

Czech Clergy Reject State's Bribe Move

The Czech government's attempt to lure the country's priests into subservience to the state by an offer of an improved financial status stood rebuffed this week.

In a bitterly worded memorandum the clergy told the regime that they "do not accept" the proposed character which would value the priests salaries but at the same time make all church appointments subject to the approval of the state. "A dear is the honor point in a group of priests."

Reds Hire Gestapo Men Against Clergy

Berlin — (NC) — Along with the "Hitler Students" (Hitler's Youth), Catholic priests "who don't behave" must be dealt with "harshly, but discreetly," said Wilhelm Zaiser, vice-chairman of the communist Department of the Interior of the Soviet zone of occupation in Germany. Since members of the National Unity, or Communist Party, have proved useful for their work, Mr. Zaiser added, former Nazi party members and particularly former Gestapo men are to be hired for these functions. "These people," Zaiser said, "have experience in handling reactionary elements."

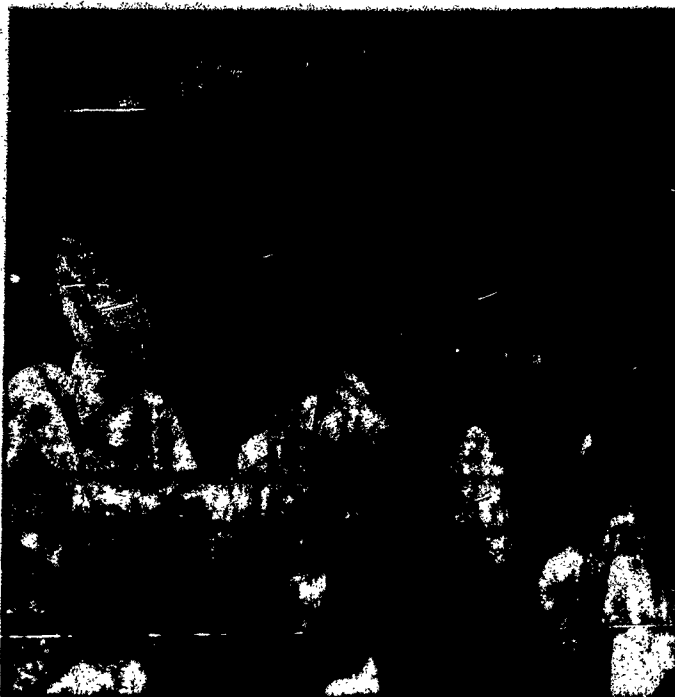
The new church law, expected to be submitted to parliament next month, would make all priests civil servants and make their salaries pay to the state treasury (170 and 180,000 marks) with a 10% increase up to 1950, and a 15% increase in 1951. The state would also pay for the priests' housing.

However, the law would require "prior approval" of the state administration "for all appointments and dismissals" and would give the state the right to "withhold the approval" of the priest's appointment "if it would make a bad impression on the public."

The memorandum rejecting the government's bill was sent to the cabinet on Sept. 7. It said the clergy have long been loyal to the state and the church, but the proposed changes would be a "betrayal of the church's independence."

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Entire Village In Japan Received Into Church



The rural village of Sagamura in Japan, with a population of 1,000 people, applied last February as one body to enter the Catholic Church. Since then, groups have been baptized as they have completed their instructions. To date, some 800 residents of the village have completed studies and have been baptized. Others are being received as they are ready. These pictures were taken when one of the largest groups — 200 persons — was baptized.



At left, Fr. Raymond Horn, C.S.S.R., of Regina, Sask., Canada, baptizes a large group outside the church, because the interior of the structure already is crowded. At right Fr. James Fuller, C.S.S.R., within the church edifice, baptizes an elderly Japanese convert. Another convert, awaiting baptism, is seen at the lower left. Sagamura was a Buddhist community. Father Itakura, whom Bishop Paul Tsuruchi of Osaka sent there to prepare the people for baptism, is himself a convert from Buddhism.

Catholics Organize Psychology Society

Denver — (NC) — Supplying a long-felt need for a national organization of Catholic psychologists, the first American Catholic Psychological Association was formed here this week with the installation of the first officers of the new organization.

At a meeting of more than 50 Catholic psychologists here at Regis College Brother R. Philip, F.S.C., Queens University, Kingston, Ont., was elected first president of the new association.

ALSO NAMED officers were: the Rev. John W. Stafford, C.S.V., head of the department of psychology and psychiatry at Catholic University, president-elect; the Rev. William C. Bier, S.J., Fordham University, secretary; Dr. M. Gertrude Reiman, director of Guidance Clinic, Louisville, Ky., treasurer; and directors, the Rev. Paul H. Purley, Catholic University; Dr. Harry V. McNeill, regional director of the Veterans' Administration in New York State; Dr. Joseph F. Kubis, Fordham University; and Sister Mary, Marygrove College, Detroit.

AFTER ATTENDING Mass at Holy Ghost church, the visiting scientists were welcomed to Regis College by the Very Rev. Raphael C. McCarthy, S.J., president of Regis, at a dinner served in the college dining hall. Father McCarthy is a psychologist of several books on the subject.

Explaining the need for a national organization of Catholic psychologists, Father Stafford, a noted authority in the field of psychology, declared that this science has too long been relegated to a position of insignificance in Catholic universities and colleges.

Psychology, he said, fills a distinct need in the Catholic college curriculum and experimental research, based on sound methods and procedure is not contrary to Christian ethics, but rather serves to provide necessary facts for the solution of human problems.

ONLY FIVE Catholic universities in this country can be said to have complete courses, both undergraduates and graduate. In psychology, Father Stafford said. They are the Catholic University in Washington; Fordham in New York; Loyola in Chicago; St. Louis University, and Notre Dame in Indiana.

Cardinal Denies Bid On Statue Of St. Patrick

New York — (NC) — The report printed in the current issue of Life magazine that His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, bid for a statue of St. Patrick in the recent auction sale of art objects that belonged to the late Robert Ripley, author of the "Believe It or Not" writings and drawings, was flatly contradicted by the Cardinal's office.

Mgr. Francis J. Murphy, Secretary to His Eminence, said the statement in the September 18 issue of Life "that Cardinal Spellman wanted and bid for a statue of St. Patrick at the Ripley auction is false," and that he had so informed the publication.

Occupation General Urges Birth Control For Japan

Tokyo — (NC) — Brig. Gen. Crawford F. Sams, chief of the Public Health and Welfare section of SCAF (Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers) has refused to give an interview concerning his radio statements about the Japanese Government's birth control clinics. He made the statements, according to press dispatches from New York, in a transcribed interview broadcast last week over the American Broadcasting Company network.

General Sams said he had no copy of the text of his broadcast statements. According to a United Press dispatch, the general spoke on a transcribed interview entitled "Hiroshima and Tokyo."

He "commended the Japanese Diet," the dispatch said, "for the steps taken to disseminate information concerning contraceptives. He said: 'So long as families are willing to limit themselves to a small number of children, it is obviously more reasonable to prevent conception than to permit it and then carry out abortions.'"

THE BROADCAST was also reported here by the Associated Press. Press reports do not show the SCAF official taking account of other aspects of birth control. Its use by others than abortionists, or the general effects of widespread birth control indoctrination.

(The American Broadcasting Company in New York, asked for a transcription of General Sams' talk from Tokyo, said it is "unavailable" and that the general "spoke extemporaneously" on the broadcast.)

IN FEBRUARY, 1948, General Sams in an interview for the Japanese press had suggested industrialization, emigration and birth control as three ways of solving the population problem. This was widely taken as a specific recommendation of birth control to the Japanese people by the occupation official, since at the time—so far were emigration and industrialization from being likely solutions—Japanese nationals overseas were being returned to the home islands and de-industrialization was being carried out on a wide scale.

Polish Consul Resigns Post

Chicago — (NC) — Rather than return to communist-dominated Poland, Marian Bogdan Cieplak, 58, who has served as Polish Consul General in Chicago since September 28, 1947 has resigned. It has been announced here.

Mr. Cieplak is an active member of Holy Name Cathedral parish, a parish pew holder and a regular member of the Holy Name Society. He often has professed publicly that he is not a member of the Communist Party. He received orders to return to Poland but ignored them and resigned.

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Austrian Bishops Order Votes Against Leftists

Vienna — (RNS) — A decree issued here by the Austrian Roman Catholic Hierarchy declared that it is "mandatory for all believers to vote as Catholics against an anti-Church leftist dictatorship" in the October 9 elections.

Made public through the press of the Austrian bishops, the joint organization of the Austrian bishops ordered Catholics to vote for Chancellor Leopold Figl's People's Party. The bishops said it would be "a sin if Catholics who are eligible to vote do not go to the polls to cast their ballots."

"Never before in history" the decree said, "were there such important national elections in Austria as those of October 9, 1949 will be. Freedom and the well-being of our fatherland, as well as the fate of the Church, are at stake. The decision is either democracy and freedom of religion or an anti-Church leftist dictatorship."

Belgian Workers on Rome Pilgrimage

Brussels — (RNS) — Forty three hundred workers and members of Catholic labor unions and the Christian Labor Movement — left here by train on a pilgrimage to Rome.

The pilgrims — metal workers, miners and industrial employees — were accompanied by their wives. One purpose of their trip is to express gratitude to Pope Pius XII for "all that is being done by the Roman Catholic Church for Belgium."

Irish Congratulate German Parliament

Dublin — (NC) — Sean McBride, Minister of External Affairs, has sent a message to the president of the Bundestag (lower chamber) of the West German parliament, Dr. Erich Kohler, conveying Ireland's good wishes and congratulations to him and through him to the elected representatives of the German people.

The message states the fervent hope of the Irish people that this first step will enable the German people to regain their rightful place in the councils of the world and to work for international peace and progress. "Inspired by our Christian civilization based on international justice and liberty of human freedom."

Religious Education

London — (NC) — The Presidential Council of Hungary has abolished compulsory religious teaching in Hungarian schools in accordance with the provisions of the new constitution on the separation of Church and State, a Budapest broadcast stated.

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