

# Churchill Note Raps Tito For Persecution Of Religious Groups

By JOHN A. GREAVES  
(Correspondent, N.C.W.C. News Service)

London—The Universe, London Catholic newspaper, reports that Prime Minister Winston Churchill personally handed a memorandum on religious persecution in Yugoslavia to Marshal Tito during his visit to Britain.

Tito "read it carefully" and as a result some alleviation of the situation of the Church in Yugoslavia may result, the paper states.

The memorandum, drawn up by the Catholic Union of Great Britain on behalf of 19 national Catholic societies, was presented to Mr. Churchill by the Duke of Norfolk, leading Catholic layman. The reasoned 2,000-word appeal emphasized the repugnance to all English-speaking Catholics of the present state of affairs and told of the benefit a relaxation of persecution would bring to Yugoslavia itself.

MEANWHILE it was learned that Tito was directly questioned of the religious issue by a non-Catholic member of parliament, Peter Smithers. The British legislator said he broached the subject at a reception at the Yugoslav embassy.

Mr. Smithers told Tito to bear in mind that Christianity is something vital to the free world and that the west is naturally concerned with the fate of fellow Christians in Yugoslavia, he stated. He added that Tito then told him that he had made up his mind that equality of treatment for the different faiths in his country is desirable and that legislation is now under consideration which would introduce that.

THE UNIVERSE story said that Mr. Churchill and Mr. Anthony Eden, his foreign secretary, did not formally discuss religious persecution with Tito during his visit. A first hand step to ease the burden straining the Church in Yugoslavia might be taken, however, if the laws affecting it, it added. Such a measure might well relieve the greatest of the immediate difficulties with which Yugoslav Christians are contending. For as was pointed out by the Catholic Union in its memorandum, the persecution in Yugoslavia is carried out by administrative rather than legislative means.

"The theory freedom of worship which in Yugoslavia is a right constitutionally guaranteed," the Universe pointed out. "In practice it is suppressed through various forms of intimidation. Religious instruction is theoretically allowed for the children. But children, however, are generally denied by their parents."

# Korea Parishes Offer Masses For Americans

New York — (NC) — Public Masses will be offered up in every parish in Korea for the American Catholics who contributed clothing, food and medicines for relief in that country through War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference.

THIS IS announced in a message from the Ordinaries of war-torn Korea. The Bishops, Vicar Apostolic and Administrators say these Masses will be well attended.

"Besides, from personal knowledge we can assure you," they add, "that many other prayers are being offered by our grateful Catholics, among whom are thousands of refugees and homeless."

"NO DOUBT, many among the benefactors have sons in Korea," the message says. "These soldiers, too, have already endeared themselves to the children of Korea, will share in the fruits of the Masses that God may protect them in body and soul; and that, if they have made the supreme sacrifice, God will speed their entry into eternal joy and by His grace console their parents, brothers and sisters."

# Missionary's Dream Comes True, Thanks To Cardinal, Chaplains

Sendai, Japan — (NC) — It doesn't seem possible to Dominican missionary, Father Pierre Bissonnette, but his 23-year-old dream for a home for Japanese incurables is coming true.

With the help of U. S. Army chaplains, His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman and plenty of prayer, a fund has been set up to build the home in Sendai, one of the largest cities in northeastern Honshu.

Army chaplains stationed in Honshu had always been interested in the plan of the little priest—five feet tall, with the energy of five—but they couldn't do much about it. Then Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York and Military Vicar of the U. S. Armed Forces, visited Japan last Christmas.

At a dinner for Catholic chaplains in Japan, Father (St. L.) Timothy S. Carmody, formerly a teacher in the New York Archdiocese, told the Cardinal of the

Dominican missionary's hope for a hospital for incurable incurables in Sendai. Cardinal Spellman liked the idea, drew out his checkbook, and started the hospital fund with a gift of \$10,000.

The Cardinal also promised to "match other contributions you receive over a period of a year up to the amount of \$25,000." That would amply provide for Father Bissonnette's proposed \$30,000, 50-bed hospital.

With the backing of Catholic army chaplains, the drive for the Cardinal Spellman Hospital Fund is underway. "To Father Bissonnette, O.P., pastor of St. Dominic's Church of North Sendai and a Dominican missionary here for 23 years, it is "a kind of miracle and a dream come true."

Right now the Canadian Dominican Missionary Fathers, Army chaplains of the 15th Corps Area in Japan and a crew of Army lay personnel, are working to complete that dream.

# African Priest First Of Tribe



Northern Rhodesia, Africa—The Rev. Dominic Chindembe Nchele bestows his first blessing on African sons following his ordination as a priest in an open-air ceremony at the Chikwa Mission here. Father Nchele, 32, son of the Paramount Chief Momo, was ordained by Bishop Antoine Verwilt, Vicar Apostolic of Kasassa, Belgian Congo. The new priest is the first member of the Ba-Tonga tribe to be ordained.

# Negro Order Of Sisters Raised By Rome

New Orleans — (NC) — A community of Negro Sisters, the Society of the Holy Family, has received from Rome the Decretum Laudis (Decree of Praise) which raises it to the status of a religious society subject directly to the Holy See.

Announcement of this was made by Mother Mary Philip at the community's motherhouse here.

THE DECREE just received from Rome marks the beginning of a seven-year period to be observed in its establishment as a religious community in the Church. The Society of the Holy

Family was formerly a diocesan institute. Originally established for works of charity and education among slaves, the society was formed in 1842. The Misses Harriet Delisle and Juliette Gaudin in that year obtained the approval of Bishop Antoine Blanc—later Archbishop of New Orleans—to pronounce religious vows and to begin the work of

care for the poor and teaching catechism to slaves on plantations near New Orleans.

THE COMMUNITY now comprises 284 professed members, 28

novices and 11 postulants. Members teach a total of 11,076 children in 34 schools in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, the Archdiocese of San Antonio and the Diocese of Lafayette, Galveston, Mobile, Corpus Christi and Alexandria.

A large mission school is maintained in Stann Creek, British Honduras. The Sisters of the Holy Family also conduct the Lafon Catholic Old Folks' Home in New Orleans; the Lafon Boys' Home which shelters 60 orphans and foundlings; and the St. John Berchmans Home where 65 girls are cared for.

# 'Urbi et Orbi' 'Spread Christ's Love,' Pope Tells Easter Crowds

Vatican City — (NC) — His Holiness Pope Pius XII called anew on Christians throughout the world to spread Christ's love and optimistic view of life in a world which comes "on the deadly paths of hatred."

The Pope addressed some 300,000 people in St. Peter's square here as he extended his Easter blessing "to the city and to the world." The large crowd was composed of Romans and pilgrims from many parts of the world.

It was the first time since his recent illness that the Pontiff has addressed so large a crowd. Shouts of "Viva Il Papa" (Long live the Pope) and prolonged applause frequently interrupted the Holy Father's discourse.

WHEN THE POPE'S white-clad slender figure appeared on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, the whole square appeared to turn into a plain of snow as hundreds of thousands of white handkerchiefs were waved in welcome.

"Spread everywhere the life-giving waters you have drawn from Christ as the Source," the Pope told the cheering crowd. "Communicate their fresh richness to your brethren, surround them by the darkness of error; direct the flowing streams into the world of today which still continues, sick and convalescent, on the deadly paths of hatred."

"We know that you wish to be the heaven of life, but we fear that the result of prolonged continuation of the same struggles and the repetition of the same trials may overcome you with discouragement. Allow your father and pastor to put you on guard against such threats."

The Pope also held out a ray of hope to those who are still suffering in many parts of the world for their faith. He said:

"YOU, BELOVED priests and lay, who near and far off are suffering for Christ, without as yet seeing any signs appear on the horizon of truthful change, trust in Him Who in the past was able to show a way out to the people He wished to lead to freedom."

"All of you who are striving sincerely to win peace for fearful humanity, be not discouraged by the difficulties of the task;

may the righteousness of the cause give you strength and may Jesus, Prince of Peace, Himself support you."

The Pope recalled the meaning of Easter in these words: "The mystery of Easter proclaims to you, today as always, the mystery of life which triumphs over death, on condition that life draws from God its law and destiny."

"LIVED IN DEFIANCE of God or in ignorance of Him, any human life, however notable for accomplishment and power, is like a mere flash of lightning, which no posthumous memory is capable of rekindling; such a life is destined, beyond the grave unto the resurrection of judgment (John 5, 29). But every humble life, if lived in God, is the seed of heavenly glory; it is a perennial symphony which death does not bring to an end but rather elevates it to the sublime; and on earth where all things are passing, it is a herald of immortal life."

# Man Stabs Eleven, Calmed By Priest

Seattle — (NC) — A patient at a tuberculosis sanatorium who had gone berserk and stabbed 11 others was calmed by a young parish priest after holding sheriff's deputies at bay for more than an hour.

Father James Kneelken — answering what he thought was a sick call — walked right into a cubicle in the T-B home in which a 37-year-old Filipino was still brandishing his knife. While the young priest was able to persuade the patient to go to his car, the man refused to hand over his knife until he was led into jail.

In his fit, the berserk man had stabbed two fellow patients and nine sanatorium employees—some of them critically. Father Kneelken, an assistant at St. Catherine's Church here.

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