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## Tito Census Seen Threat To Church

Belgrade — (RNS) — Government plans to include a question on religious affiliation in the coming census have been attacked by some Catholic leaders in Yugoslavia.

YUGOSLAVS WILL be asked to declare their religious creed. Government officials say this is a perfectly normal census question. But Catholic leaders see the question as a threat to the Church.

Bishop Kvirin Bonafacio of Split sent a circular letter to priests of his diocese, charging that the question was aimed at making as many citizens as possible renounce their religious convictions.

THE LETTER was read in many churches. Priests instructed their congregations to declare openly to census-takers, "We are Catholics devoted to the Pope." Msgr. Matthew Garkovic, Apostolic Administrator of Zadar, writes in the religious publication Vjesnik, asked believers "not to renounce their faith in front of the authorities, even at the cost of their lives."

### Vatican Reports Red Missionaries

London — (RNS) — Former Catholic missionaries in Hungary and Czechoslovakia are being used to train Communist "missionaries," according to the Vatican Radio.

The station said the Communist special agents would be sent as "shock troops" to fight Catholicism in countries where Church missionaries are operating. Former missionaries at Esztergom, Nagykanizsa and Kolozsvar in Hungary and at Liberec, Czechoslovakia, are being used for the Communist training, which is being directed by the Colonial Institute of Moscow, the Vatican broadcast said.



## Red China Days Mission Nuns Diary

By SISTER PAULITA of Maryknoll

### 'Kill Him!'

Just before we reached the local jail on Main Street, the parade stopped while Mr. Li and the head of the Home Guard held a whispered conference. The Catholics at the ball field had not been dispersed entirely. As a result, we detoured into the jail for a half hour until the dispersal was accomplished.

Soon they led us out to the ball field where a table and a few benches formed the judges' stand. We were told to sit on low wooden horses at one side. Across from us were "The Accusers" on long benches.

They were a motley crowd as I looked over the 40 of them. Most were quite young. Several I knew as lax Catholics.

INDEED, ONE fellow had the cheek to begin his accusation, "I am a Catholic. And you know that Catholics do not lie. Therefore, what I say about this Criminal Ching is true. He went on with his story. Father had permitted a dispensation to one man to take a pagan wife and had refused a dispensation to him. Reasons for the refusal were ignored.

Others had, perhaps, been denied the Sacraments for a variety of reasons—opium smoking, the taking of a concubine, or some such thing. One man—a pagan—was there to accuse Father of refusing to sell him a certain parcel of church property which Father wished to keep for a basketball court.

Another witness, I knew, had been brought all the way from Hong Kong to testify about the buffalo incident which had happened 10 years before. His family lived right behind our convent. The ill-fated buffalo had been munching his dinner in the family's back yard at the time of the accident.

IN THE foreground, facing the mob, stood Father Ching, a slight, courageous figure bearing the marks of hunger, weakness, long night questionings and infinite weariness. I saw no obvious signs of torture, but I have no doubt but that he had endured it.

The trial began with the inevitable speech.

"The Church has oppressed the people. Now you, the people, are rising in your new-found power to avenge the wrongs it has done you. The criminal Ching wants you to be enslaved. He has worked to keep you chained to foreign imperialism. But we are liberated now," thanks to Mao Tse-tung. You are free citizens! What shall we do with the Criminal Ching?"

"Kill him! Kill him!" the mob yelled.

"Let us first see what the Criminal Ching has done against

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## Plea To President Fails To Save Convert-Prisoner

Washington, D. C. — (NC) — A clemency plea to President Eisenhower made by a prison chaplain who believed that an innocent man was about to die in the electric chair, failed to get a stay of execution for prisoner Albert Allen.

Father John M. Barrett, O. P., chaplain at the capital's District Jail, contacted the White House and the office of the Attorney General in an eleventh hour attempt to save the 25-year-old Negro who became a convert to the Catholic Church while in jail.

the execution up to an hour before Mr. Allen was due to enter the District Jail death chamber.

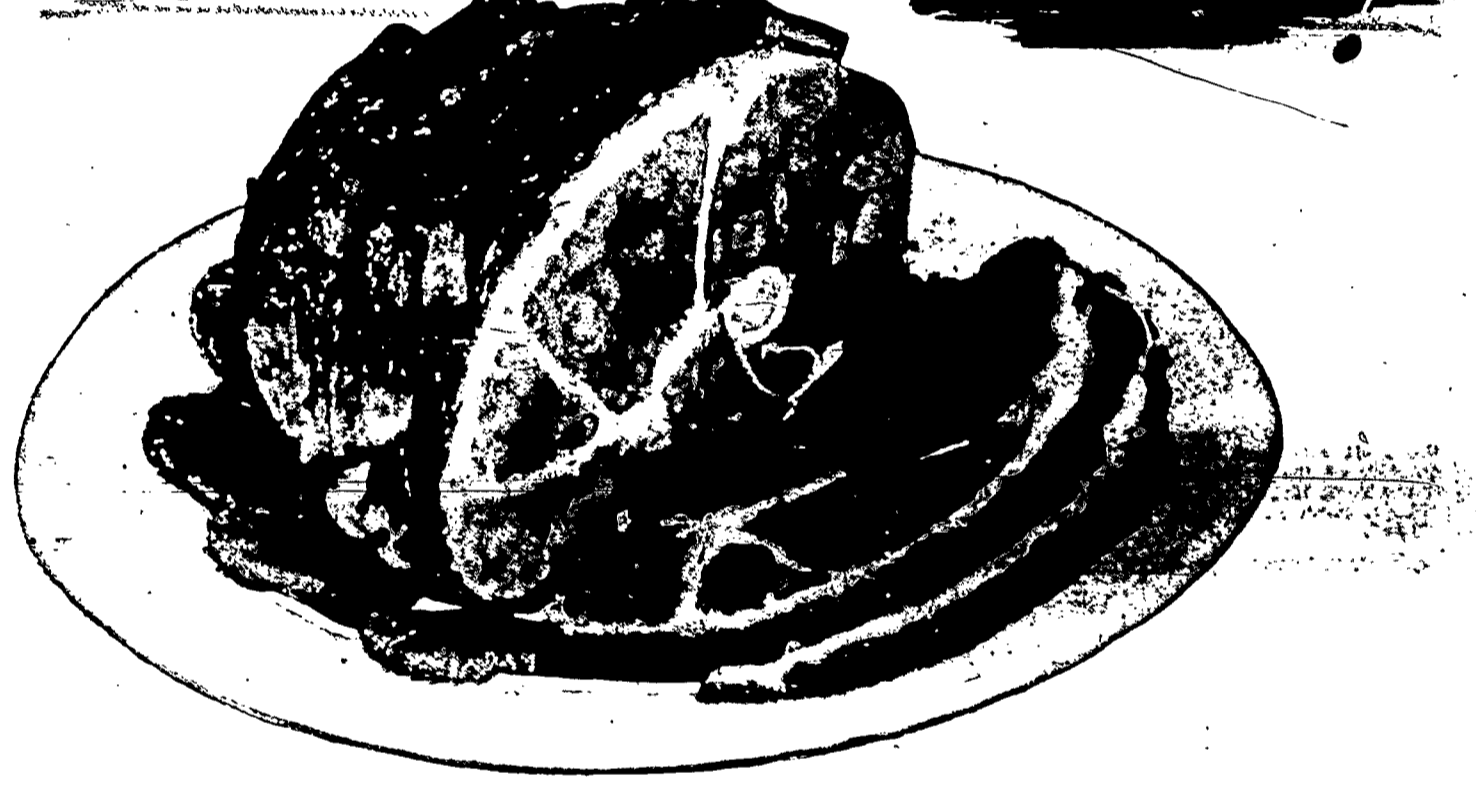
Mr. Allen was convicted, with a companion, of fatally beating and robbing an ice company truck driver on December 30, 1950. He became a convert while awaiting sentence.

Father Barrett frequently brought Communion to the condemned man who — because he was in the prison's "death row" — could only attend Mass on special feasts such as Christmas Mass. Father Barrett said Mass in the cell block.

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AS THE hours dragged on, the people became restless. There were mutters of "Let us take care of the criminals!" "We will show that running dog of the Americans!" "The people know what to do with foreign devils!"

If they had to spend a whole day in the hot sun, they wanted a show worth while. It certainly looked as though a lynching was on the way.

Next Week: **BEHOLD YOUR PRIEST!** The People's Court must run smoothly — and not spoil the sport. Clemency, too, for poor Chinese Catholics — "instigated by those foreign women."

Regional Meetings  
Rochester, N. Y. — (NC) — The Dominican Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Retreat House in Amherst, Long Island, N. Y., will sponsor the fifth regional conference of the National Laywomen's Retreat Movement at the Hotel St. George here, April 17 to 19.