

### Five U. S. Nuns Among 84 Missioners Held in China

Peiping (NC)—Eighty-four Catholic missionaries, including five nuns from the United States and five from Canada, are being held by Chinese communists at Shienhsien, 30 miles southwest of Peking in North China, while 30 Chinese religious have escaped Peiping, according to a statement after communist forces occupied their mission posts.

The U. S. Consul General in Peking has appealed by radio to the communists to arrange for the withdrawal of the 10 American and Canadian nuns, and two nuns from Great Britain, held at their community's convent in Shienhsien.

American citizens among the nuns, members of the Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood, include Mother St. Paul of the Cross of Manchester, N. H. The others, identified only by their names before entering religion, are: Clara Samson, also of Manchester; Mary Imperial, Boston, Mass.; Noela Blaeser, whose home is listed only as Three Rivers; and Stephanie Trivelpiece, whose home is listed as Tallville.

Other residences of the American mission are detained at present and brothers, including 26 Jesuits. Thirty Chinese nuns, of native origin, are being held in Peiping, in addition to 12 Chinese members of the Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood.

Although several of the priests and brothers held at Shienhsien are of American birth, they are small and dark in complexion, and have cut down trees and prepared them for sale as kindling. Chinese guards turned the missionaries back from the mill for their work, and they were taken to a camp. Each prisoner has been given only the clothes he is wearing and one blanket. Books piled from the mission are being sold for waste or wrapping paper.

Among the religious held in Peiping, the Rev. Rene Charvat, S. J., 64, was the former rector of King's College University in Peking, and superior of the Jesuit Shienhsien mission. One of 10 French missionaries now detained, he had been held by the Reds shortly after V-J Day when an American Army plane dropped relief packages to the American and Canadian nuns interned at Shienhsien. He and two other nuns were freed when they surrendered the communists; they had not anticipated the plan on his mercy mission.

THE 10 REFUGEE Chinese priests, nuns and seminarians who reached Peiping after the Reds occupied their Hunanling mission posts and seminaries in Shienhsien province report that in Hunanling the Catholic church, along with its secondary and grade schools and orphanage, has been confiscated. Three Chinese priests and a seminarian were subjected to a mob

### AT ST. PATRICK'S DINNER



Meeting at St. Patrick's Day fetes in New York are, His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York; Monsignor S. Truman, President of the United States, and John A. Colman, president of the New York unit of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. President Truman is wearing the medal of the Friendly Sons, recently conferred on him. (NC Photos).

### Communists Seize Two Czech Priests

Mons. Jan Sramek and the Rev. Frantisek Hala — both arrested according to reports from Prague when they were attempting to escape from communist-dominated Czechoslovakia — have for many years played a prominent role in the political life of their native country.

If they had been able to make good their escape it would have been the second time for both priests to seek exile rather than submit to an alien and hostile regime. Both fled from Czechoslovakia in Spring, 1939, after the Nazis had occupied that country. During the war years they lived in London, where Monsignor Sramek served as Prime Minister of the Czechoslovak government-in-exile, and Father Hala was vice chairman of the State Council.

Shortly before the end of the war in 1945, they returned to Czechoslovakia and joined the provisional government formed by President Edward Benes. Monsignor Sramek became vice premier, a post he held in subsequent governments, including that of the Communist Premier Klement Gottwald, up to the time of the communist seizure of power last month. Father Hala served as Minister of Posts.

THE ACTIVITY of 78-year-old Monsignor Sramek in Catholic social and political movements dates back to the days prior to World War I. A Czech nationalist, he opposed Austrian rule and took a leading part in the establishment of the Czechoslovak

### British Convert Abbot Sees Spiritual Revival

New York—A revival of religious belief and deep concern about spiritual values is evident throughout England and Scotland and may be the first evidence of the operation of God's grace in bringing the people of those lands back to the pre-Reformation faith of their ancestors, Right Rev. Dom Willfrid Upson, Lord Abbot of Prinknash, England, declared in an exclusive interview here.

Abbot Upson, who is visiting the United States for the first time in 20 years, heads a community of 60 monks who are following primitive observance of the Benedictine rule of prayer and work. Among them are several former Anglican clergymen. Abbot Upson himself was converted from Anglicanism in 1913.

The 67-year-old Abbot spoke with simplicity of his own conversion, revealing hitherto unknown details concerning it.

"MY EXPERIENCE has convinced me that conversion is a grace," he said. "It seemed likely that most of the Caldey community would go into the Roman Catholic Church and I felt I could not join them. I had written a paper to that effect setting down my reasons. With the paper in my hand, I was meditating in the gallery of my chapel. My conscience was clear. I thought I was a Catholic. I wanted to follow authority but I could not give my obedience to the Pope because, as I understood it, our church, through no fault of its own, had been cut off from the Church of Rome."

"Suddenly, from one moment to the next, I knew I was wrong. I tore up the paper. Everything settled into place, not only religious things but life in general. It was like a great light breaking in darkness. Outside the Catholic Church a man is blind — not because he is unable to read, but because there is no light."

"There are undoubtedly some people outside the Church who are in bad faith," he said. "But I am sure there are a very small minority. I feel converts should be approached in that spirit. When you have the contact of charity you can do anything. In this connection I feel very strongly the need for the work of retreats. Whereas the active Orders go out to preach, we seek rather to attract people to us. I have

### BISHOP FLIES TO FINLAND

New York (NC)—Cutting short a visit to the United States which originally was to extend into May, Bishop William Cobben, Vicar Apostolic of Finland, has left by plane for home. During his stay here, Bishop Cobben visited the national headquarters of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, where he gave a hopeful picture of Catholicism in Finland up to the present time.

"Three times as many converts are received into the Church now as before the war," Bishop Cobben, who resides at Helsinki, the Finnish capital, disclosed. He said that the number of priests will be augmented this year by the ordinations of two Finns, one of whom is studying at Pontifical College Josephinum in Worthington, Ohio, and the other in Freiburg. The ordinations of the two Finns will be a sign of

success, he said, for "after almost 400 years, native sons are being elevated to the priesthood." There are two more young Finns studying for the priesthood," Bishop Cobben added, "and we trust that the entire ministry can be turned over within a short time to the native clergy."

The Dutch-born prelate was high in his praise for the work of the Sisters of the Precious Blood from O'Fallon, Mo., who are in charge of a school in Helsinki.

Now in convenient full-quart bottles! STILL IN HANDY STUBBIES STANDARD ALE The STANDARD of FINE Flavor! STANDARD BREWING CO. INC. ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Why wait for a Wedding? Make your dinner parties memorable and smart by serving delicious Gold Seal Champagne. Easier to serve than mixed drinks, and costs about the same. Formented in the bottle—the only correct way.

Gold Seal Champagne NEW YORK STATE Champagne Urban Wine Company, Inc., Hammondsport, N. Y. • Our 83rd Year

For Spring! Luxuriously Beautiful! To Add a Sparkling, Feminine Grace To Every Costume! GRAESER Fur Scarfs Jackets Capes and Stoles Soft, rich, silky furs that are so flattering... so exciting! All examples of Graeser's skillful designing! Blaauw's Pharmacy 38-40-42 Clinton Ave., North

TRANS' HAVE EVERYTHING YOU'LL NEED TO Enrich Your Devotions to Our Lady of Fatima We have a large selection of fine statues of Our Lady of Fatima. Some are all white, some are beautifully colored. Sketched is a 38 inch statue in full, rich colors. \$125.00. Others are: 9 inch \$1.50, 18 inch 8.00, 12 inch \$3.50 & \$5.00, 22 inch 18.00 & 40.00. For Your Reading Pleasure OUR LADY OF FATIMA By William T. Walsh \$2.75 THE CRUSADE OF FATIMA By John De Marchi \$1.25 OUR LADY OF LIGHT By Barthelemy Da Fonseca \$2.50 THE CHILDREN OF FATIMA By Mary Fabyan Windcut \$2.00 JACINTA, The Flower of Fatima \$2.00 THE CATHOLIC SUPPLY STORE TRANS' INCORPORATED 118 Franklin St. St. Francis of Assisi, One of Trans' Church, Boston

### Mrs. McCollum Denies Attack

(Continued from Page 3) her other child and the central figure in all the litigation, has been in Rochester, N. Y., with his grandfather since February, 1947. He will go to University High School in Champaign next fall.

Mrs. McCollum said she would not present a released-time plan under which all children are dismissed from school early one day a week, regardless of whether they go to any one of the religious classes or none. The instruction must be given off school property. "But" she interjected, "less than 25 per cent of a child's waking hours are spent in school, and I don't see why that school time, little as it is, is needed for religious education."

When I asked her if she credited a current trend in American life toward a secularistic and materialistic culture and away from Christianity with some influence in the high court's action, she said:

"YOU ROMAN Catholics are the only group I know of who talk that way," she declared. "Your papers, our Sunday Visitation, I have several copies of it here — are continually hammering away at the idea that an evil secularism is taking over America. I don't agree with that point of view and I don't know many others who do. It's typical of Roman Catholics to say that, but nobody else seriously believes them."

"I believe that the statistics show that more than half of our Americans do not go to church, but on the other hand powerful pressures are created today, more than ever, on our public life by organized religious groups. Who builds the pressures for secularism? Why, when I started my fight only my father, myself and two or three other people, in town were on my side."

The local priests discounted the idea that the court decision would bring a sizeable number of Protestant children into the parochial schools. A youthful ex-G.I. cab-driver with a child, nearing school age had said to me, in a most emphatic tone, "You know, if that woman keeps on driving religion out of the public schools, I'm going to send my kid to the Catholic school. And I'm a Protestant!" The Rev. J. G. Kaiser, a Missouri Synod Lutheran minister, commented: "I don't think the decision will lead to a great movement toward parochial schools in the Protestant churches. I don't know if the Protestants are ready to make the sacrifices which a parochial school means, the sacrifices which you Catholics and many of

our Lutherans know about. But I do think it will focus the attention of the people onto the great need for religious education. The Sunday School is not enough."

DR. A. RAY CARTLIDGE, Presbyterian clergyman who was one of the leading sponsors of the Champaign Council on Religious Education, said the council, which originated the released-time plan in 1940, would seek to carry on its religious education program in another form, probably in after-school, Saturday or summer classes.

"If we could divorce ethics from religion — personally I don't see how it can be done — there is a possibility of having such an ethics course in our schools," he said.

One of the principal surface motives for the establishment of the released-time plan was to combat a worrisome increase in juvenile delinquency in Champaign. I asked police officer H. Russel Burke, who handles delinquency cases, if he thought that the religion training in the public schools had had any noticeable effect in his field.

"I have several opinions on that, but I'd rather keep them to myself," he answered. "But you can bet that if they work out another system of religious classes here, my daughter will be among those attending."

JESSICA \$2475 Charmingly styled in the color of yellow gold, with ratchet case. Weekly Terms Arranged

Helbros The name that means everything in a watch Tune in "Quick as a Flash" Sundays... Mutual Network. WNET 5:30-6:00 P.M. WEISBUCH JEWELERS 398 MAIN ST. E. Est. 1903

BLAUW'S PHARMACY 60 Goodman at Clinton