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Red Attack On Vatican Suspected As Prelude To Persecution Of Church

Vatican City—(Radio, NC)—New and bitter attacks by Moscow Radio on the "war-monger" Vatican contradict the words of peace spoken at the same time and tend to kill the hopes raised by the communist peace proposals, writes Observatore Romano.

Commenting on the broadcast of an article by the Soviet propagandist Eugene Tarie, who accused the Vatican of "preaching war, mass killings, political and economic oppression and atomic warfare," the Vatican daily asks: "Is this a new chapter in anti-religious politics? Is it an obvious prelude to greater persecution?"

Observatore Romano referred to its previous article in which it declared that the efforts to bring hope to mankind must not be killed by prejudice and suspicion and added: "This radio comment is the reply. It is a treacherous attack, because it has been launched not only without reason, but against all reason."

For years, Observatore said, the world has heard the Holy See invoke the cause of peace, condemn violence, protest against aggression, uphold the rights of small nations and "denounce atomic weapons as shameful as well as other inhuman instruments that destroy lives and property." The Vatican daily added:

"EVEN IF WE believe that something has changed in Russian policy, that there is a new trend, we can see that at least regarding the point of view toward the Vatican things are the same as before—certainly no better than before."

"The words of Malenkov and the facts illustrating them are different from those of Tarie and the Moscow radio."

He is Father Adrian Verrette, pastor of St. Matthew's Church at Plymouth and Red Cross chairman for 11 towns that bore the brunt of the flood disaster. Father Verrette quickly had 100 workers in the field, augmented by students from Plymouth Teachers' College and the Plymouth Fire Department.

About 25 families were evacuated from their homes and provided with shelter. Boats were needed in some cases to rescue marooned families.

Man Tells Advance In Chemistry Work
Notre Dame, Ind.—(NC)—A Dominican nun's new technique of identifying elements of solid substances has brought forth interest from scientific quarters throughout the globe.

Sister Miriam Michael, O.P., chemistry professor at Sacred Heart College, Adrian, Mich., described her method of analysis at the University of Notre Dame here. Known as the "pressed plate technique," it saves time in determining the arrangement of atoms and electron densities of known substances.

Red Premier Attacks Vatican

Belgrade—(RNS)—A sharp attack on the Vatican for its "aggressive policy in Yugoslavia" was made by Vladimir Bakarcic, Communist Premier of Croatia.

Addressing a congress of the Croatian Socialist Alliance of Working People, Mr. Bakarcic said the Vatican was doing everything possible to smash all people opposed to its domination in Croatia.

"Besides the open pressure of the official Vatican circles on the clergy and their parliaments," he said, "pressure has been organized from abroad, with the help of Ustaah (wartime Croat regime) clerical organizations and their foreign satellites."

Mr. Bakarcic said that although Vatican agents had accused the Yugoslav Communist regime of persecuting religion "we have guaranteed our people a freedom of conscience which never before existed."

He said that Vatican representatives were pursuing a traditional policy of "being paid exponents of the most sinister Italian aspirations towards our country."

War Prisoner Proposals Viewed As Way To Peace, Says Vatican Newspaper

Vatican City—(Radio, NC)—An agreement on the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners could well pave the way toward the restoration of peace in Korea.

This view was expressed by Observatore Romano in an article on Red China's proposals for the repatriation of war prisoners. The comment stressed the "human side" of these proposals and declared that "essentially political problems" should not be allowed to "infect" the hope and relief that the war prisoner proposals have caused to rise in human hearts.

The article recalled in this connection the peace efforts of Pope Benedict XV during the first world war, when the Pope reminded the warring nations that "humanitarian solutions should not be forgotten in the heat of battle or become drowned in blood."

It also quoted from the 1948 Christmas message of His Holiness Pope Pius XII when he declared: "It is our opinion that the much hoped for peace and agreement between the peoples could not begin in a better way than with the liberation of prisoners."

The Observatore article took note of the fact that "words, promising words, have been spoken before." Recalling that "words are wanted," it added: "Now we have some deeds." It referred to those who point out that the war prisoner proposals have been accompanied by less reassuring actions and by an increase in fighting.

Some interpret this as an effort to attain the best possible military situation prior to an armistice," Observatore commented, adding:

"We hold that all these objections must not suffocate the feelings of relief and trust that have arisen from an acceptance of the new proposals for what they are"—an attempt to reach an understanding on an exchange of prisoners who are sick or wounded.

Stolen Paintings Found, Arrests Made By FBI

Chicago—(NC)—Three men, one a former Assistant U. S. Attorney, have been arraigned here in connection with the theft of nine "priceless" oil paintings stolen last November from St. Joseph's Old Cathedral in Bardstown, Ky.

Announcement of the arrests and recovery of the paintings was made here by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Charges of illegal possession of the paintings were filed against the three accused men who were described as:

Norton I. Kreiske, 47, former Assistant Attorney here, now in private law practice; Gus Mantell, 52, New York, a ship steward, and Joseph De Pietro, a Municipal Court bailiff here. Bail of \$15,000 each was set for the attorney and ship steward and \$2,500 for the bailiff.

FBI AGENTS SAID that two women also had been questioned in connection with the theft of the paintings. The agents said the paintings were damaged considerably, showing creases from being folded and ragged edges from being ripped out of their frames.

In Bardstown, Msgr. James H. Willett, pastor of the Old Cathedral, said: "Thank God we have the paintings back—it is a most wonderful Easter present."

The agents said art experts declared some of the paintings were "priceless," but added that minimum value of \$675,000 had been placed on the paintings.

THREE OF the paintings, described as old masterpieces of "priceless value," were the gifts of King Louis Philippe of France. They were identified as "The Flaying of St. Bartholomew," by Rubens; "The Coronation," by Murillo; and "The Descent of the Holy Ghost," by Van Eyck.

The Diocese of Bardstown was erected in 1808 and originally embraced the States of Kentucky and Tennessee. The episcopal seat was transferred to Louisville on February 13, 1841, and the diocese became the Archdiocese of Louisville on December 10, 1937.

The FBI said the paintings had been cut from their frames in the church. The men, the agents said, had four of the paintings in their possession. The other five paintings it was added, were recovered from an unidentified New York buyer.

Our Lady's Day Appeal Made By Christophers

New York—(NC)—An appeal to dedicate May 1 as a day of prayer in honor of the Blessed Mother has been made once more by the Christophers' headquarters here.

The proposal of setting aside May Day as an occasion of special prayer for the nearly one billion human beings now under communist domination was originally made in 1947 by the Christophers Movement.

WHEN THE CUSTOM was first inaugurated six years ago, Father James Keller, founder and director of The Christophers, pointed out that for many years most people had come to regard May Day as a rallying day for the enemies of Christ because its original significance had been allowed to disappear from the public scene.

This could be rectified, if a sufficient number of persons could be found to take steps to make May 1 once more known and respected as Our Lady's Day, Father Keller reminded.

IT IS EXPECTED that millions of the country over will participate in making May Day a special day of prayer with the particular intentions that peace and freedom may come to those behind the iron curtain.

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Mau Mau Gang Fails In Attack On Mission

Nairobi, Kenya—Six members of a Mau Mau gang of about 100 were killed when they attempted to destroy a Catholic mission station at Kirika, deep in the Kenyan bush, about 60 miles west of here.

Father F. J. McCall, an Irish priest who heads the tiny jungle mission, and the home guard unit of loyal Kenyan tribesmen he has organized for his defense apparently were the objectives of the attack. It was the third attempt upon the station in seven months.

WARNING BY the home guardmen that Mau Mau terrorists were heading for the mission to burn it down and kill or mutilate its staff, Father McCall leaped into the battered mission compound and armed men with rifles and shotguns rushed to the station.

A Mau Mau party was at the station when a dawn search is coming up with the band of terrorists whom they rounded up. In a pitched battle that ensued, the Mau Mau were slain.

THE DISAPPEARANCE of a Mau Mau band that was driven off after an attack on the Kirika mission last October had been announced that the Mau Mau would come back and kill Father McCall.

Some time later they caught the priest in an ambush, but he managed to escape their bullets and get back to the safety of the Kirika compound.

Library Convention Opened By Priests

ROCHESTER, N. Y. (NC)—The annual convention of the National Catholic Library Association opened here today.

Addressing the convention, Bishop James J. Conroy of Rochester said the library is the backbone of the church.

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