

Attacking Holy Year, Pontiff, Tito Press Spurs Persecution

Paris — (NC) — Highly authoritative reports from Yugoslavia indicate that persecution of the Catholic Church in that country, in full swing since Tito (Joseph Broz) took over in 1945, has been stepped up. The red regime is using the Holy Year as a convenient platform from which to launch an intensified campaign against the hierarchy and clergy, against the Vatican and the person of the Holy Father, and is staging widely publicized propaganda trials of priests to "prove" that the Catholic clergy is plotting an "armed rebellion" against the present regime.

TWO DIOCESES in the province of Bosnia-Herzegovina and one in Montenegro have been deprived of their leaders in order to force the priests to join a communist-sponsored association.

Among the latest victims of the communist purge of Yugoslav bishops is Bishop Smiljan Cekada of Skopje, who was also the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Banja Luka, and who was ordered to leave Yugoslavia within four days and told not to return.

The drive against the Church in Moloz, Bosnia-Herzegovina, was brought to a climax with the arrest of Mgr. Andrija Majlo, acting head of the diocese since the imprisonment of Bishop Petar Cule in 1948. He was arrested by agents of OZNA, the secret police, two days before Christmas and is being held incommunicado. Bishop Cule, who appointed Mgr. Majlo to administer the diocese during his imprisonment, was sentenced to eleven and one-half years in prison on the usual charge of "collaboration."

FATHER VITTORIO Kolocza, 38, drew a sentence of 15 years. He threw the judges and prosecutor into confusion when he declared during his trial that he had been tortured and held in solitary confinement while awaiting trial. He described how his jailers thrust wires down his throat and then shot electric current through them in efforts to force a confession. This trial was staged with all the fanfare of communist propaganda: loudspeakers installed on street corners directed out the courtroom proceedings which were attended by "spectators" brought to the court from surrounding areas.

The Hitler campaign of vil-

ification against the Holy Year and Pope Pius XII was launched several months ago as if by command by the entire communist press and radio. Battles in Belgrade, Zagreb, and Ljubljana hammer on the theme of Holy Year "abuses," and communist editorials picture Rome as a teeming market glutted by conspirators, war criminals, and confidence men, to bleed the tourists.

Outrageous cartoons in "humorous" weeklies mock the Holy Father, the clergy and the religious and since they frequently verge on the obscene, it is evident that no consideration is made of the feelings of millions of Catholics by the "free press" of Yugoslavia. There is no opposition to such communist abuses since Tito long ago has abolished the Catholic press.

LARGEST AIR PILGRIMAGE



A granite plaque, suitably engraved, was presented to Pope Pius XII, the gift of the people of "The Granite City" of St. Cloud, Minn., when the largest air pilgrimage of the Holy Year arrived in Rome with 104 persons from the Diocese of St. Cloud. Pictured before leaving in two planes are, left to right: Rev. James Minette (with plaque to the Pope), St. Cloud Hospital chaplain, heading the pilgrimage; Dick Kroll, St. Cloud Chamber of Commerce and Carl Frits, holding a granite plaque presented to Mayor William O'Dwyer of New York. (NC Photos)

Theology-for-Laymen Books Published by N. D. Priests

Notre Dame, Ind. — The first two volumes in a "Religion for Laymen" series were released here this week by the University of Notre Dame Press. One of the new volumes, "God and the World of Man," is authored by the Rev. Theodore M. Heaburgh, C.S.C., Executive Vice-President of Notre Dame. Tested in the classrooms of Notre Dame, this volume was prepared for university classrooms, adult study groups and laymen inter-

ested in a greater knowledge of their faith. Father Heaburgh prepared the volume with the aim of making theology interesting reading. Second volume in the series is "Christian Virtues," by the Rev. Charles E. Sheedy, C.S.C., Professor of Religion at Notre Dame. "Christian Virtues," which also has been tested in the classroom, is a study of moral theology. Each of the volumes is priced at \$3.00 with special discounts for study club and university groups.

Pope Cites 'Terrible Duel' With Enemies

By REV. JOSEPH SULLIVAN, Vatican City — (NC) — Before the eyes of the entire world a terrible duel is being waged on Roman soil between the advocates and the enemies of the Christian Faith. His Holiness Pope Pius XII declared in an annual message to the pastors and Lenten preachers of Rome.

He received them together with most of the assistant pastors of the city's parishes in the Consistorial Hall in the principal event on his 74th birthday, and the seventh anniversary of his election as Supreme Pontiff.

"THIS BATTLE," which of yore saw the struggle between aged Caesarism and youthful Christianity has today become once more the spiritual arena where there are contested not only the highest values of Christian life, but the fundamental presuppositions of human dignity itself," he said.

His Holiness viewed Rome and the world as being "under the sign of the great Jubilee" of the Holy Year, which "means strength and grace for individuals in the Church and humanity" and urged upon his diocesan priests an apostolate of zeal and love "ready for any sacrifice."

"The Rome of today," the Holy Father went on, "is no longer that of former times, the Rome of our fathers and grandfathers which possessed a recollection and a peace which distinguished and set it apart from other metropolises. . . . In the Rome of today, with almost 2,000,000 inhabitants of whom not a few live in miserable conditions, there is left little indeed of that recollection, of that peace."

Baptists Plan Parish Schools

Los Angeles — (RNS) — Plans for the expansion of five of seven Baptist parochial schools in this area have been approved according to denominational officials. Steps have also been taken to open the first Baptist high school here "at the earliest possible date." Expansion of the elementary schools will be effected before the start of the September semester.

Former Top Czech Official Convinced Red State To 'Try' Archbishop Beran

Washington — (NC) — A former top Czech official is convinced that the communist regime will soon introduce formal political charges against Archbishop Josef Beran of Prague and stage a "trial" similar to the one given his Eminence Josef Cardinal Muskatzeny imprisoned Primate of Hungary.

The official is Dr. Peter Zenkl, former mayor of Prague and until the communist coup of Feb-



ARCHBISHOP BERAN.

Abp. Beran Threatened

Paris — (NC) — Czechoslovakia's Minister of Justice Alexei Cepleka, who is also Minister for Church Affairs, has leveled a new blast at Archbishop Josef Beran of Prague, whom he charges with "working for a long time to spread disruption and incitement." It is revealed in word reaching here. The communist government in Prague, it was added, is threatening vigorous new actions against Archbishop Beran and the Catholic Bishops of the country.

In February 1948 deputy Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia and chairman of the National Socialist "People's party."

DR. ZENKL arrived at his conclusion, he stated here after

careful study of a booklet issued by the regime in December 1949, and recently made available to him. The booklet is entitled "The Plot against the Republic." It was widely publicized last December by the official Czech press and was called by it "a western embassy" while Archbishop Beran received his "from the Vatican."

THE STORY of an "anti-democratic coup," Dr. Zenkl stated, is an invention of the communists, who are publishing it to lend some excuse to their own seizure of power in February, 1948. The allegation of the communists is that they had to usurp power to prevent the "reactionaries" from seizing the government, he stated.

Dr. Zenkl himself is mentioned in the booklet as involved in the supposed plans for a coup with typical communist effort to link the Vatican with what Reds describe as the "western imperialists." The brochure states that Dr. Zenkl received his instructions for the alleged coup from "a western embassy," while Archbishop Beran received his "from the Vatican."

THE TWO MEN were supposed to have quickly worked out a "common plan" which is alleged to have been immediately communicated to Archbishop Xavier Rittler, Papal Internuncio to Czechoslovakia. The latter is accused of having them flown to Rome to acquaint his Holiness Pope Pius XII of the details of the "plot."

Falseness such as are contained in this booklet, Dr. Zenkl declared, can be published unchallenged in Czechoslovakia only because the people are in chains.

Farm Editor
La Crosse, Wis. — (NC) — C. F. Marley, has been appointed director of information and editor of the Christian Farmer

Polish Art Treasures Held In Canada Demanded by Reds

Ottawa — (NC) — Representatives of the communist-dominated Polish Government continue to seek return of the Polish art treasures which are now in the custody of the Quebec Government.

A large and profusely illustrated booklet purporting to support the present Polish Government's claims to the valuable tapestries and other objects, has been published and widely distributed. It claims that Canada has refused to return the Polish treasures.

The Government of Canada has advised the Polish Government to seek redress through the Canadian courts on its claim to the treasure. This the Polish Government has declined to do, maintaining that the government of a sovereign country should not address itself to the courts of another country. The communist regime in Poland claims the full right to the treasures, but there are a number of religious authorities

Few Norway Catholics Win Protestants

Cologne, Germany — (NC) — Many highly-placed Protestants and Protestant clerics regularly attend Catholic Masses in Norway, says Bishop Jakob Magera, S.M., Apostolic Vicar in pointing out that the tiny flock of the Church has gained a strong spiritual influence in that country.

The Bishop made the observation in an article he wrote for the Katholischer Beobachter a Cologne daily. The article follows in part:

"OF THE 3,500,000 inhabitants of Norway only approximately 4000 are Catholics. Truly a little flock. These Catholics almost exclusively live in the 20 cities in which until now Catholic Action has been able to make its beginnings.

"Officially, the Catholic Church cannot attain a strong position in such a case. Moreover, the Lutheran church is of course the state church and as such alone has the full rights of a state organization and is supported by the state. Meanwhile the Catholic Church alongside the numerous (Protestant) sects is only officially tolerated and has no state assistance whatsoever.

"STILL WE CAN say that the Catholic Church in Norway which enjoys full freedom has a strong spiritual position much stronger than the minimal total of the Catholics would bespeak. Although the Parliament numbers but one Catholic who nevertheless fearlessly stands up for Catholic principals and there are only six or seven Catholic teachers in the high and grammar schools, the Church still exercises an influence on the spiritual life of the people that should not be underestimated.

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