

AMERICAN CHAPLAIN PROTEST:

Rhee Halts Prison Abuses

By REV. PATRICK O'CONNOR
—(NC)— Acting promptly on a recommendation made by a Catholic priest and a Methodist minister, President Rhee has ordered an unannounced visit to West Gate prison here and ordered officials there to remedy the conditions under which approximately 5,000 political prisoners are held.

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PROTESTANTS UNITED:

Launch Postcard Campaign To Stop Vatican Envoy

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — A postcard campaign urging Americans to write President Truman and members of the Senate asking that there be no appointment of a diplomatic envoy to the Vatican has been launched by Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

John: If you value American liberty, if you think democracy is worth keeping, write (1) President Truman (2) Both your Senators that there be no U. S. ambassador to the Pope."

Containing a cartoonist's drawing of a balloon labeled "U.S. Ambassador to the Pope," with the balloon being broken by the talons of an American eagle, the card carries the message "Blast That Balloon."

POAU officials said their goal is distribution of one million of these postcards by the end of January. As the same time, POAU national headquarters here announced the opening of a mid-west regional office in Chicago. In an effort to expand its activities, the organization will soon open full-time offices in other major cities. Glenn L. Archer, its executive secretary, said.

Red Restrictions Reduce Poland Mail To America

New York — (NC) — The more stringent enforcement of restrictions on foreign mail by the Polish Red regime means that Polish Catholics in the United States are likely to hear less often from friends and relatives in the old country, Inter-Catholic Press agency here reports.

without a sender's address are destroyed. Letters with the sender's address are returned if they have not been brought personally to the post office.

The regime ruled some months ago that all letters sent abroad must be registered at the post office, the agency states. But the ruling was not enforced by post office employees, and letters dropped in the mail box still arrived at their foreign destination.

If brought personally, post office employees note the name and address of the sender and place it in a special file, the agency says. Frequent sending of letters abroad may bring the charge of making contacts with the "capitalist world," the agency adds.

Mobile Cathedral Marks Centenary

Mobile, Ala. — (NC) — Bishop Thomas J. Toolen of Mobile celebrated a Pontifical Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception here to mark the 100th anniversary of the consecration of the cathedral.

He is the Rev. Francis W. Kelly, a lieutenant commander in the Navy Chaplain Corps Reserve, who served with the Marines in the battle of Guadalcanal, Tarawa and Okinawa. From 1942 to 1944 he was with the Second Marine Division and he finished up the war with the First Marines.

CHRISTMAS TWICE A YEAR!



This is a familiar pose for Chaplain (Major) Stephan T. Mayer, C.E.V., Military Air Transport Service, USAF, who regularly conducts Catholic services and performs many other religious and military duties on widely scattered Pacific islands. Although stationed at Johnston Island Air Force Base, his "parish" also covers Kwajalein and Majuro atolls. By flying from chapel to chapel via PACD, MATS aircraft, Chaplain Mayer is able to perform such annual feasts as conducting two Christmas Eve midnight Masses some 1,500 miles apart, since the International Dateline runs through his parish. (NC Photos)

Father Kelly, Guadalcanal Chaplain, Rejoins Marines

Cherry Point, N. C. — (NC) — A reservist chaplain whose courage and closeness to the fighting men in World War II was portrayed in the film "Guadalcanal Diary" is back on active duty with the Leathernecks at the Marine Corps Air Station here.

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Belgian Socialist Urges Ending Opposition To Catholic Schools

Paris — (NC) — Socialists should purge themselves of the "ridiculous superiority complex of the free-thinker" and invite Catholics to join them in creating a true economic democracy based on social justice. But to do this, Socialists should state their precise position in regard to religion and the educational question on a level of respect for religion, real tolerance and understanding.

Free Water Service To Parochial School Stopped

Falls Church, Va. — (RNS) — The city council of Falls Church has voted to discontinue free water and sewerage service given for many years to St. James Parochial School, a Roman Catholic institution.

This, in effect, is the exhortation to Socialists of Paul Henri Spaak, former Belgian Prime Minister, and reveals an entirely new viewpoint toward Catholics on the part of this long-time leader of the Belgian Socialist Party.



Paul Spaak

The council acted after it was advised that the free service probably violates the Virginia code which forbids use of public money for sectarian purposes. It was also said to violate a clause in the water system and sewerage disposal bond issues which provides that all consumers shall be charged a fair and equitable amount for service rendered.

Writing in LaCroix, the Paris Catholic daily, M. Spaak states four points for a rapprochement between Socialists and Catholics: a) Socialists and Catholics should recognize the reason for the existence of both public and religious schools; b) there should be real freedom on the part of the parent to choose the education for his child; c) schools which do not meet this requirement should be suppressed; d) partitioning of public schools should not contest subsidies for religious schools.

Free service is supplied the public schools in this city and no one seemed to know when the practice had originated of giving the same benefit to the parochial school. "It seems to have been done from the very beginning before we were even incorporated," said on councilman.

URGING SOCIALISTS to revise their traditional opposition to religious schools and subsidies for them, M. Spaak says in his article that "it is a delicate subject." His views on religion and, more particularly, on the problem of religious education, "will be in opposition to a great number of my colleagues," he writes. But, having thought it over carefully, he says he believes "it is necessary to have the courage to say what I think, because the matter is of the greatest importance."

The free service was ordered continued for the balance of 1950. After that the Catholic school will have to pay.

British Bishops See Hope For Catholic School Aid

London — (NC) — The British Hierarchy called for special prayers for Catholic education as the prolonged negotiations with the Government for more aid reached a delicate stage with what was believed good hope for success.

ward Ellis of Nottingham that the people of his diocese would have to raise not less than 2,500,000 pounds sterling (\$7,000,000) for schools in the near future.

THE HIERARCHY, through Bishop Andrew Beck, A.A., Co-adjutor of Brentwood and chairman of the Hierarchy's school action committee, sent the following appeal to the Catholic press for publication.

"The Government's refusal to grant assistance means that a primary school for 200 children cannot be completed under less than 30,000 pounds sterling (\$94,000)," said Bishop Henry V. Marshall of Salford.

In "Guadalcanal Diary" the role of Father Kelly was played by Preston Foster. Father Kelly plays himself in a principal role in "The Marines Take Tarawa," a Marine Corps documentary film.

As the result of the successful education campaign, negotiations have now been carried on for several months and there is good hope of obtaining an agreement. These negotiations have now reached a delicate stage and I would earnestly ask for the prayers of your readers during this season of Advent so that a happy conclusion may be reached.

The veteran chaplain returned to service last July 31.

According to reports, Archbishop Descoffis is considering building a church and other religious establishments on the site of the house where the Virgin lived.

FATHER NANGLE DIES Philadelphia (NC) — The Rev. Joseph C. Nangle, 53, a member of the Congregation of the Mission for the past 30 years, died (December 9) at St. Vincent's Seminary here.

Shrine To Virgin Planned In Turkey Istanbul — (RNS) — Negotiations are reported taking place between Roman Catholic Archbishop Giuseppe Descoffis of Izmir (Smyrna) for establishing a pilgrimage shrine at Panaghia Kapouli in Ephesus where tradition says the Virgin Mary lived for a time.

TYPICAL OF THE present burden which British Catholics have to bear regarding education was the statement by Bishop Ed-

lived.

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Meanwhile, may you and yours enjoy the many blessings of the best Holiday Season ever.

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