

U. S. Denazification Policy Under Fire

Washington — (NC) — Hope that the controversy aroused by the reduction of the sentence of Lise Koch, mistress of Buchenwald concentration camp, may lead to positive measures to dispel the "poisonous atmosphere" created in Germany by "the utter failure of the American denazification policy," was expressed here by a German Catholic editor who himself has spent six years at Buchenwald.

DR. EUGENE KOGON, editor of the monthly, Frankfurter Hefte, and author of the German bestseller "The SS State" (which will appear in an English edition early next year), is personally convinced of Lise Koch's guilt, although he leaves the question open whether her life sentence can be upheld under American legal requirements.

He testified in the war crimes trial of Lise Koch as a witness for the prosecution and was also heard by Senator Ferguson's Senate subcommittee which is investigating the whole case.

"Yet whatever may be the merit of the criticism of the commutation of her sentence by General Lucius D. Clay," Dr. Kogon said, "it would be disastrous if this single case were exploited to prevent the review of scores of other so-called war crimes cases where reduction or revocation of sentences is wholly justified."

"IT WOULD be most unfortunate," he added, "if the Koch case were to serve as a pretext to block the path toward clarifying the whole problem of American justice in Germany and bringing about the punishment of those who are really guilty and the rehabilitation of those who, though they may have been nominal Nazis, were punished unjustly."

Reminding repeatedly that the Koch case is only one of many involving the punishment of real or alleged Nazi criminals, Dr. Kogon added, "It is hard for Americans to realize the extent to which German public opinion has become embittered through U. S. denazification policy, which only too often allowed the real Nazi criminals to go unpunished while 'small fry' and persons and groups fundamentally anti-Nazi suffered severely. The fact that the Germans at the same time are fundamentally convinced of America's good intentions, makes the whole matter all the more tragic."

Dr. Kogon said that among 115 cases of sentenced "war criminals" coming up for review in the near future he was personally acquainted with at least 30 cases where reduction or revocation of sentences appeared fully justified. "Nothing can so retard the reorientation of the German people toward democracy," he declared, "as any tendency by the Allies to use Nazi methods. Unfortunately, the suspicion that the Americans have obtained at least some of their convictions in Germany by coercion of witnesses is very widespread."

Pope Gives Medals To Lay Heads



The papal medal "Benemerenti" is conferred upon Emmet A. Blaes, President of the National Council of Catholic Men, and Miss Agnes J. Doherty, by the Most Rev. Mark K. Carroll, Bishop of Wichita. The presentation ceremonies took place in the Blessed Sacrament Church, Wichita, Kan. (NC Photos.)

Philosopher Maritain Says Atheist Is 'Abortive Saint'

New York — (NC) — Speaking on "The meaning of contemporary atheism," Jacques Maritain, Professor of Philosophy at Princeton University and former French Ambassador to the Vatican, declared here that "perhaps we must conclude that the genuine absolute atheist is but an abortive saint and, at the same time, a mistaken revolutionist."

Professor Maritain spoke to 300 educators and clergymen of the Catholic, Jewish and Protestant faiths at the opening session of the tenth annual meeting of the Institute for Religious and Social Studies held at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America here.

Remarking that contemporary atheism involved a "double inconsistency," Professor Maritain said, "I mean the inconsistency, but at the same time, a mistaken revolutionist."

Anti-Convert Law Repealed In India Areas

Nagpur, India — (NC) — A law placing restrictions on conversions was unexpectedly deleted from the Public Safety Act of Berar and the Central Provinces after it had been in effect for one year and seemed certain to be passed again by the provincial legislature here.

The law, which made it a criminal offense for any conversion to take place except before a public magistrate and only after he had been convinced that the conversion was entirely voluntary, had been severely criticized by both Protestants and Catholics throughout India.

THEY STATED that the law was an infringement on freedom of religion because it rendered it difficult for prospective Christians in outlying villages to become converts and placed too much arbitrary power in the hands of a magistrate.

The law was steam-rollered through the legislature here last year despite the protests of Christians. This year when the Public Safety Act expired and was up for renewal by the legislature, it appeared certain that the clause against so-called "forced conversions" would again be included.

IN FACT, a vote overwhelmingly in favor of the Act had already been taken, when Pandit P. Misra, a high government official, unexpectedly introduced a motion that the entire clause be stricken from the Public Safety Act. His motion was carried.

A message of thanks was immediately sent to Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla, Premier of the Province, by the president of the Christian Association of Nagpur. "I beg to offer you and your honorable colleague, Pandit P. Misra," the message said, "our heartfelt gratitude for your magnanimous gesture in withdrawing Section 16 of the Central Provinces and Berar Public Safety Act of 1948. That gesture recognizes that while Christians as a body have been making every constitutional effort for the repeal of a clause which encroached on fundamental rights, they have by their public conduct never erred in their duty to uphold the prestige of the Government in its efforts to maintain law and order."

Pontiff Grets Students From Rome College

Vatican City — (NC) — For the first time in eight years, His Holiness Pope Pius XII has received in audience the faculty members and the student body of the North American College in Rome and imparted to them and their families the apostolic blessing.

The audience took place on the Feast of St. Raphael at the Papal summer residence, Castelgandolfo.

FIFTY STUDENTS from 38 United States dioceses are enrolled at the college, and with the exception of three whose arrival in Rome has been delayed, all were present at the audience and individually greeted by the Holy Father.

Members of the faculty present were Bishop Martin J. O'Connor, rector of the College; Msgr. Charles E. Fitzgerald, New Rochelle, N. Y., spiritual director; Msgr. Richard K. Burns, Rochester, N. Y., vice-rector; and the Rev. Joseph R. Lacy from Hartford, Conn., economist.

Prior to the Papal audience, the American priests were received by His Eminence Giuseppe Cardinal Pizzardo, who was recently appointed Protector of the North American College.

ACCOMPANIED BY Bishop O'Connor and Msgr. Diego Venini, the Pontiff circled the audience hall in the second floor of the Papal summer residence and spoke with each student. He asked them about their home dioceses and their Bishops, inquired about the number of years they intended to stay in Rome and their scholastic plans, and distributed medals.

The Pope was particularly interested in speaking to priest-students who had seen military service. Some of them had been received by the Pope in 1944, when still in uniform.

De Valera in Britain
London — (NC) — Eamon de Valera, former Prime Minister of Ireland, has launched in Liverpool an "anti-partition" campaign in Britain, claiming the restoration of Northern Ireland to Eire.

They Seek Future In America



A Polish group, the Opalka family, is pictured as they were about to embark for the United States with 213 Displaced Persons, the first contingent under the new admission program. Among these are 48 Catholics sponsored by War Relief Service-National Catholic Welfare Conference. The family will be received by Rev. Veton Bauman of St. Michael's parish, West Memphis, Ark. AP Photo. (NC Photos.)

Scholars Organize 'Knights Of Peace'

Montreal (CIP) — A group of European intellectual and spiritual leaders will launch shortly in Rome a worldwide peace campaign to put the minds of leading men in every nation to work on vital problems. It has been learned exclusively by the Rome correspondent of "The Englishman," newly founded Canadian weekly. Official announcement of the organization, which will be known as the Knights of Peace, will be made public in the near future.

THE CAMPAIGN aims to mobilize the minds and talents of leading men in every country for the discovery of solutions to national and international problems on the basis of Catholic social principles. The first step will be the distribution of questionnaires to approximately one thousand persons of recognized ability in various nations of the world.

Their replies to questions on situations considered dangerous to the peace will be correlated and studied by a group of internationally known jurists to formulate concrete solutions. Results will be thoroughly disseminated to acquaint world public opinion with the means available for the establishment of peace.

OVER A HUNDRED widely known university professors, judges, professional, political and business men from Italy and other European countries have been quietly organizing the operation of the campaign for the past three years.

Plans call for enlisting the aid of intellectual and spiritual leaders in every country where opinions and ideas may be freely expressed. The peace organization, while professing Catholic social doctrine, will include men of goodwill who acknowledge belief in God.

AMONG THOSE already at work in the organization are Guichino Bossco, Professor of International Law at the University of Rome; Eugenio Zelli, former ranking Rabbi in Rome; Professor Giuseppe Grassi, Minister of Justice in Italy; Salvatore Messina, Judge of the Superior Court in Rome; and Dr. Nicole Fende, well known pathologist and Professor of Pathology at the University of Rome.

Organization of the Knights of Peace will be by national groups of qualified men established as standing committees to seek the solutions of local and world problems which affect the peace.

Relics of John Duns Scotus Found in Bombed Church

Oldenburg, Ind. — (NC) — The relics of Blessed John Duns Scotus, the famous Franciscan theologian of the 13th century, escaped unhurt from the bombing which destroyed the Church of the Minorites in Cologne and were translated to a new resting place in Cologne cathedral.

According to an article by the Rev. Bonaventura Brown, O.F.M., published in Franciscan Studies, the relics were found beneath almost 15 feet of rubble and examined and identified by medical experts at the direction of His Eminence Josef Cardinal Frings, Archbishop of Cologne.

A document from a previous investigation, listing the different bones and bearing the seal of the Cathedral Chapter of Cologne, was found resting on the head. This document crumbled when touched but enough could be deciphered to enumerate the individual bones.

Blessed John Duns Scotus, also known as the "Subtle Doctor" because of his keen intellect, and "Doctor of Mary" for his devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, ranks foremost among the great scholastic theologians.



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