

### Conscription Of Priests Worries Korean Church

**By REV. PATRICK O'CONNOR**

Church leaders here are gravely anxious over the declared intention of the South Korean Defense Ministry to conscript all Korean priests, ministers of religion, and missionaries between the ages of 18 and 37 for military service.

Apart from an objection of principle, churchmen emphasize that Christian religious personnel have already suffered heavy proportionate casualties from the communists than any other group. It is considered ironical that the Korean republic should now deal blows that would further reduce the already inadequate ranks of the clergy.

President Syngman Rhee has indicated in this correspondence that he sympathizes with the proposal to extend the conscription law's exemptions to the clergy. But definite action on exemptions is still awaited.

### Priest Urges U. S. Effort To Free China From Reds

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ed out. Use of the atomic bomb to bring Japan to her knees was completely unnecessary, he said.

Even in 1946, the damage could have been repaired had the U.S. supported General Chiang when he was winning his 15-year fight against communism in China, Father Cronin said. Gen. George C. Marshall's ultimatum to General Chiang that he must admit communists into his government or forfeit American aid, paved the way for a communist victory when the ultimatum was refused, Father Cronin declared.

Recalling the subtle pro-communist line which discredited Chiang's regime as corrupt and played up the Chinese communists as harmless agrarian reformers, Father Cronin said it was successful because there was no strong opposition to communism in the United States. Men like Gen. Douglas MacArthur and Gen. Albert Wedemeyer, who knew the facts, couldn't speak their minds because they were "ruined by military discipline," Father Cronin said.

He also blamed the U.S. government for the "deliberate build-up" of communism as only another form of democracy during the accidental war time alliance with Russia.

Basically, the nation's trouble from the beginning has been a lack of principle in dealing with communists, Father Cronin said, and lack of principle is still the main fault in U. S. policy both at home and abroad.

At home, communists are

### Applicants Exceed Facilities Of Egypt Catholic Schools

Cairo, Egypt — (NC) — Catholic and other free high and grammar schools here, often described as "foreign," have received applications for entry far above their capacity since enactment of the law for free education.

The famous Jesuit school, College Sainte Famille, has 1,250 students, a number never reached before, and has been obliged to refuse many applications.

The Ministry of Education had hoped to attract students to the government schools with

the new law by providing free education and daily lunches. But the law is said to have had an opposite effect because parents prefer to pay for their children's education rather than send them to public schools, where the education imparted is declared to be poor.

The situation is described here by Missionaries as "disgraceful" and the only remedy, it is said, is that the Education Ministry should establish government schools which can compare favorably with the "foreign" free schools.

### Mexico President Aleman Asks Atheist-Law Repeal

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opics, theaters, seminars, asylums or colleges of religious associations, convents, or any other building built or intended for purposes of administration, propaganda or teaching of a religious worship, shall henceforth, in full rights, pass to the direct jurisdiction of the nation."

(7) Religious press: "Religious publications (for those of simple religious teachings) shall not comment on national political matters nor carry stories on actions of the country's authorities directly related to the functioning of public institutions. Any individual who in the exercise of the ministry or of the priesthood . . . shall publicly incite his readers or listeners to

disown the political institutions or to disobey the laws or the authorities, shall be punished with six years of imprisonment and a fine."

### Sisters Launch Japan Orphanage

Kagoshima, Japan — (NC) — The Good Shepherd Sisters have opened a new orphanage here and many leading officials of the city and provincial government, including T. Shigenari, governor of the province, were present at the inaugural. The governor, in the principal address, thanked the Catholic Church for all the benefits it has bestowed on the people of the province.

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### For Bishop Of Navahos



On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of his installation as Bishop of Gallup, N.M., Bishop Bernard T. Epelago, O.F.M., receives a Spiritual Bouquet from the senior class of St. Michael's Indian High School, St. Michael's, Arizona. Because of his interest in the 65,000 impoverished Navahos within his Diocese, the prelate is called "the Bishop of the Navahos."

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### Czech 'Trial' Cites Clergy As 'Spies'; Tito Jails Three

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were given the privilege of a defense attorney.

The line of questioning pursued by the prosecutors sought to involve the country's two Archbishops, Archbishop Beran and Josef Matocha of Olomouc, in "criminal" activities.

ARCHBISHOP BERAN was pictured as having drawn up "espionage reports" and forwarded them to the Vatican. Archbishop Matocha was described in the testimony as having defied the church laws on instructions from the Vatican. Neither of the prelates are defendants in the "trial."

One Czech exile listening to Prague broadcasts of the trial stated he got the impression that what the indictment meant by an "espionage report" was any pastoral letter or report to the Holy See on the spiritual affairs of the Church.

Comments from Church papers in Rome stated that an analysis of the proceedings and charges showed the defendants were essentially tried for the "crime" of "being Catholics," and that the "trial" was not of the defendants but of the Catholic Church.

REPORTS FROM the prison trial chamber pictured Bishop Zela pleading guilty in part to charges of treason and espionage. He was said to have apologized and stated he was "deeply sorry."

Monsignor Boukal, Archbishop Beran's secretary, reportedly pleaded guilty to the charges and testified that he had drawn up "political reports" for both Archbishop Beran and the papal nuncio in Prague.

Monsignor Chihak, head of the St. Vitus cathedral chapter, was also reported to have pleaded guilty. He is said to have testified that he delivered "secret letters" for Archbishop Beran containing "espionage reports." Monsignor Chihak was reported to have appeared thin and stooped shouldered, making a meek con-

cession of guilt and apologizing for his "mistake."

IT WAS NOTED that these "confessions" strikingly parallel those at other Red "trials," from Stalin's Moscow "purge" trials of the 1930's to the many farcical trials of churchmen—Catholic and non-Catholic—in Soviet-Satellite countries since the war.

The indictment released by the Czech Ministry of Information states that the "espionage" was directed by the papal nuncio in Prague, the Church's Catholic Action was transformed into a "widely ramified conspiratorial network" for subversive and espionage activities; the defendants conducted the activities of "terrorist groups" and "many millions of funds" were embezzled from the priests' health service for "subversive ends."

NO OFFICIAL reason was reported for the arrest of the three Yugoslav priests. But it was believed to have grown out of the previous arrest of 14 students at the seminary. Charges against these students were reportedly based on discovery of a title and anti-Tito leaflets in possession of two students. The leaflets were said to have borne the stamp "U", an identification mark that was used by the Ustaech, pro-Nazi Croatian organization that functioned during World War II.

One secular news dispatch indicated that the arrest of the priests stripped the Tito regime of its usual propaganda excuse that it was merely acting to crush a "conspiracy." The dispatch stated:

"Persons acquainted with these developments said that the arrests have lost the character of a move by the Yugoslav communist government to crush an alleged conspiracy. They said the three officials held are innocent and that their arrest represents a new and important step in Marshal Tito's conflict with the Catholic Church."

### China Cardinal Received By Pope

Vatican City — (NC) — His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Tien, Archbishop of Peiping, China, was received in private audience by His Holiness Pope Pius XII.

The Cardinal came to Rome from Hong Kong to attend the ceremonies for the proclamation of the dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin.

China's only member in the Sacred College was in Hong Kong for medical treatment when the Reds swept down across China in 1949. He has since not been able to return to his see. Cardinal Tien is still suffering from eye and heart ailments.

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