

Colonial Peoples Discussed by Pope

By M. MASSIANI

Paris, July 29 — (NC) — Belief that Europe as the center of Christendom will continue to play a role of prime importance in the advent of a world fraternally renewed in the standards of the Gospel is expressed by His Holiness Pope Pius XII in a message to the French Catholic Social Week meeting at Lyon.

Referring to the theme of the Social Week, "Overseas Peoples and Western Civilization" the Holy Father discusses the aspirations of colonial people for independence and social justice and the contribution that western civilization based upon Christianity has made to their enlightenment and progress.

"WHO DOES NOT see," His Holiness asks, "that the disaster without precedent from which we are emerging has not only threatened our civilization but has caused among the farthest people overseas a commotion and an unrest the consequences of which cannot be calculated?"

His Holiness rejoices that the Social Week, by bringing together for discussion on the basis of Christian principle leading authorities on the relation of western civilization to the colonial peoples, will make a genuine contribution to a problem that is of first importance in the world today.

Aspirations for independence animate many of these peoples today. His Holiness observes: "Their participation in the war has made them conscious of their value. But this trend for emancipation, accompanied as it often is by violence, is not without danger when one considers the weakness of the western powers which by their own sin as messengers of the Gospel, have had the task conferred upon them of being elder sisters to the continents and peoples lying in the darkness and the shadow of death."

NOTING THAT the present situation may result in an unbalance from which the world may have to suffer a long time, His Holiness declares that no one doubts the necessity of evolution in the relations of the colonial peoples to the western nations but that action must be taken toward achieving this evolution in an orderly fashion, "in justice, in mutual understanding in a world in charity."

Never has it been a question of conformity or leveling among different civilizations," he continues. "The Church has always been respectful of the distinctive characteristics of the different peoples, of their particular contributions and of their legitimate aspirations. It is to be hoped that the new conditions under which western civilization will be exercised on the overseas peoples will change the powers to give more consideration to their ethical peculiarities, to their native aspirations, and to the basic rights of the human person."

Christians, anxious any kind of abuse or exploitation of the overseas peoples, the Holy Father declares, are any undermining of their native institutions, which leads to a breakdown of morality among them.



This huge bell, which has called the faithful to St. John's Cathedral in Cleveland, for more than a half century, will soon ring out in a mission of the Holy Ghost Fathers in Kalamia, East Africa. It will be replaced by a set of mechanized chimes in the new cathedral. Workers are shown removing the one and a half ton bell from the cathedral grounds for shipment to Africa. (NC Photo).

Cleveland Goes To Africa

Moscow Synod Abuses Papacy; Praises Stalin

Paris — (NC) — A violent attack on the Papacy as the "center of international fascism" and a blatant attempt to drive a wedge between the Catholic hierarchy and the "masses of the faithful" characterized a resolution unanimously adopted at the closing session of the Russian Orthodox Church synod held in Moscow.

The synod, presided over by Patriarch Alexei, pro-Soviet head of the Orthodox Church, was convened to mark the 500th anniversary of the establishment of the Russian Orthodox Church. In the course of the deliberations Alexei heaped praise upon Stalin and the Soviet regime.

ACCORDING TO Tass, Soviet news agency, and reports in the French press the resolution declared in part: "The Roman priests are always on the side of the powerful and against those who are weak and exploited. At this time, too, the activity of the Vatican is directed against the workers. The Vatican is the center of international intrigues against the interests of the people, particularly the interests of the Slav peoples, and is the center of international fascism."

"All Christians, regardless of national and denominational differences, can but brand Vatican policies as anti-Christian, anti-national and anti-democratic." The resolution then goes on to declare, according to the text published here, that the Orthodox Church recognizes a clear distinction between "the ecclesiastical hierarchy of the Catholic Church, dominated by the Pope in Rome, and the masses of the faithful, adding that the Catholics are not responsible for the crimes of the Vatican."

Orthodox church leaders, on the other hand, have refused to take part in the Amsterdam meeting of the World Council of Churches, taking place next month, because, it is said, its organizers pursue "anti-democratic politics and not religious aims." Among those who attended the Moscow Synod were many foreign delegates, including the (pro-Soviet) Archbishop Markarius of New York.

Official Flees Soviet Zone

Berlin — (CIP) — Following the example of many other high officials and dignitaries, the Vice President of the Supreme Court of Thuringia, Karl Magen, has abandoned his post and fled to Western Germany. He was a member of the Christian Democratic Union and has been under the special surveillance of the Russian secret police for several months.

In May, the Soviet Military Administration (SMA) vetoed his reelection to the State Committee of the Christian Democratic Union and described him as "unacceptable."

Aid to Parents Backed by New French Cabinet

Paris — Although the recent action of the French Government in placing subsidies at the disposal of families unable to pay tuition fees for their children in Christian schools has evoked bitter reaction among communists, socialists and anti-clericals, the Christian Democratic Party has received assurance from the new government of Prime Minister Andre Marie that these subsidies will be continued.

Participation of Catholics in the new cabinet has not been perceptibly changed, eight of the new ministers being Christian Democrats; but the dropping of former Foreign Minister Bidault indicates disagreement in France over solution of the German problem.

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS named to the new cabinet are Pierre Henri Tiegen, vice president; Robert Schuman, former Premier and now minister for foreign affairs; Lecourt, minister of justice; Coste-Floret, colonies; Pömlin, agriculture; Schmitter, health; Duprax, marine; and Coude du Foresto, supplies. Three independent ministers of the Right in the new government are favorable to religious freedom; Paul Reynaud, finance; Rene Coty, reconstruction; and Laniel, national economy.

Dropping of Madame Polino-Chapuis, former minister of health and author of the decree providing subsidies to aid needy parents whose children are in Christian schools from the new cabinet indicates the controversial character of this decree, which has just been attacked by the congress of "free-thinkers," attended by communists, socialists, and masons.

Marked by acrimonious debate, between communists and socialists, the congress became so tumultuous that socialists finally withdrew. Resolutions demanded abrogation of the Polino-Chapuis decree, decrease in the budget for military preparedness and increase in the public education budget, recruiting of 50,000 new public school teachers, and suppression of Catholic education in Alsace-Lorraine, in communities ceded to France by Italy, and in colonial territories.

Delegates also manifested hostility toward United States Ambassador Jefferson Caffery and the Canadian Ambassador for their part in assisting at distributions of American and Canadian gifts to children in Catholic schools as well as children in public schools, seeing in this an action against the laic school.

Plea for Women Lake Success, N. Y. — (NC) Ten Catholic International organizations appear among 37 signatories of a petition addressed to the United Nations Economic and Social Council urging that immediate steps be taken to suppress traffic in women and children.

Behind The Iron Curtain

Red Terror Blocks Catholic Programs

Budapest — (NC) — The offensive of the Hungarian regime against Catholic Action through proceedings against its central director, Msgr. Sigmund Mihalovics, and its cultural secretary, Father Odon Lenard, a Plavist teacher, and the ransacking of the central office for "incriminating" evidence, has completely disorganized the Catholic Action headquarters here.

Most of the desks in the extensive offices are vacant. Large numbers of people queue up in vain before its headquarters to seek relief or register their children for summer vacations abroad.

CATHOLIC ACTION has been the distributing agency for the thousands of tons of food, clothing and medical supplies sent to Hungary by American Catholics through War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Last year Catholic Action operated 120 soup kitchens in Budapest alone, serving meals to 25,000 persons daily. It also established milk-kitchens for children in 22 country towns and in mine districts. In Budapest and environs it arranged for free medical treatment and free medical supplies.

Beyond publishing the only Catholic weekly in all of Hungary today, New Man, Catholic Action has also set up several Catholic academies in the Hungarian capital to give evening classes for workers. At its central office here it usually employs about 45 persons to handle its many-aided endeavors. Last year it had about 85 employees working at its 11 warehouses handling the distribution of relief.

HOWEVER, IN EFFORTS to discredit the organization, now headed by the Rev. John Burek, leftist papers here are branding it in front-page headlines as the center of "anti-social machinations and black reactions."

Confiscated documents, states the leftist daily, People's Voice, show that "Catholic Action, under the direction of His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty, endeavored to keep secret the sacrifice of democracy and of the working classes... and ordered Catholic youth to leave the democratic scout movement and democratic youth organizations. Hungarian organized workers will no longer be tolerant and patient with these reactionary, capitalist organizers."

"Odon Lenard, cultural secretary of Catholic Action," the paper continues, "displayed an anti-democratic activity, abusing the free expression of opinion granted by democracy, misusing it for incitement against the republic... In a circular, edited, printed and published by him he incited nationalization of schools."



Accused of "anti-democratic attitudes" by the distribution of circulars opposing the nationalization of Church schools, these three Catholic priests were convicted by the People's Court in Budapest and received sentences ranging from ten months to one year. Convicted at the same time and sentenced after a summary trial in absentia, was Msgr. Sigmund Mihalovics, central director of Hungarian Catholic Action, who drew a term of ten years' imprisonment. Left to right are, seated, Rev. Paul Nemeth, pastor of Ordacs; Rev. Odon Lenard, Plavist education; Rev. Anton Kolesa (standing), pastor of Orgovany. (INP).

Light Penalty Given Priests Hints Communist Concern

Shanghai — Found guilty by communists of "espionage" three months ago, five Catholic missionaries of Sienhsien in central Hopei province have received their sentences from the Reds, according to a message just received from Tientsin.

The Rev. Joseph Kia, Chinese diocesan priest who had served as secretary to Bishop Francis X. Chao, S. J., of Tientsin, has been sentenced to one year in jail. The Revs. Rene Charvet, Jean Motte, Arthur Baur and Marcel Lichtenberger, all foreign Jesuits, have been sentenced to "expulsion from China." Father Lichtenberger is Belgian and the other Jesuits are French.

AFTER HAVING been held in prison for six months the five missionaries were found guilty in May, according to the official

communist broadcast, of operating an "espionage plot for baron Ching and American imperialists."

The comparatively light sentences given the priests in view of the seriousness of the charges seem to reflect increasing communist concern over unfavorable world publicity received as a result of the bitter persecution of religion in many areas during the past two years.

Father Kia, originally belonging to the Kinghsien diocese, had come to Sienhsien when Red pressure on his own diocese forced him out. Father Charvet, 64, was twice decorated for bravery in action during World War I. Father Lichtenberger is a physician and conducted a clinic in the mission hospital at Sienhsien before his arrest.

Poor Dying at School Gate Spurs Student Relief Work

By the REV. PATRICK O'CONNOR

Pengpu, Anhwei, China — 700 old men and women came to eight destitute old persons were found dead at the gate of Chung Cheng high school here and the students decided to do something about it.

Chung Cheng school is conducted by the Italian results of Pengpu diocese under Bishop R. Cappri Cassini, S. J.

INSPIRED by the missionaries, the boys and girls collected money among themselves and from business houses in the city to start a welfare center for hungry and sick refugees crowding into the city from communist held areas.

We cannot bear to see old people lying sick on the street, say the students, many of whom are non-Christians, in a miserable, graphed street, they have distributed among Pengpu citizens.

The mission offered an old chapel building for the center. The plan is to equip it as a free dispensary, soup kitchen and general relief station. Eight Sisters forced by the advance of the Reds to leave their Shantung mission farther north, have volunteered to staff the center. They also will go out to visit refugee families huddled in their huts of matting and being food, medicine and clothing.

DAILY DURING the winter

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