

Gloomy London Sees Prayer As Only Hope as Big Four Gather

London (NC) — With atom bombs just around the corner and the fate of 100,000,000 civilized human beings at stake, the greatest but ultimate trump card — prayer — appeared the only hope left for Christians as the Big Four Foreign Ministers resumed their gloomy wranglings in London this week.

Catholic opinion here was pessimistic. Realizing the total absence of a spiritual back ground it has been always that to these postwar conventions of conquerors. This time, however, it went much further.

As Europe is today, it felt no lasting agreement was within the realm of human possibility between four men of whom one was the official envoy of a materialistic regime based on a philosophy hostile to every spiritual belief of the other three.

Any temporary unexpected but plausible agreement would, Catholics felt, be a mere political move, a subtle maneuver of Molotov, as all Soviet moves are now erroneously described, or a desperate Western effort to keep open the door of peace.

NO ONE IN London, Catholic or otherwise, felt that the purpose of this conference — peace treaties for Germany and Austria — was possible of fulfillment, whatever supplementary stop gaps were agreed upon.

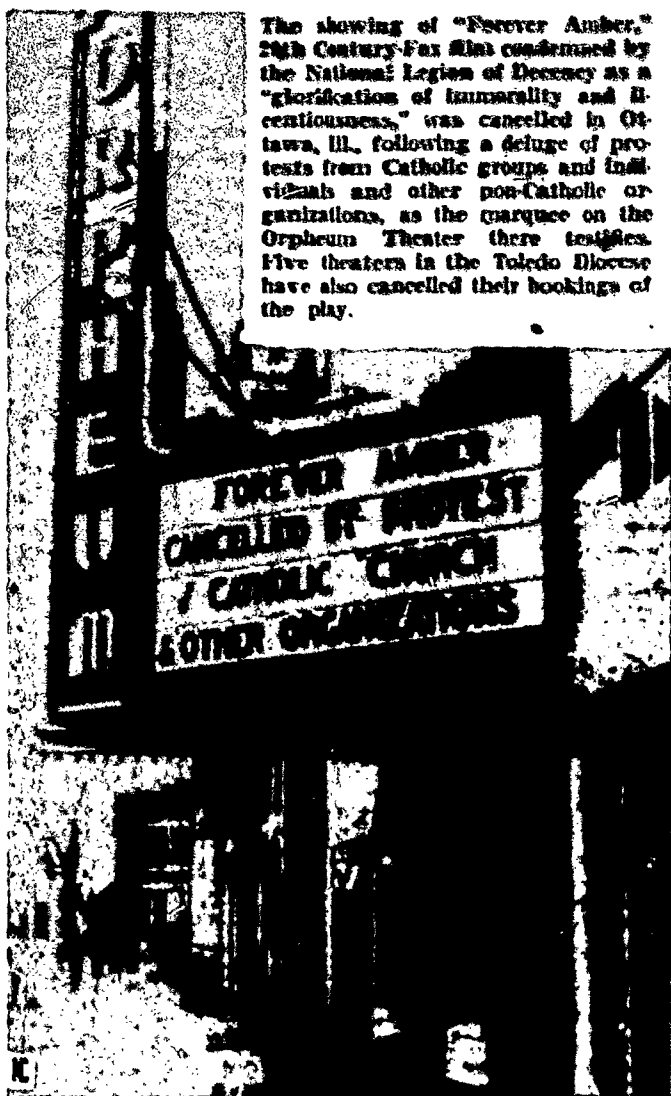
Twelve newly placed atom bombs would, it is estimated, wipe out Europe and bring back the Dark Ages. That is the unhappy ultimate alternative to failure in the London talks. That is why the call has gone out in the Catholic press today PRAY FOR PEACE. The Catholic Times says "Humanly speaking there does not seem to be hope of the conference reaching any kind of agreement. Humanly speaking there is no more hope of agreement in three months than in three years. It is the spirit of enlightened good will that is now needed in the councils of nations. Pray that it may be there. Pray for peace."

Similarly, the Catholic Herald joins in with a request to all of the Big Four to open their deliberations with an Act of Contrition for having accepted and still retaining the barbaric conviction that the victor has the right utterly to destroy the vanquished.

THE UNIVERSE says, "Nothing was ever doubtful about the latest London conference except the time factor. It cannot recon the irreconcilable. The table under worse auspices than any of the other conferences."

These ultra pessimistic comments show the atmosphere in which the talks opened. The only ray of light in the gloomy clouds is the feeling that the world is now arousing at last to the realities of bolshevism as shown in the recent U. N. option of the veto.

VICTORY FOR DECENCY



The showing of "Forever Amber," 25th Century-Fox film condemned by the National Legion of Decency as a "glorification of immorality and licentiousness," was cancelled in Ottawa, Ill., following a deluge of protests from Catholic groups and individuals and other non-Catholic organizations, as the premiere on the Orpheum Theater there tonight. Five theaters in the Toledo Diocese have also cancelled their bookings of the play.

Mass in Language of Christ To Open Church Unity Rites

Washington (NC) — Arch bishop Mar Ivanios of Trivandrum, India who has led 38,000 members of the dissident Jacobite rite back into the Catholic Church will open this year's traditional Church Unity Octave in its national observance at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception here. The octave begins on January 18.

Archbishop Ivanios will celebrate the Divine Liturgy (the Mass in Latin Rite Catholicism) according to the Syro-Malankara Rite in doing so he will use the same language, Aramaic, spoken by Our Lord when He was on earth.

Others who will take part in the Washington observance of the unity octave are: Mr. Ed Brunsell, (NC) The Belgian Christian Social party, (P. S. C.) has introduced a bill in the Belgian Chamber of Representatives which provides for the establishment of works councils to bring about closer collaboration between employers and employees, in accordance with the principles set forth in the social encyclicals.

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FBI Head Sees Secularism As Cause of Crime

Chicago — (NC) — Secularism is "the basic cause of crime," J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, declared in an address prepared for the 25th annual Conference on Ministerial Training of The Methodist Church here.

"The moral that our children can draw from the apologetic 'You can't argue with success' is that they must not get caught, and that the means do not matter as long as the end is attached. Here is the summation of secularism. Crime begins with this amoral notion of guilt," Hoover said in his speech, which in his absence was read by Louis E. Nichols, assistant director of the F. B. I.

He asserted that the "apparent quiescence" of church people in the face of corruption in high places was "distressing," and declared:

"THE VOICES of the ministers of the Gospel can sound the clarion call for good citizenship. The fact that a gambling syndicate pays off some public officials is as shocking as the fact that secular-minded people tolerate such a condition. Secularism gives gambling and vice syndicates the protection necessary for them to operate."

"The crime problem," he continued, "is essentially a youth problem. In the first nine months of this year the arrests of boys under 21 years of age increased 13.6 per cent over the same period last year. The greatest increase in arrests of boys under 21 was for offenses against common decency which increased 29 per cent over 1946."

Hoover said that these boys and girls were products of the American home "which should be a place of learning as well as a place of living."

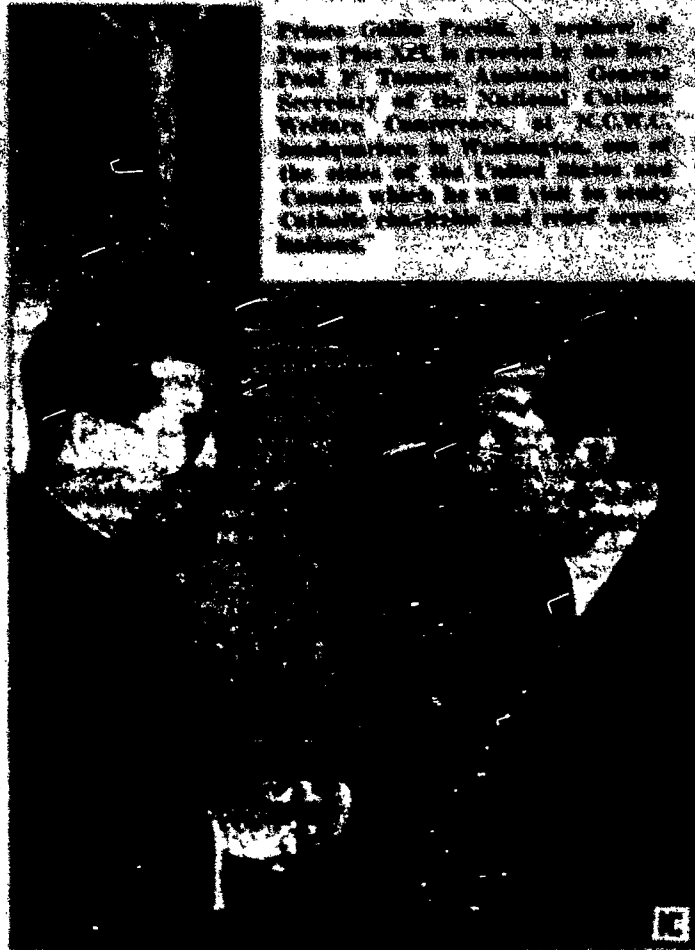
"SECULARISM has taken its toll. Too many homes consist of four walls, furniture, something to eat and a place to sleep. The spirit of parenthood has vanished, or, to be more correct, has been superseded by one of secularism."

"The moral fibre of the nation has weakened. Standards of decency have been polluted. Human rights have been trampled in the slums of corruption, indifference and selfishness. A wanton disregard for personal responsibility is growing."

Declaring that secularism advances because men have little faith in God, Hoover said that the menace of secularism lies in the fact that it, too, is a crusade.

Boston College Honors Bishop Boston (NC) Bishop John J. Wright, Auxiliary of Boston, received an honorary doctorate of laws from Boston College.

POPE'S KIN VISITS U.S.



Prince Gaetano, brother of Pope Pius XII, is pictured in the photograph. He is accompanied by his wife, Princess Maria, and their children. They are in the United States for a visit.

Jesuit Disputes Admiral On Democracy for Islands

New York (NC) — A young but bearded Jesuit missionary in far-off Truk has taken issue with some of the views of Rear Admiral Carleton H. Wright, Deputy High Commissioner of the Mandated Islands, which include the Marshalls and the Carolines, on how to run an island democracy.

In the current issue of Jesuit Missions Magazine, the Rev. Edwin G. McManus, S.J., formerly an Army chaplain, asserts that in the island democracy the native chiefs have absolute power. He claims that U. S. authorities, in order to make the island governing job easier have helped establish the chiefs in despotic power and adds that the nuts at Truk "find it difficult to gather the women together for sewing and handicraft classes, for practically every day the chiefs assign some particular task to the women."

A charge by Admiral Wright that the missionaries, with a particular desire to clothe people, have increased the incidence of tuberculosis on the islands, was challenged by Father McManus, who pointed out that there is as much tuberculosis on Yap, "where a well-dressed man wears a G-string." Admiral Wright objected to attempts to abolish native dances, but Father McManus charged that the dances invariably are expected with paganistic and devil worship.

The mission territory of the Marshalls and Carolines Islands entrusted to U. S. Jesuits has 2,000,000 square miles, most of which is under water. There are 62,000 inhabitants, of whom 20,000 are Catholics. With the recent arrival of six missionaries, the number of Jesuits working in the islands has been increased to ten.

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Catholic Becomes New French Premier

Paris (NC) — Robert Schuman, the new French Premier who has succeeded in forming a cabinet following the fall of the socialist leader, Louis Luchaire, is a professed Catholic and a member of the Christian Democratic Party.

He was one of the leaders of the resistance movement during the occupation of France. Unfortunately, pressure of the Socialist Party appears to have prevented M. Schuman from forming a cabinet which might be better representative of the new political situation in France created by the recent municipal elections, which gave the Rally of the French People under General de Gaulle large majorities throughout the nation.

ONSERVATIVE DOUBT that M. Schuman's cabinet has the necessary solidarity of outlook and cooperative spirit to assure relative permanence in the present crisis.

The new Prime Minister has dedicated himself to temporary measures while awaiting further clarification of the political situation. His cabinet is composed of 10 Christian Democrats, seven Socialists, five radicals, representing conservative tendencies, and one moderate.

M. Schuman had not appeared to the position of Prime Minister assuming leadership of the Christian Democrats, and his background as a native of Lorraine, where he grew up when the province was annexed to Germany, was not such as to lead to any expectation that he would attain the highest government post. He pursued his studies in Lorraine under the German regime and in the German language, and he speaks French with relative fluency and with a rather strong accent.

HOWEVER, DURING his 30 years as a member of the French parliament, M. Schuman has stood out for his balance and independence of judgment, for his wisdom, and for the application with which he has studied all problems. He attained unusual respect of his colleagues for his upright conduct, for the firmness of his convictions, and for his absolute honesty.

Called by the French Government in 1940 as under-secretary for the protection of refugees, he became an intimate defender of his countrymen from Lorraine, the German territory of the province, was imprisoned by the Nazis at Metz and was later condemned to the guillotine.

NEW YORK, DECEMBER 4 — The arrival of "Big" Sister, the 75-ton ship of the U. S. Navy, the USS North Carolina, is expected to arrive in Tokyo on Wednesday.

Paris to Tokyo via New York is a long journey for a person of any age, but for the septuagenarian Mother Rodriguez the journey was a triumph. She has just completed a two-year visit to the United States, and is now returning to her home in Paris.

Howell, S.J., formerly an Army chaplain, asserts that in the island democracy the native chiefs have absolute power. He claims that U. S. authorities, in order to make the island governing job easier have helped establish the chiefs in despotic power and adds that the nuts at Truk "find it difficult to gather the women together for sewing and handicraft classes, for practically every day the chiefs assign some particular task to the women."

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