

Moscow Agents Enter West As Bogus Priests

Frankfurt — (NC) — Extensive efforts by communists in Soviet Russia and satellite countries to train bogus priests and send them as propaganda agents to the West are reported by two German religious news services.

ACCORDING to Kirchlicher Nachrichtendienst, Catholic news agency in Cologne, about 2,000 such special agents, most of them persons who at one time or other were seminary students but broke away from the faith, have so far been trained in Russia.

In Budapest, agents are said to be trained in six month courses after the completion of which they are assigned to western countries where they pose as "refugee clergy" and engage in propaganda. Christlicher Nachrichtendienst, religious news service in Munich, reports that one of these "priests" has recently been arrested in Vienna.

A SPECIAL department of the Kominform called "Desinform" has been established as an office concerned with international religious affairs, says the Cologne agency. It devotes its special interest to so-called Progressive Christians and "religious communists" who are used as tools to promote red propaganda.

"Desinform" is said to maintain four training schools in Zwinograd, a suburb of Moscow, for agents in the United States and Canada. In Feodosia, Crimea, which specializes on affairs in France, Spain and the Latin-American countries; in Constanta, Rumania, for Palestine; and in Sigulda, Latvia, for the Scandinavian countries, Germany and Britain.

Central Verein Sets Annual Convention

San Francisco — (NC) — The 94th annual convention of the Catholic Central Verein of America will be held here from August 6 to 19. It has been announced by Edward Kirchen, convention general chairman. The organization will meet jointly with its auxiliary, the National Catholic Women's Union, which will hold its 33rd annual convention.

Protestants Protest Lourdes Statue On Camden Hospital

New York — (NC) — Removal of a statue of Our Lady of Lourdes atop a new Catholic hospital in Camden, N. J., was demanded in a resolution adopted by the New Jersey Council of Christian Churches.

The resolution described the statue as an "image which to many constitutes an idol," declared the emphasizing of what it describes "this particular adoration of Mary" is "an affront to many responsible citizens," and asked the removal of the statue as "offensive to Protestant bodies and conscience."

The resolution was adopted at a council session in the First Baptist Church, Caldwell, N. J., and was made public in New York through the American Council of Christian Churches, an evangelical group claiming a membership of 1,500,000.

The resolution, which misapprehended the title of "the Lady of Lourdes," added as reasons for removal the fact that the statue is in a spot that commands a view of the entire city and that the appeal for funds to erect the hospital was made to all citizens with Camden's mayor as general chairman.

Pope Honors 7 NCWC Staff Members



Seven employees of the National Catholic Welfare Conference have been honored by Pope Pius XII, according to an announcement from the Apostolic Delegation in Washington. Upper photo: Thomas E. Mulholland, port director at New York of the N.C.W.C. Bureau of Immigration, has been named a Knight of St. Gregory the Great, and his assistant, Miss Florence Buckley, awarded the Benevolent Medal. Lower photo: left to right, the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice has been conferred upon Miss Agnes Collins, N.C.W.C. librarian; Miss Ruth Craves, executive secretary, National Council of Catholic Women; Miss Sarah Wendell, assistant director of the N.C.W.C. Bureau of Immigration. The Benevolent Medal has been conferred upon Miss Agnes Martin, auditor of the N.C.W.C. and Miss Edith Jarboe, assistant director, Business Office.



Court Test Set On Religion Study Plan

Westport, Conn. — (NC) — A religious education program conducted by Sisters in this city's three elementary schools after hours is under challenge by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The organization which says it is considering contesting the program in court, wrote to a local principal that the situation in his school was in violation of the U. S. Constitution as interpreted in the McCollum decision of the U. S. Supreme Court.

A member of the Free Thinkers of America complained against the program last month.

Dutch Catholics Honor 'Sacred Clothes' Miracle

The Hague — (CIP) — A procession and open-air play will be held on Trinity Sunday, June 12, to honor the miraculous "Sacred Clothes" of Boxtel, the altar cloths and Corporal which seven centuries ago were stained blood-red by consecrated wine from an upset chalice. The miraculous origin of the stains has been recognized by the Church.

THE SACRED CLOTHES have been preserved since 1291, when the miracle occurred during a Mass celebrated by a priest from the village of Esch. Father Eligius van den Aacker, entertained doubts about the transubstantiation. He accidentally upset the chalice over the Corporal and altar cloths leaving a blood-red stain.

The priest revealed the miracle to several witnesses many years afterwards on His death bed. He related that he had tried to wash out the altar cloths in a small stream near Boxtel, the "Dommel," but the red stains remained.

AFTER AUTHORITIES in Rome had conducted an official inquiry into the case, Dutch residents were permitted to honor the Sacred Clothes every Trinity Sunday. That date became the

occasion for pilgrimages of tens of thousands of Dutch people to Boxtel. The Sacred Clothes were hidden at Hoogstraten in 1625 at the time of the Reformation to insure their safety. Not until 1923 were they returned to Boxtel by a Papal decree.

'No Church' Letter Says' Shanghai — (NC) — There is no Catholic Church here," was the writing on a slip pasted by a Red postal official on an envelope addressed to the Catholic church in Kiamusse, Manchuria, and returned to the sender in Shanghai. Kiamusse is the center of an apostolic prefecture, a distinct mission territory established in 1928 and staffed by Austrian Capuchins. Two of the priests were killed in 1946. Msgr. Hermann Hiltner, the Prefect Apostolic, was brought to Harbin and is still there.

Teachers Fight New Mexico Court Ouster

Sante Fe, N. M. — (RNS) — Defense attorneys for some 140 Roman Catholic nuns, brothers, and priests involved in the so-called Dixon case filed a motion here to amend the court's findings and conclusions.

The court decision in question was rendered last March by District Judge E. T. Hensley who ruled in favor of a group of Protestants seeking to oust Catholic teachers and to outlaw alleged sectarian practices from public schools of the state.

The motion filed here requested that 81 of the 93 findings ruled on by Judge Hensley be amended and that 14 of 22 conclusions of law be stricken.

AMONG THE conclusions which the motion seeks to have stricken from the decision are the following:

- (1) The conclusion barring the defendant teachers from ever again teaching in tax-supported schools in the state.
- (2) The court's prohibition against free textbooks for parochial school students and its ruling that free school bus transportation for such children is unconstitutional.
- (3) The decision prohibiting the lease of buildings owned by the Church for public school uses.
- (4) The conclusion which holds that the court has jurisdiction over the parties and subject matter in the case.
- (5) The finding of fact establishing school hours as any time the children are under supervision of the teachers.

ACCORDING TO the defendant teachers, represented by attorneys William Barker, Joe Guhman and Charles Fahy, the "equitable remedy in the circumstances is an injunction" against those teaching religion, not permanent exclusion from teaching positions in the state.

A declaratory judgment granting a permanent injunction against the teachers has been expected here momentarily, and it is believed the motion was timed to prevent final disposition of Judge Hensley's ruling.

Office Staff Sets Rosary At Noon

Washington — (NC) — The voluntary recitation of the Rosary at noon of each day by the members of the headquarters staff of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, here, will be continued indefinitely, it was announced here today.

The staff workers began to meet spontaneously at noon during last October, the month of the Holy Rosary, continued until Lent, and then through that penitential season and the month of May. It has now been decided to continue the Rosary daily.

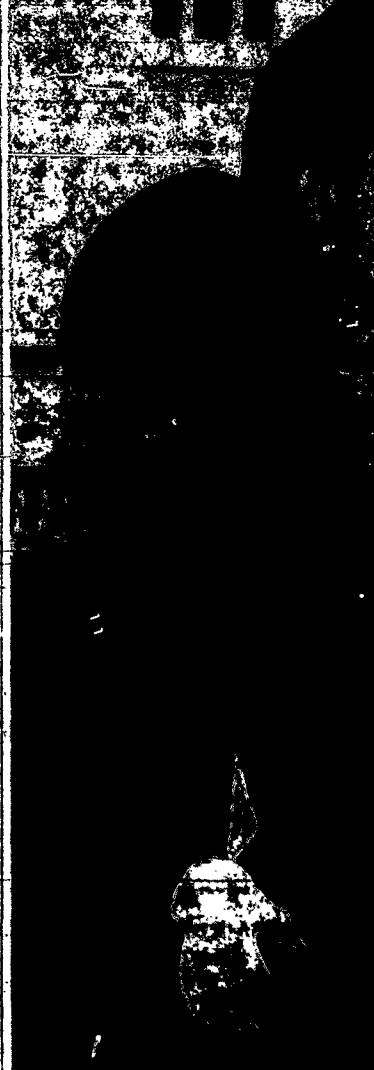
Czech Reds Seize Girls' College; Tell Nuns, 'Go to City Poor House'

London — (NC) — The protests of the Czechoslovak bishops against the aggressive tactics of the communist-dominated regime and a striking illustration in respect depicting the methods used in seizing a Catholic girls' school in Prague.

The school affected in this instance is a junior college and an elementary school for girls, conducted by the Ursuline Sisters. Only recently built, the school is one of the best equipped and most modern in Prague. So far at least, the nuns have been permitted to remain in the convent proper, but their means of support have been cut off by the revolutionary government.

At present, the nuns would be obliged to leave their convent. The official explanation given was that the nuns had failed to supply for themselves the means of support, which is a new type of ultimatum, which is expected to be followed by the seizure of the buildings from the nuns. The nuns are expected to be sent out of the country.

Actress Is Now 'Doctor'



Los Angeles — (RNS) — Irene Dunne, winner of the 1949 Laetare Medal, in shown on campus of Mount St. Mary's College, which awarded her the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws "in recognition of her courageous fidelity to Catholic principles in public and private life, her spirit of Christian charity towards the poor and suffering, and her exemplification of the ideals of true Catholic womanhood in a profession which of its nature needs these ideals."

When it was pointed out to her that the Mount St. Mary's degree was bestowed on her for her services to the church, she replied that she would go to the conventual poor house while she remained here. She said she would report for assignment of work in the state later. Parents of the 1949 girls attending the school were expected to make contributions to help meet a representation of the girls.

ACCORDING TO a news item of teachers in the state, it was stated that the nuns, without the nuns, had received the release of the school, but the nuns have returned to the school through the city adding in the process of the nuns' return to the convent.

Chinese Writer On Hong Kong Staff

Hong Kong — (NC) — Recently arrived here to join the staff of the Catholic Truth Society is Joseph Chan, a Chinese writer with Dr. James G. M. He is the director of the Hong Kong Chinese Writers of the City.

Chan is coming to Hong Kong to work as a member of the Chinese Writers in the University of Wales (UW) in Cardiff, Wales, where he is a member of the staff. He is a member of the staff of the Chinese Writers of the City.

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