

Persecution Wave Expected in China

New York—(NC)—Catholic missions in China look with "grave apprehension" on the decline of the regime of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and "all indications are that the shedding of Christian blood in China has not yet ceased," says Fides Agency of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith according to an English-language broadcast of Vatican Radio heard here.

CHINA'S situation today — politically, militarily and economically — is "as tragic as any of the more dreadful moments of the last war," the broadcast stated.

The Catholic missions look with grave apprehension on the decline of the present regime, for it offered to the missionaries a sufficient freedom for the exercise of their apostolate. On the other hand, the tragic winter of 1947-48 in the regions dominated by the communists will pass into the annals of China as a period of bitter persecution.

While admitting that during recent months the Chinese communists have become "more human," limiting their activity "to rendering difficult if not absolutely impossible the exercise of the apostolate," the broadcast declared that "this unexpected change in policy must be taken as a political move and it will be modified when it is deemed that a different policy would be of more value to their (communist) objectives."

Nun Charges 'Lack of Faith' Against Israelis

Jerusalem — (NC) — A protest against the "complete lack of honor and good faith" of Israeli officials has been made to Israeli authorities by the Mother Superior of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Sion at Ecce Homo Convent here.

The nun made the protest upon learning that the English High School, conducted by the community at Katamon, near here, has been "completely looted," despite the fact that the school flag was nailed across the school door by Israeli soldiers and a solemn promise that the school would not be touched was given by the Israeli area commander.

"I HEREBY WISH to protest with all possible energy against this complete lack of honor and good faith," the nun said in a letter to Jewish authorities, which has become available here. The letter also mentions a long list of harassments the nuns and pupils had suffered at the schools from the beginning of 1948 until the school was closed at the end of April.

Sisters and pupils looking out of a window, the nun related, were shot at by snipers. After protests to the authorities which gave assurances that all firing would be stopped, the school bus in front of the building was fired at, with shots "breaking the windows just at the height of the children's heads," the nun charges.

Hungarian 'Historian' Says Columbus Was Pirate; 'Bunk!' Professors Reply

(N.C.W.C. NEWS SERVICE)

Wait a minute! Don't throw away those history books and other volumes that contain the traditional Christopher Columbus story.

Sure, there's a "Hungarian historian" who has bopped up in Budapest with the claim that Columbus was a pirate and was "on the lam"—by boat, of course—from a hired assassin when he discovered America. Such things have happened before and, no doubt, will happen again, but the traditional Columbus story always seems to come out on top.

LATEST to challenge the Columbus story, according to a United Press dispatch from Budapest, is Tivadar Acs, vice-president of the World Hungarian-American Association.

The dispatch said he based his claims on a study of 15th century documents which picture Columbus as a native of Belgium, working for France and making such damaging raids on Venetian shipping in the Mediterranean that Venice hired a killer to dispose of Columbus.

Acs, whom the dispatch described as "Hungarian historian," even went so far as to name the Frenchman, Richard Bertholomeo, a Frenchman, as said he was hired for 32 ducats, with the additional promise that he would receive a house and a life pension of four ducats a month when he had done the deed. Acs claims that Columbus was tipped off and finally had to flee all the way to America to get away from Bertholomeo.

THERE'S A very distinguished professor at Harvard University. He wrote "The History of the American Navy" and "Admiral of the Ocean Sea," a classic on Columbus. He also was the commander of the Harvard Columbus Expedition in 1939-40, which followed the course of Columbus from the Old World to the New. His name is Dr. Samuel Eliot Morison and he has taught his-

Once again eminent historians are being called on to debunk a new wild claim about the identity of Christopher Columbus. All real students know there were as many men by the name of Christopher Columbus as there are Joe Doakes.

British statesman, with Winston Churchill, the American novelist."

On the faculty at Georgetown University in Washington, oldest Catholic university in the United States, there is a history teacher whose name is Tibor Kerekes. He is a Hungarian and knows just about every worthwhile historian in Hungary.

MR. KEREKES hadn't read of the claim of "Historian" Acs and when apprised of its content, said he had no intention of reading it. As for "Historian" Acs, Mr. Kerekes said: "I never heard of him."

Professor Kerekes added, now that Hungary has fallen under communist domination, that doubtless there are a lot of "historians" in Budapest and elsewhere of whom he had never heard.

There is another renowned historian at the Catholic University. He is Dr. Richard J. Purcell, and after reading the Acs claims, he said:

"In my opinion it is merely the story of a betrayer. I believe that it is fraudulent, ridiculous and absolutely unworthy of the slightest attention."

Before Acs came on the scene with his claim, there have been others who made such claims as Columbus was a native of Spain, Portugal, France and — of all places — Armenia.

More than once the story that Columbus was a Jew has bobbed up and been exploded. Even the story that he was a pirate isn't new. Generally it is accepted that Columbus was a native of Genoa and that the discovery of America came about in the manner of the traditional Columbus story.

And so, after all, it may be wise to hold up on throwing away those history books — Tivadar Acs and his claims to the contrary notwithstanding.

"I know of two I have written about and this Acs has evidently confused one of these with the real Christopher Columbus. The first was a Frenchman, both in the service of the French king."

"I think this Acs has these two pirates confused with the Christopher Columbus who sailed to these shores. Both of these men were named Casenove, but sometimes used the name of Columbus. Everybody who studies Columbus knows about them. You might as well mix up Winston Churchill, the

St. Cloud, Minn. — (NC) — The Marriage Preparation Course so enthusiastically received here last spring will be conducted in eight other centers of this diocese next year.

Based on a correspondence course published by The Catholic Center in Ottawa, Ont., it is open to all — men and women, Catholics or non-Catholics, who are engaged or have intentions of marrying within a year.

LAST JANUARY when Bishop Peter W. Bartholomeo, Coadjutor of St. Cloud and Moderator of the Family Life Bureau, called several priests together to launch the project, he hoped about 25 couples might register for the course. More than 150 responded.

Some enlistees in the course drove over sixty miles to places 50 miles distant — boys brought their girl friends and took them home again twice a week for seven weeks. A certificate with liturgical symbols of marriage was given to each student completing the course.

Instructors for the lessons included clergy, physicians, attorneys, mothers, and housewives. Men and women take the same course but attend classes separately. Last spring the course consisted of 15 lessons. It will be reduced to 10 next year, but all 15 subjects originally covered in 1948 will be presented.

Must Read Stalin — Stalin's "Brief Summary of the History of the Bolshevik Party" has been made compulsory reading for all political and non-political prisoners in the jails and prison camps of Rumania.

Is He Lucifer? — The Hungarian communist daily *Nepeva* recently published an editorial which included a poem entitled, "The New God."

The poem included the following lines: "A new god has come to you, people. His fiery eyes do not gleam from gold-framed darkened pictures of saints. They do not gleam from gold-framed pictures of saints. This new god is not a stone statue worn smooth by the kisses of the faithful. . . He was not born in heaven. He is next far away, nor is he hidden from us. The new god is born from earth and blood. . . He strides ahead and under the thunder of his steps the globe trembles from East to West. . . This is the red god."

"The Seine shudders at his impact and tries to break its banks. Westminster trembles before him like Jericho. Across the green ocean his red shadow falls on the walls of the White House. Hosanna! New god."

Die Furche (The Furrow), Vienna Catholic weekly, in an editorial comment entitled "Hosanna to Whom?" has this to say about the poem:

"A new god? Oh, no, we know him. He is none other than Baal, into whose jaws they once threw their children. He is none other than fallen Lucifer, in whose hands the light became a torch of destruction."

"His red shadow" falls on the walls of Montmartre, upon the spires of Westminster, upon the dome of the capitol. Hosanna to thee, god of destruction, under whose steps the world will perish, unless it realize the full, threatening significance of this suddenly unbarred picture of wrath, before it is hidden again under a veil of soothing deceit."

Senator Wagner Asks Inquiry Of Prelate's Case

Washington — (NC) — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has been asked to conduct an investigation into the arrest of His Eminence Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, Primate of Hungary, "with a view to determining what this government may do directly or through the United Nations to remedy such outrageous injustices and to prevent their recurrence."

THE REQUEST for the investigation was made by Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York, in a letter to Senator Tom Connally of Texas, chairman of the committee. The New York legislator stated that he was "deeply disturbed" over the Cardinal's arrest "and the consequent threat to complete suppression of religious freedom in that country and wherever Soviet power can cast its dark shadow."

Senator Wagner asked the committee chairman to consider the advisability of naming a special subcommittee to inquire into this tragic affair. "He said that it would be appropriate to make inquiry at the same time into the fate of Archbishop (Aloysius) Stepinac of Yugoslavia, who, as you know, is also a martyr to religious freedom."

"We in the United States," Senator Wagner wrote, "have shown the world that people of different faiths and national origins can live together in peace and mutual tolerance, enjoying our common citizenship and liberties. The common people of the world over look to us for leadership in defense of human rights wherever they may be threatened. We must exercise our moral leadership in this vital instance of religious persecution."

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Flying Missioner Killed in Crash

Sydney, Australia — (RNS) —

Father John Glover a member of the Society of the Divine Word who was known as "The Flying Priest of New Guinea," was killed south of Lae when his airplane crashed into a mountain.

Father Glover, 39, gained fame during World War II when he piloted an old Fox Moth to various parts of New Guinea, evacuating civilians and wounded soldiers threatened by the Japanese invasion.

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Japan Pastor Relates 'Welcome Mat' Abuse

Sendai, Japan — (NC) —

"Visitors always welcome" is the motto of smiling Father Deslaurer, O.P., pastor of the Cathedral Parish here. But some visitors are difficult.

Recently a nocturnal visitor broke into the cathedral and stole his chalice. Shortly after one took his bicycle. A third then stole his overcoat. And now a fourth has made away with all the vestments of the cathedral.

Cardinal Tien, Still Ill, Now in Shanghai

Shanghai — (NC) — His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Tien, Archbishop of Peiping, whose health is still poor, is now in Shanghai after visiting Hong Kong. With transportation between here and the north disrupted by the war, he is awaiting an opportunity to return to his archdiocese.

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Stubborn Regime Blocked Relief, Official Reveals

New York — (NC) — Stubbness on the part of Hungarian government officials prevented the distribution of relief goods, including food,

\$200,000 Willed To Build Church

Richmond, Va. — (NC) — A Catholic church to be called St. Bridget's will be erected in this city as the result of a bequest by Miss Annie B. Irvin, who died at the age of 81 and left her entire personal estate valued at \$204,288 to the Richmond diocese.

Israelis Return French Convent

Tel Aviv — (RNS) — The French convent of Notre Dame d'Arc d'Alliance, eight miles west of Jerusalem, which has been requisitioned as an emergency hospital, has been restored to its original occupants by the Israeli army.

Is He Lucifer?

'New Red God' Idolized By Atheist Poet in Hungary

(N.C.W.C. NEWS SERVICE)

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