

Vatican Cites Many Obstacles To Polish Pact

ROME (RNS)—Obstacles to the resumption of diplomatic relations between the Holy See and the Polish government were cited by Vatican officials here in a recent statement by a Polish spokesman who reportedly blamed Rome for failure to reach an agreement.

The spokesman named Maj. Gen. Viktor Gross, head of the press department of the Polish Foreign Office. He was said to have declared that the Polish government has "kept the door open" for a new Poland-Vatican accord.

Vatican officials recalled that shortly after the liberation of Poland by Russian troops the Polish government denounced the concordat signed in 1925, accusing the Holy See of having favored the Germans during the war.

Subsequently, the Vatican officials declared, Polish authorities sponsored propaganda in favor of creating a Polish "National Catholic Church," arrested priests, and created difficulties for the Catholic press and schools.

The Holy See's answer, the officials said, was to publish diplomatic documents testifying to the Church's silence of the Polish people during the German occupation. These documents, they asserted, were later used at the Nuremberg trials as a material against Nazi war criminals.

The Vatican officials said that two semi-official missions were sent from Poland to the Vatican to bring a modus vivendi, but the Holy See was forced to demand that as a prior condition, a change would have to take place in the treatment of Catholics in Poland.

"NOW, A YEAR later," one Vatican official declared, "a campaign has been started in Poland against the Pope because of a letter to the German bishops in which he deplored the expulsion of Germans from new Polish territories, but discussed the question exclusively from the viewpoint of Christian charity, ignoring any political or juridical aspects."

The official said the Polish press has accused the Pope of being in conspiracy with the western "plutocrats" to rob Poland of territories assigned to her at Potsdam, and had raised the cry of "Either you are for Rome or for Poland."

Democracy Definition Battle Lost By Reds
Santiago, Chile (NC)—Heated discussion over the definition of democracy highlighted the meeting of the Students Federation of Chile here. By a vote of 84 to 36 with communists and socialists spearheading the opposition, a resolution was finally adopted defining democracy as "a form of human living which is based on personal dignity and on natural rights, which seeks the common good for the total development of the material and spiritual powers of those who are part of it."

Adoption of the definition expressing democracy in a Christian spirit was the result of efforts by Catholic students.

Delegates from 19 universities attended the meeting which was called to establish a basic policy for the federation in the face of the present national and international problems. Other resolutions by the group condemned all forms of totalitarianism as well as individualistic capitalism.

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NAVAL ACADEMY HONOR MAN



Number one man in the graduating class of 1948, at the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., is Midshipman Francis J. Sullivan, 24, member of St. John's Catholic Church, Collingswood, N. J. Director of Activities of the Newman Club at the Academy, Mr. Sullivan is pictured with Mary Anne Gilligan of Collingswood. Official U. S. Navy Photo. (NC Photo.)

Rivera's Atheistic Mural Bars New Hotel Blessing

MEXICO CITY (RNS)—Archbishop Luis M. Martinez of Mexico City said he would not bless the new Hotel Prado here until letting artist Diego Rivera remove the words "Dios no Existe" (God doesn't exist) from a mural he executed for the hotel.

Rivera's mural, covering one wall of the hotel's dining room, is entitled "Sunday Morning in the Alameda (park)." The offending words appear on a document held in the mural by Mexican philosopher Ignacio Ramirez. The document says "Ignacio Ramirez affirmed and demonstrated logically and experimentally that God doesn't exist."

Previously, four frescos Rivera did for the hotel Reforma which satirized the Mexican scene, were taken down, walls and all. New York's Rockefeller Center once refused a mural by Rivera which included a head of Lenin.

Luis Olayo Torres Rivas, manager of the Hotel Prado, said he found the words in the new mural and asked the artist to remove them. "Rivera absolutely refused," he said.

In Mexico and other Catholic countries it is customary to have a Church blessing for all new buildings.

British Bishops Ask Peace Prayer

LONDON (NC)—British Catholics celebrated the Feast of Sacred Heart having before them the urgent plea of their Bishops to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion for world peace.

The 18 Archbishops and Bishops of England and Wales had issued a joint pastoral in connection with the Feast in which they invited British Catholics "to consecrate yourselves and your families to the Sacred Heart, that Our Lord may reign in every family and in every home and that His rule shall be the guiding principle of national life and international affairs."

The Hierarchy's letter took note of the "present discontent and disorder, when wicked men seek to spread hatred, persecution and revolution," and reminded that "it is Christ alone that we can find salvation, and it is by His, our actions upon His and by following the example that He has given up, that we shall be able to restore true peace to the world."

Vatican Art in Color
ROME (RNS)—A team of English photographers is due to arrive here shortly to prepare a record in color of the Vatican's art treasures. The enterprise is believed to be the largest color photography assignment ever undertaken.

Honor Aya Maria Hour Founder
Graymore, N. Y. (NC)—The 25th anniversary of the ordination of Father Anselm Francis, S. A., originator of the Ave Maria radio hour and the Atonement Fathers' Crusade for Prayer, was celebrated at the Mount of the Atonement here.

Jobs, Homes Seen Available For Many DPs

St. Paul, Minn.—A warm tribute to the work of the National Catholic Resettlement Council was paid by Governor Luther W. Youngdahl of Minnesota, in an address to a group of 50 priests and laymen from dioceses of virtually all States of the nation who met here for a discussion of the displaced persons problem.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Msgr. Edward E. Swanstrom, executive director of War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference, and chairman of the Resettlement Council.

"It is a real thrill to meet here the distinguished leaders of the Catholic Church, to recognize your interest in the resettlement work which you have undertaken and to hear your expressions of interest and cooperation with other religious groups throughout the country," Governor Youngdahl said.

"THIS IS A happy opportunity," the Governor concluded, "for me to tell the leaders of the Catholic Church of the United States how much I admire the leadership they have shown in this problem of displaced persons. The Senate of the United States has now passed a bill which would admit 200,000 of these displaced persons to the United States during the next two years. We are all naturally hopeful that the House of Representatives will take the same action."

The action by the Senate also brought expression of delight from Monsignor Swanstrom, Msgr. John O'Grady, executive secretary of the National Council of Catholic Charities, and Msgr. Luigi Ligutti, executive secretary of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, at the meeting.

Monsignor Swanstrom said surveys taken in a number of dioceses in this country have indicated that there are thousands of homes and jobs available for displaced persons. He said priests who came here from California, New Orleans and the North Central States, as well as others from along the Atlantic seaboard, had made favorable reports regarding homes and jobs for DPs.

Within a few weeks, Monsignor Swanstrom said, a group of priests headed by Monsignor Ligutti, will leave for Europe to visit DP camps and study the problems of the people. He said that the group will include Msgr. John Mulroy, director for the Denver archdiocese, the Rev. William Kelly, director for the Brooklyn diocese, the Rev. Joseph B. Gremillion, director for the Alexandria diocese, and the Rev. Russell Scheidter, director for the Helena diocese.

Degrees for Dowling
MILWAUKEE (NC)—An honorary degree of doctor of humane letters was conferred today on Eddie Dowling actor, producer, playwright and radio star, by President Edward A. Fitzpatrick on behalf of Mount Mary College at its annual commencement exercises.

Prague Archbishop Scores Red Tactics

BRUSSELS (CIP)—Catholic Intercontinental Press has just obtained the complete text of the letter which Archbishop Joseph Beran of Prague sent to his clergy before the mock elections in Czechoslovakia.

The Archbishop's letter was written as an answer to Communist efforts aimed at inducing Czechoslovak priests to join the Communist Party. In the Communist appeal to the clergy, Archbishop Beran was described as "a simple son of the Czech people and a former prisoner of the Dachau concentration camp."

"I have just learned," the Archbishop wrote his clergy, "that some of you have received a letter signed by the regional officials of the Communist Party, asking you to become members of that Party. My name is mentioned in that letter."

"I am certainly proud of being a simple son of the Czech people and of having suffered during the occupation as a Czech and as a Catholic priest. I assure you that I shall never betray the Czechoslovak people, and I am convinced that there will be no traitors among the Czech Catholic clergy. You will unquestionably remain at your posts for the good of the people."

"YOUR DEVOTION to the interests of the people must not be misused, however, for spreading confusion in the souls and minds. It is not possible to reconcile Christianity and Communism. Those who attempt this do not know history. The social doctrine of Christianity has undoubtedly many points in common with the principles of Socialism, as a study of the Papi Encyclicals shows. But the principles and methods of Christians

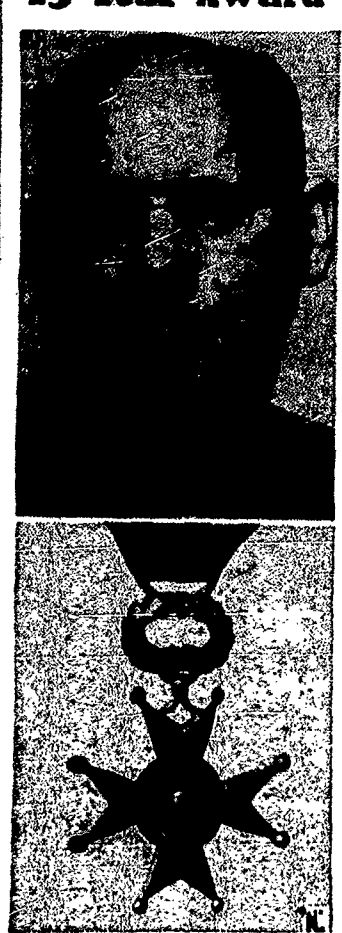
must always be in full accordance with the law of God. "Consequently, a Catholic may not accept any political ideology which is not based on this law. No faithful Catholic, and certainly no priest, may subscribe to a doctrine which denies the existence of the soul and its survival after death."

"Political parties endeavor frequently to put the best principles into the service of their cause, but a priest may not help them to further their partisan interests in this manner. These are the principles which I have never denied and which I have always followed, even before I was consecrated a Bishop."

"WHILE WE (Czechoslovaks) are now more closely linked with the great political action of all Slavs, we must not lose sight of the fact that this action cannot fulfill its universal mission unless it is based on Catholic principles which alone can realize the union of all Slavic peoples."

"Be on your guard! Efforts are being made to separate you from your Archbishop. There will be new Judases. Some have already made their appearance. But sometimes it also happens that a hurricane cleans and purifies the air. I have confidence in my priests, and I am convinced that they will not sacrifice their souls to earthly advantages. I am certain that they will remain loyal to God and to our Catholic people, even if times become very hard and trying."

25 Year Award



Knighthood in the Order of St. Gregory the Great was conferred on M. E. Kneiff, (above) executive secretary of the Catholic Hospital Association at the opening session of the 33rd annual convention of the group in Cleveland. Most Rev. Edward F. Hoban, Bishop of Cleveland, officiated at the presentation ceremonies, given in recognition of Mr. Kneiff's 25 years' service to the Church through administrative work with the Association. (NC Photo.)

Czech Vote Red Tragedy

VIENNA (NC)—Uncensored letters received here from Prague describe the "elections" in Czechoslovakia as "simply another post-war tragedy—written, produced and directed by world communism."

"There has been nothing but fear and confusion here over the election," one of the letters said. "The only ones who enjoyed the whole thing were the communists—only 30 percent of the total electorate, perhaps far less. But 30 percent gives the communists the benefit of any doubts. The majority have been going through hell. Fear knocked them into submission—and the confusion hastened the submission."

Another letter told graphically how the voting procedure made the "secret ballot" a mockery.

Each Czech voter received, either by mail or from the owner of his house, two ballots: one with the list of government-sponsored candidates, the other a white ballot marked with a large cross, to register opposition to the government list. At the polling booth, after being checked against the list of qualified voters, he was given one envelope in which to place the ballot of his choice.

"The Czech voter could go behind the curtain and place one of the two ballots in the envelope," the letter related. "After he had done this he dropped the envelope into the ballot box. He discarded the unused ballot without an envelope into an open basket."

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