to barely eke out an existence. In many cases, after the rent has been paid there is nothing left of the \$3 to \$15 pensions for doctors' bills, medicines, clothing or food."

"To make matters worse the younger members of families who in the past were able to support their parents can no longer carry this burden. The son who once was of great help to his father and mother is today a prisoner of war or a helpless invalid as a result of injuries incurred in the army."

France Must Have Hope—Fr. Parsons

Washington—(NC)—France, key country in Western Europe today, faces a bleak winter, with economic stagnation in its two vital needs, bread and coal. If Frenchmen are given reasonable hope of economic help from America, they will pull themselves through; without that hope, they will fall inexorably into complete collapse.

This is the situation as seen by the Rev. Wilfrid Parsons, S.J., who has returned to the Catholic University of America here after an extended visit to France and to other European countries. Father Parsons, widely-known sociologist, writer, lecturer and former editor of the Jesuit weekly, America, is a close student of French affairs. It was his seventh visit to France since 1908.

"We must give Frenchmen some hope in the economic sphere. Hope is the important thing," Father Parsons stressed. "The French are very low in mind, almost demoralized. Bread is their staple food. With the terrific drought of the past summer and crop mistakes by the government in regard to wheat prices, they just haven't got enough. Hunger—and cold, too—faces them this winter. But if there is hope in the future then they can take that hunger."

AS TO THE MARSHALL plan, Father Parsons said that not only is it an immediate necessity from both the European and American point of view, but it also is already devised. With its emphasis on cooperation and a sharing of responsibility, the plan is an effective answer to those—the communists in particular—who are quick to see in American economic help a threat to the sovereignty of the recipients, he said.

"The Marshall Plan caught the communists by surprise, and it struck home," the Jesuit priest is convinced. "You can be sure from the loud and pained reaction of the communists that it hurt them."

"Will the Marshall Plan succeed? I was asked that many times. I do not know. But we must try it. It is our last chance in Europe," he said.

THE COMMUNIST Party in France today preaches nationalism and patriotism rather than Marxism and revolution, he observed. He cited as an instance that at the monster Paris rally he attended, the stage was draped in a huge tricolor, and there were only two or three small Red flags in evidence. Communists also profess indifference or even tolerance toward the Church and the clergy, he said.

In Italy he saw Red bitterness toward the Church, but not in France. "Two fears have paralyzed the French in the postwar period," Father Parsons declared. "On the one hand, Frenchmen—especially those who are our friends—are desperately afraid of the United States getting into war with Soviet Russia. On the other hand, they are afraid that a struggle between the communists and De Gaulle over control of the socialist party will lead to a civil war."

The French believe, the priest said, that their country is certain to be a battleground in the event of war between the U. S. and Russia. They believe, he said, that the Americans will have less trouble pushing the Red Army out of their country than they had with the Germans, but they dread the disruption accompanying a Russian occupation of the coastal line of defense. And the devastation that would go with their retreat. Above all, he said, they don't want atom bombs falling on Paris, or Lyons, or Strasbourg.

FATHER PARSONS reported a general feeling among the French Catholics and Catholics to avoid making the democracy versus communism a purely theological fight. He said that they see great dangers in such a course, and that while De Gaulle, for instance, emphasizes the ideological struggle, the moderates see the only chance for peace in the confining of the fight to more pragmatic matters.

Regarding the armed struggle within the country itself, Father Parsons brought out that French Catholics and moderates are "fearfully worried" right now over the prospect of a breaking of the socialist party.



FATHER PARSONS

Comintern Seen War Weapon

New York—(NC)—The new Comintern is "a clear declaration of economic war" with the object of "dividing Europe and perhaps dividing the world," but the decision as to whether there shall be war or peace rests with the United States, Mrs. Anne O'Hare McCormick, of the editorial board of The New York Times and 1914 Loretta Medalist, declared in an address here.

She spoke to 1,300 alumnae and friends of the College of Mount St. Vincent at a dinner in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel marking the centenary of the college, which was founded by the Sisters of Charity. The following day Mrs. McCormick was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters by the college.

"There will be no war unless we fail to make peace," Mrs. McCormick continued. "Peace is the main enterprise of the United States as the world's strongest power. It will cost us more to win the peace than it did to win the war."

Mrs. McCormick urged citizens of the United States to realize that this country must accept its responsibilities as a world power. "I don't see us as isolationists," she continued, "but we are isolationists inasmuch as we dread the responsibility of great power and shrink from its awful burdens. And they are awful. Our destiny has caught up with us and we hold the weights that will turn the scales of destiny."

Mother Cabrini Shrine Planned

Chicago—(NC)—A new addition to Columbus Hospital in which will be erected a national shrine to St. Francis Xavier Cabrini, first U. S. citizen saint and founder of the nuns who direct the hospital, will be built at an estimated cost of \$4,500,000. The plans for the addition and the shrine entail a six-story and basement building, adjoining the present hospital and designed so that three stories may be built later. When completed, the addition will have 230 rooms, each with bath, and will accommodate a total of 400 patients. It is expected that the addition will be completed in the spring of 1949 and will bring the hospital's total patient capacity to 600.

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