

General Chennault Argues For 'Christian Beachhead' In China

Washington — (NC) — The seventh hour has arrived. Charges of corruption in high places in China are no alibi for withholding some affirmative action by the United States. Some small hope must be established as a beachhead from which freedom and Christianity's forces can operate and break the momentum of the communist drive in China.

THESE ARE the words of Maj. Gen. Claire Lee Chennault, hero of the American Flying Tigers in China during the war, in an article in the current issue of America, the Catholic weekly review. Viewing as such possible last-ditch bases the Chinese islands of Hainan and Formosa, General Chennault says that even at this late hour "proper use of the \$75,000,000 which the 81st Congress appropriated for aid to China can channel moderate amounts of monetary aid for soldier pay and small armament to the military leaders who will fight communism."

And the General suggests that President Truman use the as yet undistributed appropriation quickly.

In Gen. Pal Chung-jai, says General Chennault, free China still has such a leader, who commands a military force which is well-trained, and has fought well with almost no equipment and little armament. General Chennault now heads China's Civil Air Transport, which is pledged to fly from Free China only. Writing from Hong Kong, he says:

GENERAL CHENNAULT suggests that with sufficient military force a "conquered geographical area may be freed in a year" and a crushed democratic state of ideas and religious faith of the mind resurrected in 50 years. "Unless we, as Westerners, are willing to see our great human investment in the East wiped out, some haven, some sanctuary, must be found on free China soil for the human spirit to rally. Moscow alone."

U. S. Publicity On Czech Bishops Angers Prague

London — (NC) — The communist-controlled Czechoslovak radio has told its listeners at home that "Hollywood film stars would gladly pay a lot of money if they could buy the amount of publicity given to Czechoslovak Roman Catholic Bishops on the front pages of the American press."

Commenting on the fact that "every pastoral letter issued by the (Czechoslovak) Bishops is published by the American papers on the next day," the broadcast as heard here said that "for over a year the American papers have been trying to convince their readers that the most sensational event in our part of the world is the religious problem of Czechoslovakia."

Then, swinging into the customary arguments of anti-Catholic propaganda in Soviet satellite states, the broadcast continued:

"When American imperialism failed to catch us in the net of the Marshall Plan, a new army, better masked yet commanded by the same powers, entered upon the scene — the Vatican diplomats and high ecclesiastical circles. They did not succeed in their intrigues against the (Czechoslovak) church law. The majority of priests and faithful realized how tactfully the Popular Democratic Republic managed to solve religious problems resulting from the relations between the state and the churches."

The broadcaster then waxed indignant over "fat newspaper headlines" in American papers describing the new Czech family and marriage regulations as "the end of civilized life in Czechoslovakia."

THE REAL loss, if all China goes to the communists, must be assayed not in land or resources alone, tremendous as they are, but in human values. Undeniably, the fundamental struggle between free men and communism, wherever it is waged, constitutes a battle over these human values.

"Answers" of corruption in high places in China to the question of helping what remains of free China are in reality no answers at all, the General says, adding: "In proportion to the stakes involved, such 'answers' are, as the lawyers say, 'irrelevant, incompetent and immaterial.'" Corruption, he says, "comes and goes in all postwar eras, in all countries, as history clearly shows."

"THE CHURCH, for example," writes General Chennault, "is no less appalled than government at corruption in high places. No more than the President and the State Department, does it countenance dishonesty and lack of moral integrity.

"But the Church, in its experience with communism, is wise enough to know that the horns of the dilemma facing Christianity in the Far East today are three: 1) the problem of rescuing a living, vigorous Eastern world of religious faith plagued by a few dishonest politicians, or 2) the loss of the entire Christian beachhead in the Far East. It is as simple as that. Corruption is only a footnote."

Parochial Pupils Can't Ride Buses Even If They Pay

Madison, Wis. — (NC) — This State's prohibition against parochial school children riding public school buses holds good even if the children offer to pay fares, Attorney General Thomas Fairchild has declared.

He made this ruling in response to a query by the State superintendent of public instruction which concerned liability insurance requirements for school buses. Wisconsin voters, in a referendum held in 1946, rejected a proposal to liberalize the State laws to allow parochial school pupils to ride public school buses.

At the same time, the attorney general said that it was legal for parochial school pupils to ride to and from school on the same bus with public school pupils if the vehicle was not publicly owned. "This applies to districts which have contract bus service."

But even in this instance, the state official warned, the bus must not change its route in order to pick up nonpublic school children, and the nonpublic school riders must pay their fare directly to the bus operator.

Rome Pilgrimage Banned To Poles

London — (NC) — It seems unlikely that Polish Catholics will be able to make pilgrimages to Rome during the Holy Year, according to a well-informed Polish source here.

Compulsory Federal Health Insurance Hit

Cincinnati — (NC) — Compulsory Federal health insurance was called a proposal leading to monopoly, lowering of medical standards and government control of private hospitals by the Rev. John J. Flanagan, S. J., director of the Catholic Hospital Association at a conference of Catholic Schools of Nursing here.

"Our association believes something must be done to meet the needs created by raising hospital and medical care costs," Father Flanagan said, "but we hope that voluntary Blue Cross, Blue Shield and similar insurance plans can be promoted and built up to provide the necessary relief."

FATHER FLANAGAN said it is true that family heads with fixed salaries are the principal sufferers from rising costs of medical attention, but he asserted that the proposed plan of compulsory government insurance would "lower the quality of medical care" because the doctors would be "equivalent to government employees rather than professional men keenly interested in their own practice."

"Besides the system would be come extremely involved," the speaker continued, "when you consider that a Federal agency would be collecting and paying for all medical services. Such a system would be monopolistic control of the health field. Hospitals on the Federal payroll could expect the government to begin exercising a great deal of control," he added.

INSTEAD OF compulsory Federal health insurance, the Catholic Hospital Association proposes government aid to promote the education of more doctors, dentists, nurses and technicians, and to promote the availability of voluntary health insurance plans to those who are unable to obtain the insurance themselves, Father Flanagan explained.

Air-Born Baby Is Christened



A little girl born to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Roibiecki, Polish DP's in a Transatlantic Plane en route from Bremen to New York, is baptized at Guardian Angel Church, New York. Officiating was the Rev. J. Stanley Ormsby, assistant to the Executive Director of War Relief Services. National Catholic Welfare Conference, under whose auspices the Roibiecki family was brought to America. Left to right: Mrs. Joseph Roibiecki, mother, holding Ursula, 15 months old; Joseph, father; Bogumila, 3, daughter; Aloisius, 6, son; godfather Leo Dietz; godmother Miss Ann Ash holding baby Sverre; Maria Magdellina, and Father Ormsby. The new baby was named after the plane on which she was born, the Sverre Viking. The family is en route to Dahlgren, Ill., where the father will be employed on a dairy farm. (Father Ormsby is former pastor of St. Joseph's Church, LeRoy.) (NC Photos)

Swedish Bans On Catholic Life Charged

Zurich — Countering charges that Protestantism is being persecuted in Spain, the Volksbote daily newspaper of Innsbruck, Austria, points out that to this day Catholics are being widely discriminated against in Sweden, which is predominantly a Protestant country.

THE PAPER lists the following facts as indicating the situation in Sweden:

Protestant ministers there are state employed. Ministers of other denominations have no legal status and are merely tolerated. Catholics must pay taxes for the benefit of the Lutheran churches. Catholic baptisms must be validated by Protestant ministers. The same applies to marriages and burials. If a Protestant wants to become Catholic he must wait over a period of two months. In the Lutheran parishes of the district also has the right to dissuade him from his intention.

CONTEMPLATIVE ORDERS are banned by law. Only recently the draft of a new law provided for ex officio but approvals are not contemplated except when the majority of the members of an order are Swedish nationals, which automatically precludes the establishment of new monastic settlements. The government also reserves the privilege for itself to inspect such monasteries and convents including the libraries.

The draft also specifies that Protestant teachers are to check Catholic classes and may even examine Catholic children. If the results of these examinations are considered unsatisfactory the children can be forced to take part in Protestant religious instruction.

Purdue Chapel Lafayette, Ind. — (NC) — Ground was broken here for a \$200,000 building to house the Catholic student chapel and St. Thomas Aquinas Foundation at Purdue University.

Dominican Fathers Fight Zoning Ban On Monastery

Dover, Mass. — (RNS) — A law amendment, educational or organizational of a sectarian nature may not be established in the area in which the estate is located.

The Rev. John F. McCadden of the Dominican Order said it had been planned to use the estate, including a 35 room house as living quarters for the Dominicans. He added that plans call for a chapel and novitiate for new members of the order but that, at the moment, it was not proposed to use the priory for educational purposes.

blat by town officials against Attorney General Francis E. Kelly for suggesting that the law be removed as "discriminatory, unjust and unconstitutional."

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Hungarian Reds Map School Move

London — (NC) — Communist youth organizations in Hungary have launched in all of the country's nationalized schools a campaign of "scientific" propaganda for the purpose of destroying "religious superstition," Vatican Radio reports in an English language broadcast heard here.

Persons familiar with the Hungarian situation consider this move a counter-measure against the registration of most of Hungary's children for religious instruction. Obviously disturbed by this manifestation of the true feelings of Hungary's people, the regime had announced some time ago that measures would be taken "to close this breach in our intellectual front."

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