

# Atrocities Against Arab Group Told

By BRO. ANTHONY BRUYA  
Amman, Transjordan — (NC)—  
"They came to us like herds of cattle — in want of everything — living like wretched beggars on public charity."

In these words Archbishop Michael Assaf of Transjordan described the plight of groups of Arab refugees, many of them Catholics, who have been driven from their northern Palestine villages by Jews who stripped them of their possessions, even taking away warm clothing, and then abandoned them to danger in cold deserted areas between Jewish and Arab lines.

IN A STATEMENT issued here yesterday, the Melchite prelate said:

"A week ago, a group of 44 persons, all men, of whom 24 were Catholics and the rest Moslems, driven by Jews from their village of Shefaram in northern Palestine, came to us in Amman in miserable condition."

"Four days ago another group arrived consisting this time of men and women, old and young, children and breast-fed babies, the majority of them Catholics and also driven out of their homes in the villages of Maalla and Tarshina in northern Palestine by Jews. All bore signs of having horribly suffered. Other groups are believed to be still on the highways."

"The crime of all these people appears to be that of having taken refuge at the beginning of hostilities in Lebanon and having lately returned to their homes. To add to their sufferings, they were robbed of all the money they carried, their identity cards and passports; they were even robbed of their warm clothes and the women of their jewels. They were stacked like cattle in open trucks in bitter cold weather and eventually abandoned in open, solitary country, where they were exposed to all sorts of dangers far south a few kilometers from advanced Iraqi posts."

"The worst part of the tragedy was yet to come. Jewish forces, escorting these poor people, just before leaving them, opened fire at the Iraqis to attract the latter's attention to this horde of people advancing toward them, and thus caused the Iraqi troops to return fire, which meant death to many finally these people, half dead reached the Iraqis, who tendered them relief and then conveyed them to Amman."

"In the face of such atrocities such inhuman acts, perpetrated in the twentieth century during what was supposed to be a truce between the Arabs and the Jews, we cannot help raising a voice of protest against such happenings and draw the attention of the Holy Father, the United Nations, the Arab governments, and the religious and civil authorities in the world to the atrocities which the Jews are committing on poor, inoffensive Arabs."

# Bishop Blesses New Press



Following blessing ceremonies in the greatly expanded plant of The Register, in Denver, Archbishop Urban J. Vehr (upper photo) pressed the button that started the new press in operation. The paper has a circulation of 750,000 in 32 dioceses. The Catholic Press Association will hold its annual convention in Denver next June. (NC Photo)

# Priests and Sisters Nurse Wounded in China War Area

Taiyuan, China, (via Tsingtao)—(NC)—The thud of cannonading punctuates the cold days and nights of this city's seventh month of siege by communist troops. The city itself is peaceful and orderly. The active fighting is at a distance varying from three to 20 miles. But the sound of intermittent artillery fire, the care of wounded soldiers, and food shortages keep Taiyuan's missionaries conscious of the war's nearness.

WHILE CHINA is being swayed to and fro by reports of truces and surrenders, this capital of Shanxi province, under 67-year-old Gen. Yen Hsih Shan, holds out though encircled since last July. No shells now fall into the city, though in October one landed in the center of the mission yard.

The Franciscan missionaries here, Chinese and foreign (mostly Italian), under Archbishop Domenico L. Copozzi of Taiyuan, have cared for hundreds of wounded. They are pitifully short of medicines, surgical instruments even bandages.

WE FLEW to Taiyuan with 80 pounds of medicines and bandages hastily gathered in Shanghai. Our plane was one of 25 engaged in a 24-hour airlift known as Taiyuan's "Operation Vittles." Each plane makes two trips daily from Tsingtao, three hours' flight away, bringing 200 tons of rice a day. Most of the rice is dropped from the air.

Though the communists occasionally shell the airfields some pilots land. Ours did. The Tai-

# Tito Regime Bans Sunday, Holydays

Paris — (NC) — Reports from inside Yugoslavia agree in ascribing the increasing discontent over the insufficient food supply, the stringent economic measures of the Tito regime, and the recent orders of the Belgrade government abolishing the Christian Sundays and holy days.

EXPERT OBSERVERS believe that it is not so much Tito himself who must be held primarily responsible for the latest intensification of the anti-Catholic campaign. In their opinion, the key to recent events must be sought in Moscow, whose hard, despite Tito's resistance, is still strong enough to force internal unrest in Yugoslavia for the purpose of weakening and undermining the position of a disobedient vassal.

The decree abolishing the Sundays and Christian holy days prevented, as its first effect, the observance of Christmas by the Catholics as well as by the Orthodox, whose celebrations, according to the Julian calendar, were to have taken place 13 days later.

This outrage, it is reported, was received with violent indignation throughout the country. What caused particular resentment was the ruthlessness with which the authorities marked all plans for even private celebrations.

Under the threat of severe penalties, the people were compelled, precisely during the Christmas weekend, to take part in the so-called voluntary labor service. On Christmas Day and St. Stephen's Day, all employees, civil servants, teachers, etc., were put to work as bricklayers, stone cutters and similar jobs.

Nevertheless, the Catholic churches, where Mass was said in the evening, were filled with crowds of those who had returned, exhausted from unaccustomed manual labor.

Another cause of unrest is the wholesale nationalization not only of the country's more important industries but even of small manufacturing plants, shops of bakers, shoemakers, and blacksmiths, and of all restaurants, large or small.

During recent weeks food shortages have spread from the urban area to the Yugoslav coastal regions. In Dalmatia, for instance, only cabbage could be bought in the markets during Christmas time. It was sold in small quantities to holders of ration cards only.

Candidate Premier Washington (NC) — President Harry S. Truman has announced that Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent of Canada will visit the United States. He said the Prime Minister will arrive in Washington on February 11 and remain for two days on a purely friendly visit.

# 'Not Too Late' For China Aid, Says Archbishop

Washington — (NC) — It's not too late, Archbishop Paul Yu Pin of Nanking, China, emphasized as he discussed conditions in his war-ravaged country.

He said in an interview here that if the United States would extend aid to China, where the communists now hold the upper hand, the situation would change virtually overnight.

THE ARCHBISHOP declared that even if the communists gained full control of his nation, they would never make communists out of the people. They are too well grounded with respect for ownership of land and other anti-communist ideals to embrace communism, the prelate declared.

But if communism does win control of the country, the Archbishop said, religion is doomed. He said that in certain sections of the country where the Reds already hold sway, the Church has been forced to go underground.

DURING HIS stay in the nation's capital, the Archbishop visited President Harry S. Truman and has discussed his country's plight with leading members of Congress, including Representative John W. McCormack of Massachusetts. The Archbishop is on his way back to China following a visit to Rome, where he was received by His Holiness Pope Pius XII.

Archbishop Yu Pin said that the Church and religion are the No. 1 target of the communists in China, and that in sections of the country where the Reds now are in control, the Church has undergone terrific persecution.

# Holy Cross Head Sets Alumni Visit

Worcester, Mass. — (NC) — The Very Rev. John A. O'Brien, S.J., recently appointed president of Holy Cross College, will be guest of honor and principal speaker at alumni club dinners in New York State and the Midwest this month.

Father O'Brien graduated from the college in 1918, will open his tour at a dinner of the Greater New York Athletic Club at the New York Athletic Club. Other dinners will be given by alumni clubs in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Chicago, Detroit, Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse.

# Priest Hunts Big Game



When Father Charles Young of Holy Cross Foreign Mission Society left Notre Dame University, Indiana, for Decca, India, he had no idea that one of his duties would be shooting tigers and leopards. (Father Young, a graduate of St. Mary's Boys Home, Rochester, celebrated his first Solemn Mass there.) But frequently he is called on to do just that when the big beasts threaten his people and their livestock. Photo courtesy of The Bangalore. (NC Photos).

# France Grants Israel Holy Land Rights

Paris — At the same time that the French Government notified the State of Israel of its decision to grant "de facto" recognition, it requested Israel to acknowledge the continuance of the special rights which have always been accorded to French religious establishments in the Holy Land and which were confirmed by the treaties of 1904 and 1913.

France also claimed reimbursement for extensive damages caused by the Jewish occupation forces.

# Catholic Teachers End Week Strike

Montreal — (NC) — Montreal's 1,800 Catholic lay teachers, of whom 1,500 are members of L'Alliance des Professeurs Catholiques and 300 members of the Federation of English-speaking Catholic Teachers, have returned to their desks after being on strike a week for higher wages.

The return to work followed appeals made by Archbishop Joseph Charbonneau of Montreal, the Ecole des Parents de Quebec and the Catholic Parents' League, who have promised to work towards a permanent solution of the wage problem.

SOME 50,000 Catholic pupils were affected during the week's strike. An equal number continued attending class because their teachers, some 1,800 in number, were members of religious orders and remained on the job.

It is understood that both parties now are willing to forgive and forget and to work towards an amicable wage settlement. The Montreal Catholic School Commission, which had threatened sanctions, made no statement at the end of the strike.

In response to requests of the Alliance, the organization of French-teaching teachers, for increased pay, the School Commission proposed to raise salaries to a \$2,800 minimum and \$3,200 maximum for men, and \$1,700 minimum and \$1,975 maximum for women. This was \$100 more in the minimum bracket than had been asked, but far below the maximum of \$3,500 for men and \$2,500 for women asked for.

APPEALS to the School Commission and the Quebec Municipal Commission failed and the teachers signed contracts for 1948-49 under protest. However, they balked at signing under the old wage for the 1948-49 school year, and when appeals failed again, including one to Premier Maurice Duplessis of Quebec, the Alliance decided to strike. The English-speaking teachers went out in sympathy with them. Premier Duplessis declared the strike illegal, and the national collective bargaining rights were cancelled by the Labor Relations Board.

# 'Going My Way' Calls Japanese To Priesthood

Montreal — (NC) — Once upon a time, and not very long ago, either, there was a Japanese who approached a priest and announced his intention of becoming a member of a religious order. The priest wanted to know what had swayed him to the vocation. The Japanese replied in the following order: 1. He had seen Bing Crosby in the movie, "Going My Way." 2. He had met the late Mayor Edward J. Finnegan, founder and director of Boys Town. 3. He had read the Japanese edition of The Catholic Digest. The story was told here by the Rev. Paul Bussard, of St. Paul, Minn., editor of The Catholic Digest, at a dinner which inaugurated the French Canadian edition of the magazine. Digest Catholic.



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