

# Red Teachers Told To 'Push' Atheism as Religion Antidote

By J. J. GILBERT

Washington — (NC) — School teachers in Soviet Russia have recently been urged to intensify their work of atheistic propaganda, it has been learned here. Against the background of the last 30 years, this intelligence would ordinarily stir no interest at all. It would not be news.

It happens that there has been an appreciable amount of speculation in Washington recently as to whether Russia was undergoing some change; whether it was "mellowing" so to speak — turning from its brass and ruthless radicalism to hear authoritatively that the Russian communists have ordered that their campaign against God be given a new "shot in the arm" with all the speculation at night. So what ordinarily would not have been news because news because it tends to establish that there is now news.

When the Moscow masters, through their radio, made capital of our Government's note which said the door always stood

open for conversations looking to peace, some people took this as a serious move on the part of the Kremlin, and contended that Russia was at last ready to make peace. Russia was changing from her younger, bolsherois ways, they said. They pointed to the fact that Stalin was tolerating Alexei as Orthodox Patriarch in Moscow, something they said, one would not have looked for only a few years ago.

WHEN PRESIDENT TRUMAN said Stalin was not the ruthless master of Russian souls everyone pictured him to be, but that he himself was a prisoner of the poliburo. It only added to the speculation.

Others came forward to say

that, now that the communist Klement Gottwald has achieved the presidency of Czechoslovakia, Moscow had enough to satisfy it for a while, and that it was ready to concede a little, arbitrate a bit, and maybe change its old ways.

Right in the midst of this beautiful speculation, Washington learned in a very reliable way that the Moscow Radio had broadcast an appeal to teachers which had appeared in Uchitel'skaya Gazeta (Teachers' Newspaper) urging the course of action to be taken toward the "about 30,000,000 children and adolescents" presently receiving instruction in Soviet Russian schools.

"We set before ourselves," the broadcast article stated, "the task of inculcating in our pupils certain definite moral qualities proper to the Soviet people and not for a moment do we think that all these qualities will develop automatically. The perfectly groundless view is sometimes held that a correct outlook on the world will develop by itself in the pupils' minds, and that all kinds of superstitions, including religious ones, will be overcome without deliberate educative efforts on the part of the pedagogues."

"IT IS IMPOSSIBLE to raise the ideological level of the work of education and upbringing without developing anti-religious, scientific propaganda among the pupils. In their everyday life the children come up against unscientific explanations of the phenomena of nature and human society, witness facts of observance of religious rites by the people that surround them and by members of their families, and sometimes children and adolescents are coerced to observe religious rites. The teacher must not let such facts pass by unnoticed.

"In a well-thought-out and tactful manner the unscientific essence of religion must be demonstrated. The work of bringing up children in the spirit of a scientific outlook on the world, including active and consistent atheistic propaganda, requires in the first place that the teacher himself should have a profound ideological approach and that he should constantly raise the level of his Marxist-Leninist grounding."

It would seem that there has not been much change in Russia, not on the ruling level at any rate. Perhaps the leaders are becoming alarmed because the people have not been easily torn away from their religious inheritance. From the instructions to the teachers, however, it would seem that the rulers of Russia have not yet given up trying. Soviet Russia cannot become much different from what it has been, so long as it remains militantly atheistic.

Brother Zeno to go in search of their old pals and bring them to the orphanage too.

Brother Zeno has shown his persuasive ways on many occasions. On one trip he found seven or eight vagrant boys who wanted food when Brother had none. He went straight to the police station with the whole troop and asked the officers to provide a meal for the youngsters. The officials prepared a real feast and gave him rice to help feed his tribe at the orphanage.

Now these boys are begging

## SOVIET PRISON VICTIM



Bishop Theophile Matulionis of the Lithuanian Diocese of Kaunas, who has died in a Soviet prison after undergoing tortures, according to news from underground sources. He had been arrested three times by the Soviets, in 1923, in Leningrad; in 1924 and again in 1947, when he was deported to Siberia. The 75-year-old bishop visited the United States in 1935. He preached the sermon at St. George's Church, Rochester, on Aug. 11, 1935, when a guest of Rev. John Bakays, pastor. Picture on right shows how he looked upon his return from his second imprisonment in 1935. (NC Photos.)

## Death of Bishop, Tortured By Soviets, Reported Here

Washington — (NC) — Bishop Theophile Matulionis of the Lithuanian Diocese of Kaunas died in a Soviet prison after undergoing tortures, according to news from underground sources received by the Rev. Joseph B. Koncius, president of the United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America.

Father Koncius, who is here in connection with Displaced Persons legislation, declared himself convinced of the truth of the report. Bishop Matulionis was arrested by the Soviet Secret Police in 1947 and deported, probably to Siberia. Father Koncius said. No further details about his martyrdom and death are available, because the Soviets refuse to give any information to relatives or the press.

Bishop Matulionis, who was 75 years old, was arrested three times by the Soviets, the first time in 1923 in Leningrad, when he was sentenced to two years in prison, and again in 1929, a few months after he had been secretly consecrated a Bishop. Following his second arrest, he worked for four years as a slave laborer, until he was liberated under an exchange agreement between the Lithuanian Government and the Soviet regime.

He visited the United States in 1935, and in 1937, after his return to Lithuania, he was named Bishop of Kaunas. He remained with his flock during the days of the first Russian occupation of Lithuania from 1940-41, the Nazi occupation from 1941-44, and the second conquest of his native country by the Soviets, until he was imprisoned again last year.

BISHOP MATULIONIS is the second Lithuanian Bishop who recently died in Soviet prisons. Last year, Bishop Vincent Borisevicius

## Reds Ousted in Czech Prelate Bans Cuban Election; Priests in Politics Threat Remains

Havana, Cuba — The significant thing apparent in the Cuban elections, now that the final ballots have been counted, is the decisive defeat of the communists in this country which they had regarded as one of their strongholds in the western hemisphere.

This definite swing away from the extreme left was evident in a number of ways. The communists polled only 175,000 out of the 2,500,000 votes cast. While they gained three senatorial seats in the 1944 elections they will not have a single seat in the new senate which takes over on September 10.

Likewise, Dr. Carlos Prío Socarras, who was chosen the new President by a wide margin, has a strongly anti-communist record. One of his principal appeals was his record of breaking the communist domination in the labor field while he served as Minister of Labor last year.

This year also was the first time that the communists, who sail in Cuba under the banner of the Popular Socialist party, had to put their own candidate on the presidential slate. In previous years they had always made a deal with an acceptable candidate of another party and supported him. This year all the candidates refused to accept communist support.

Another stinging blow was given the Reds when His Eminence Manuel Cardinal Arteaga, Archbishop of Havana, declared in a statement issued before the elections, that Catholics may vote for any of the parties with the exception of the communist party. "No Catholic can legitimately lean toward absolutism and alien communism," he warned the faithful.

However, while communism has received a setback, observers warn that as long as the social and economic inequalities, which gave rise to it, exist, its threat remains strong.

Sounding this note of caution, one Catholic writer, Ruben D. Rumbault, declared: "The political struggle against communism greatly resembles the medical struggle against tuberculosis. Up to now there is no sure cure for the white plague. The only certain remedies are preventive clearing slurs, avoiding hunger, dispelling ignorance, providing the people with air, sunshine, food, peace, education.

"In the same way there is no sure cure for the Red plague. The best remedy is that of prevention. This means removing the unhealthy climate which breeds communism: hunger, ignorance, sickness, hate. It means providing everyone with air, sunshine, food, peace, a home and education."

Determination of the Bishops of Czechoslovakia to bar priests under their jurisdiction from holding political office is expressed in letters by Archbishop Joseph Beran of Prague to the Minister of Justice and to a priest who holds a cabinet post as Minister of Health.

These letters, the text of which has just become available, state that the Bishops will uphold their attitude "under all circumstances" and that a priest violating the injunction will thereby automatically incur suspension from his divine function.

WHILE IT IS NOT yet known how the communist-dominated Prague government will react to these steps and whether the priest most directly affected—the Rev. Josef Plojhar, Minister of Health—will take measures in order to retain his priestly status, it has been learned that the Catholic weekly Rozcevak (The Sower), published by the archdiocesan curia of Olomouc, has been suppressed. The paper has a circulation of 200,000.

Furthermore, Vatican Radio announced that Archbishop Beran has been forbidden by the Prague government to print letters of circulars without previous authorization and that the multigraphing machine in his office has been confiscated.

Secular press agency reports from Prague quote Father Plojhar as saying that the Prague government would not make any concessions to the Catholic Church "until the Church has given final proof of its positive attitude toward the government."

He is said to have added that "unfortunately, it (the Church) has not yet done so." He is also reported as denying that he has been suspended from his religious functions or threatened with excommunication if he should remain in office under the communist government.

Archbishop Beran's letter to Father Plojhar, which was dated May 21, nine days before the rigged "elections" of the Czechoslovak parliament, was as follows:

"SINCE NEWS IS spreading to the effect that I have allowed you to offer yourself as a candidate in the May 30 elections, I state that I have never given such permission and that I could not have given it, because in the conferences of the Bishops at Olomouc it was unanimously decided not to grant permission to anyone, without exception.

"I am communicating this decision to you in case that you should not withdraw your candidacy you will, as a Catholic priest, be ipso facto suspended a divinis automatically suspended from divine functions." Consequently, I could not permit you to celebrate Holy Mass or carry out any other sacerdotal function in the Archdiocese of Prague."

A second letter was addressed

## 'Uncle of Orphans' Aids Vagrant Japanese Waifs

By REV. WILLIAM A. KASCHMITTER, M.M.

Tokyo — (NC) — "Uncle of the Orphans" is what Japanese are calling Brother Zeno Zebrowski of the Conventual Franciscan Priests in Nagasaki — and with good reason. Brother Zeno, hails from Poland, but his spirit is that of a Troubadour of Asia who thought only in terms of the Kingdom of God. "Knights of the Blessed Mother" is what the Conventuals call themselves here, and that is exactly what Brother Zeno is in fact.

Like the knights of old, he has gone forth in search of new conquests, but his weapons consist mainly of food and clothes for homeless orphans. To date he has covered the principal cities of Japan from Nagasaki in the west to Tokyo in the east, and everywhere he has found homeless boys who were delighted to follow him to his Nagasaki orphanage where the Conventuals are caring for 180 boys, mostly war orphans.

It took faith not only in God but also in human nature to take in some of the boys. Thus one of his "discoveries" was already "famous" for his 30 escapes from the municipal boys' home in Osaka, while his running mate was known for his runaway escapades. Another boy was brought to Brother Zeno by a disconsolate and despairing father who complained that since the mother's death the boy had gone from bad to worse, that his thefts had repeatedly landed him in the police station and that he, the father, had finally decided to kill the lad. However, he remembered about Brother Zeno and decided to place the problem lad in his care.

Now these boys are begging



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