

Belgians Spurn Reds, Show New Church Interest

Brussels — (RNS) — With the exception of a small part of the population, Belgium's working classes have, in the past eight months, withdrawn from the influence of Communist propaganda.

Roman Catholic and Protestant circles note with satisfaction a general recrudescence of religious activity, especially in the industrial and mining districts of the country which had formerly been subject to forceful agitation.

REASONS FOR this change of opinion are given as follows: (1) The firm policy of the government since its adherence to the Atlantic Pact.

(2) The renewed vigor with which both Protestants and Catholics have been campaigning for a religious revival.

(3) The outspoken attitude of the Vatican and the influence of a large number of refugees from Central and Eastern Europe has served as an example to many who wavered between religious conviction and political aspirations.

WHILE SIX MONTHS ago the workers of mining and industrial centers were split on political issues, the development of the international situation, the strengthened position of the United States, and the influx of refugees with eye-witness accounts of religious persecution now going on in their home countries have swung the balance strongly in favor of religious adherence.

In the words of a clerical spokesman, "only large-scale unemployment with its consequent lowering of living standards could offer Communists a chance of regaining the ground they have lost."

Polish Divorce Laws Tightened

Warsaw — (CIP) — The Polish Government has made divorce more difficult following the termination of one of the sections of the marriage law passed in 1945 which permitted divorce by mutual consent.

Established as a temporary measure, divorce by mutual consent was no longer possible after December 31, 1948.

In its place, the Government has instituted a system which requires both parties to submit their reasons for wanting a divorce to a court which will examine the facts before issuing a decision.

Other sections of the marriage law passed in 1945 are still in effect, such as the stipulation that administrative authorities may remove children from their parents' care and place them elsewhere "if the welfare of the child or the children should require it," and the requirement that marriages are valid only if performed by a civil ceremony.

HE'S HERE—BUT



There are thousands of others like this young fellow, Edmund Libert, from Poland, whose speedy chance for happiness and a new home in the United States are being hampered by red tape which strangles the present DP law. The National Catholic Settlement Council, at a meeting in Kansas City, criticized the lag in the DP program, while in Boston a regional meeting of the Bishops' Fund for Victims of War advocated all-out support for the \$5,000,000 Lustrate Sunday drive to aid this youngster and many others like him. (NC Photo)

Dom Lou, Chinese Abbot and Former China Premier, Dies

By REV. ANTHONY COPPENS, S.J.
Brussels — (NC) — One of the truly great men of the new China has been taken by death. He is the Very Rev. Dom Pierre-Celestin Lou Tseng Tsiang, Abbot of St. Peter's Abbey in Ghent, who at one time served as Prime Minister and Foreign Minister under Sun Yat-Sen. He died at Bruges, aged 71, which had promised Japan not to back the Chinese claims.

One year after Mrs. Lou's death in 1926, he entered St. Andrew Abbey at Sevenkerken Loperm (near Bruges) and was ordained a priest in 1933 by Archbishop Celso Costantini, first Apostolic Delegate to China.

In 1946, the Holy Father raised Dom Lou to the dignity of Titular Abbot of St. Peter and he was consecrated by Archbishop Ferdinando Cento, Apostolic Nuncio to Belgium.

Abbot Lou's dream was to found a Benedictine abbey in China. For this purpose he was presented by the city of Ghent with a stone taken from St. Peter's Abbey which was to be the cornerstone of the Chinese foundation.

Constitution of Peron Preserves Status of Church

Buenos Aires — (NC) — The draft of the new constitution proposed by President Juan D. Peron does not offer any change in the status of the Church in Argentina. It is now being considered by a constituent assembly and will replace the Constitution of 1853.

The draft preserves the preamble of the old one which invokes "the protection of God, the source of all reason and justice," and states that the federal government supports the Roman Catholic Apostolic religion.

The principal points now governing Church-State relations in Argentina are: (1) the government grants a subsidy to the Church in compensation for nationalization of Church property in 1872; (2) the country's president and vice-president must be members of the Catholic Church; (3) Congress must aid in the conversion of the Indians to Catholicism by providing funds and facilities and by permitting, if necessary, the entry of foreign missionaries.

(4) In the appointment of Bishops the government has the right to propose three names from which the Holy See must choose the Bishop, and (5) the president has the right to withhold from the hierarchy any bulls, decrees, briefs and mandates sent by the Holy See to the Bishops.

Dr. Pablo A. Ramella, constituent delegate from the province of San Juan, called on President Peron to renounce this latter right, declaring that "it would be a friendly gesture toward the highest authority of the Church to give up this power which is really an interference of the State in the government of the Church."

THE REVISED draft also adds guarantees of the rights of labor, of the family and of the aged. It acknowledges the right of everyone to "engage in all useful and lawful industry" and the right of assembly.

Delegates had available the declarations of the Catholic Lawyers Society and the Society of Catholic Economists, which pointed out principles they said should be incorporated.

Father of Ten Religious Dies

Washington — (NC) — Louis B. Scheerer of Philadelphia, father of ten children, all of them members of religious communities, died suddenly at the Disinfecting Carmelite Monastery here after attending Mass in the monastery chapel. He was 69. His wife, who died in 1947, was chosen the "Catholic Mother of 1945."

He is survived by seven sons and three daughters. Two sons are priests in the Dominican Order and one is a Carmelite Father. Four other sons are Carmelite Brothers. The three daughters are Dominican nuns.

French Dedicate 1949 to Blessed Virgin Mary

Paris — (NC) — The Cardinals and Archbishops of France have decided that 1949 should be dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, deeming this the best means of preparing for the Holy Year of 1950.

In making known this decision they have asked priests to preach on devotion to the Blessed Virgin during the year, to organize celebrations in her honor and to arrange pilgrimages to her shrines. They also have urged Christian families to recite the Rosary together before a picture of the Blessed Virgin.

PRESCRIBING measures for his own see for the Marian year, His Eminence Emmanuel Cardinal Suhard, Archbishop of Paris, has warned against two extremes in devotion to the Blessed Virgin and has defined her proper place.

"Without making predictions about the dangers which threaten world peace and which we hope are exaggerated, we see arising the greatest wave of materialism that the world has ever known," he said.

"Now this God Whom some wish to dethrone — who can restore Him to us if not she who gave Him to us? Never has Mary's help been more necessary. And that is why our appeal is addressed to you, dear brethren, that you may give the Blessed Virgin her rightful place in your lives, according her the proper role in the plan of Redemption."

INSISTENCE ON this is necessary because devotion to Mary "is far from being always properly understood," the Cardinal stated, adding that some "pass it up" and say that "she takes the place of God in the hearts of many of the faithful." Others, he said, develop a cult in which "Mary has become everything" and in which "Jesus, her Son, is forgotten and the Holy Trinity totally ignored."

"In its extreme form this is superstition and idolatry," the Cardinal went on. "Emotion has taken the place of faith; taken a creature — even if the noblest and most perfect — for the Creator. With the best intentions, they have betrayed the profoundest desire of Mary, who far from wishing to make herself God's equal, never ceased to call herself the handmaid of the Lord."

Los Angeles Plans Schools
Los Angeles — (RNS) — A campaign to raise \$3,500,000 for the construction of 15 new Roman Catholic elementary and high schools was announced here by Archbishop J. Francis A. McIntyre of Los Angeles.

Latin Catholic Action



President Carlos Prío Socarras of Cuba personally greets the U. S. delegates to the second Inter-American Catholic Action Week, held in Havana, February 16-17. From left to right: Mrs. A. E. Lucas, President of the National Council of Catholic Women; President Prío; Mr. Ernest Blaes, President of the National Council of Catholic Men; and Magr. Howard J. Carroll, General Secretary of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Pope Vetoes Deal To Remove Cardinal

Budapest — (RNS) — A Communist spokesman declared here that the Vatican rejected overtures by the Hungarian government last December which would have enabled the Pope to save Cardinal Mindszenty from being arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Addressing a workers' meeting, Joseph Raval, chief editor of Szabad Nep, Communist Party organ, said the government officially submitted to the Vatican in advance the full text of the indictment against Cardinal Mindszenty.

HE SAID this was done "in order to give Catholic Church authorities an opportunity to remove the Archbishop of Esztergom" and thus prevent his being brought to trial.

"We would have let him go in order to encourage an agreement between the Church and State," Raval asserted. "The Vatican had the opportunity to take action, but did not lift a finger. So, as the Vatican did not want Cardinal Mindszenty, we thought we could freely take action against him."

Vatican Confirms Chance To Save Cardinal

Rome — Vatican officials confirmed the statement made in Budapest by Joseph Raval, chief editor of Szabad Nep, Communist Party newspaper, that the Budapest government had sent the Holy See a copy of the indictment against Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty before the prime was brought to trial.

However, a well-informed official declared that the Vatican would never have agreed to the proposal that Cardinal Mindszenty be removed from his archbishopric as a condition for sparing him a trial.

"The Vatican never descends to such compromises," the official said.

Raval's statement also brought a comment by Observatore Romano, official Vatican newspaper, which declared that it "proves the necessity for justifying the Cardinal's trial before the Hungarian tribunal."

Laura's About Cardinals
New York — (NC) — Future missionaries will be given a course in "How to win natives and influence cannibals" at Fordham University from April 18 to 22. The course will examine the social structure of various tribes, their religious customs, etiquette and way of viewing the world around them.

'Radical Destruction' Seen For Chinese Catholic Schools

Rome — (CIP) — "Radical destruction" faces the Catholic school system in China, according to the Rev. Hermann Haack, S.J., Director of the "Fides" news agency, which specializes in news from the Catholic missions and is part of the "Propaganda Fide" Congregation at the Vatican.

Father Haack declared that, in spite of recent promises by Chinese Communist leaders that religious freedom would be respected in Communist-held territories, "religious liberty is a formula without meaning," when used by a Communist.

"Under the totalitarian regime of Communism the priest writes, 'only one school can exist: the Communist school. This school... is a machine that will produce a materialistic, atheistic, amoral youth, a docile instrument for the establishment of a Red dictatorship.'"

Father Haack pointed out that, even under the Kuomintang regime, Catholic schools have been operating under great restrictions. "They must follow a State program, must submit to official inspection for government

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