

DeValera Asks End of Partition In Ireland; Censures Britain

Washington — (NC) — Pleading for America's moral support and sympathetic understanding in the struggle for a unified Ireland, embracing all 32 counties, Eamon de Valera, former Prime Minister of Ireland, branded British-imposed partition as a "negation of democracy" and told Great Britain that it would be to her own advantage to remove the artificial boundary now separating the Irish of the North from those of the South.

N. Y. Hails Irish Leader

New York — (NC) — Eamon de Valera former Prime Minister of Ireland attended Solemn Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral Sunday and later accompanied His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, to a Communion breakfast of lay chairman helping to organize the 29th annual fund appeal of New York Catholic Charities.

With Frank Aiken, former Minister of Finance of Ireland, Mr. de Valera was given a place of honor in the Sanctuary during Mass and was praised from the pulpit as a "shining example" of a Christian leader. Cardinal Spellman presided at Mass. Welcoming Mr. de Valera, Msgr. Joseph F. Flannely, Cathedral administrator said: "Because you are a symbol of that race which has for 1,500 years been instrumental in bringing countless millions of other races closer to God, we have offered you this place of honor in this Sanctuary today, as close as is possible to the altar of the God of all races."

"As Catholics, as Americans and as descendants of Irish men and women we hail with pride your life, character and accomplishments. We are in admiration of the outstanding service you have rendered for a generation to the Irish people and of the contribution that your shining example has given to Christian society. We are happy to proclaim to the whole world that your unusual leadership in times of strife and your wise counsel in days of peace are the fruits of your living Catholicity. May God bless you and Ireland."

Dan O'Connell's Rosary
London — (NC) — A rosary that belonged to Daniel O'Connell, the Irish Liberator, has been presented to Cork Museum by the principal of St. Mary's Training college for Catholic teachers. O'Connell's name is engraved on the silver cross.

tempted justification of Irish partition

THE SIX COUNTIES, now under British rule, are not entitled to the name of "Ulster," he pointed out. That ancient province, consisting of nine counties, has been partitioned itself, he said, adding:

"Despite efforts to convince the world otherwise, there is no fundamental difference between the people of northern and southern Ireland. In four of the six counties a majority does not want partition. How else can this be construed than a negation of the very democratic principles which England announces to the world she intends to uphold?"

British sincerity in insisting on democratic processes in other countries must be open to doubt as long as she denies these processes at home, Mr. de Valera said. Particularly in these critical times through which we are now passing it would be advantageous to Britain and to the world if, by ending partition, an example were furnished of President Wilson's principle of the self-determination of nations being put into effect, he said.

"**NOTHING IS** worse than the enunciation of fine principles if they are not put into effect," he said. "That is as true today as it was 30 years ago. Because we failed to live up to principles, we had World War II and are faced, possibly with World War III."

Mr. de Valera pointed out that Catholics in the separated six counties constitute the largest single religious denomination, followed by Presbyterians and Episcopalians, thus refuting the argument that there are basic religious differences between North and South.

The partition of Ireland is "purely political," imposed by a British Act of Parliament, he said in conclusion, expressing the determination of the Irish people to end it. "We don't want to use force, but we want our independence," he declared.

Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen, of the Catholic University of America, recalled that Mr. de Valera, back in 1934, resisted the admission of Soviet Russia to the League of Nations unless she gave guarantees for religious and human freedom. As a true statesman and a man of faith, Mr. de Valera realized that any nation repudiating the laws of God and nature is an obstacle to peace, Monsignor Sheen said.

Ireland was a sanctuary of the faith when barbarian invasions from the north in the early centuries caused the first "Iron curtain" to separate Europe, the speaker said. Ireland may have to become once again the sanctuary of the faith "When that day comes I trust it will be in the hands of the man who, in 1934, declared, 'unless you love your God you can never have peace'."

Crucial Hour Has Struck Pope Pius Tells Romans



His Holiness Pope Pius XII, from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, gives the Easter blessing, "Urbi et Orbi" to a huge throng of more than 300,000 of the faithful gathered in Saint Peter's Square, Rome. Although the Holy Father did not mention communism by name, he said that the Church in recent days has been "publicly subjected to most unjust attacks." (Original of a radio photo from Rome.)

Spiritual Union of Americas Urged by Pope at Bogota

Bogota, Colombia — (NC) — A deep spiritual note marked the opening of the ninth International Conference of American States in this capital city of Colombia.

His Holiness Pope Pius XII sent a message to the conference expressing wishes for its success in strengthening the ties for a "spiritual union of the American peoples" as a basis for peace and an example to humanity.

All delegations, including that of the United States headed by Secretary of State George C. Marshall, attended a Mass of the Holy Ghost, celebrated in the centuries-old primatial cathedral of Bogota, and heard a sermon reminding them of their "historical responsibility" and tracing the world crisis to neglect of the laws and rights of God, "the supreme source and measure of complete justice."

IT IS BELIEVED to be the first time in modern history that a conference of similar scope and importance has been officially opened with a Mass in the presence of all delegations, which include persons reflecting many different political ideologies.

The Holy Father's message, directed to Archbishop Ismael Perdomo, Primate of Bogota, was as follows: "On the occasion of the meeting of the Ninth Pan-American Conference, destined to strengthen the juridical, social and economic ties of the New World, the August Pontiff asks Your Excellency to tender to the eminent assembly his best wishes for the success of its work so that the noble efforts of the delegations, basing their Christian task on the moral principles of international cooperation, may foster and strengthen the necessary ties for the spiritual union of the American peoples; as the basis for a lasting peace and an example of the harmony hoped for by torn peoples."

Observatore described the action of the American legislators as "an event without parallel in the history of peoples." It referred frequently to the bill as "an instrument for peace."

Warning that "misery, disorder, and poor wages induce to war as despair to suicide," Observatore said it hoped the Eastern European nations "will understand the real meaning of the Marshall Plan and let political presumptions, with all the phantoms of war they bring, disappear in an atmosphere of peace."

Czech Recalls Asked by U. S.

Washington — (NC) — While the State Department is still considering the request of the communist-dominated Czechoslovak government for approval of Vladimir Outrata as ambassador to the United States, Prague was notified that two Czech embassy officials serving here are no longer acceptable and should be recalled.

At the same time it was learned that Adolf Hoffmeister, a communist, whom Czechoslovakia has designated as ambassador to France, served during the war with the United States Office of War Information in this country. He was for some time head of the OWI Czechoslovak division broadcasting in Czechoslovakia from America.

Mr. Hoffmeister came to this country from France where he had fled after the fall of occupation of Czechoslovakia.

If Mr. Outrata is approved by the United States, he will succeed Jura Slanik, who resigned as Czechoslovak ambassador to the U. S. after the February coup in Prague, saying that he "cannot accept a legal government nominated by President Benes under duress and terror," and that "Czechoslovakia has become a fully totalitarian police state."

While declining to give specific reasons, the State Department declared it was prompted "by very serious considerations" in asking the recall of these H. Florin and Evzen Szyrovka from their present posts as first secretary and attaché, respectively, with the Czechoslovak embassy.

TWO CHINESE PRIESTS SLAIN

Peiping — Communists have shot to death two Chinese priests of the Vincentian Order—the Rev. Joseph and Simon Li—near Paotai, 50 miles east of Peiping. The two priests had been prisoners of the Reds and unable to say Mass or exercise their sacred ministry for almost two years.

Their captors blamed the priests for recent successful incursions of government troops into this region. For several days before they were killed, the priests were paraded through neighboring villages in a move to humiliate them and terrify the Christians.

Prior to imprisonment, Father Simon Li, 44, was pastor at Takowtin and Father Joseph Li, 52, was pastor at Howkiachwang. Meanwhile from Jehol Province, northeast of Peiping, two Belgian priests of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Scheut) mission, the Revs. Joseph Neis and Florent Boudevyn, and two Dutch Sisters, Mother Immaculata Verhaar and Sister Mary Magdalena, were released by the Reds from jails in Shantung and Mellyingtz, and have reached Tientsin.

Bishops Oppose Repeal Of Ban on Birth Control

Boston — (RNS) — Repeal of the ban on dissemination of birth control information in this state was opposed in a statement signed by the heads of all three Catholic dioceses in Massachusetts and made public here.

The Catholic prelates called the bill proposed by the Planned Parenthood League a violation of "basic moral principles which grope social consequences."

Their joint statement was read to the Legislative Committee on Public Health by former Mayor Frederick W. Mansfield. It bore the signatures of Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston, Bishop Thomas M. O'Leary of Springfield, and Bishop James E. Cassidy of Fall River.

TEXT OF THE statement follows: "It has been asserted by some proponents of House Bill No. 1748 that the only effective opposition to legalized contraception comes from the Catholic Church. If

VATICAN HAILS ERP PASSAGE

Rome — (RNS) — Approval of the Marshall Plan will open the road "for reconstruction and political cooperation" in Europe, Observatore Romano, Vatican newspaper, declared in an editorial hailing passage of the \$6,205,000,000 foreign aid bill by the United States House of Representatives.

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