

Eviction Threatens Hardy Catholics Under India Rule

By E. T. ANTONY
(Correspondent, N.C.W.C. News Service)

Wynnad, India — Thousands of Catholic peasants and their families in the vast uplands of Wynnad face the threat of forced eviction from lands they made productive.

The Madras State government, in a new amendment written in to its revenue rules, has dubbed the Christian peasants, mostly Catholics, as unauthorized encroachers upon government land and has ordered their summary eviction. Over 200 families have been evicted by armed police. More evictions are expected soon.

Catholics here have characterized the new measure as a calculated move to victimize Christian farmers. They point out that the new rules run counter to a program for the colonization of the hilly and jungle tracts of Wynnad begun by the Madras government itself.

MOST OF THE present settlers in Wynnad are Christian peasants who migrated from Travancore some years ago following the harsh land dispossession laws prevailing there under the dewan-ship of Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer. They settled in the thousands of acres of hilly tract by virtue of an old Madras rule which laid down the payment of a nominal rent to the government as the only condition attached to occupation of waste land.

These pioneers set to work with a will and wrung out of the malarial wilderness, at the cost of unremitting back-breaking toil under impossible conditions, a permanent source of livelihood. The waste lands slowly became productive. The original makeshift shacks were soon replaced by happy homesteads.

THE FARMERS and their families started to prosper. What was once the abode of countless wild animals became a prosperous colony of peasants with a number of Catholic churches and chapels. All this happened after 1948.

It appears that the Madras government became interested in the situation after the lands became productive. The Christian peasants, however, were not to be evicted. The government, however, has now decided to return to their original homes, face complete destitution.

Laredo Prays For Rain—And The Rains Came

Laredo, Tex. — (NC) — It hadn't rained in this one-time frontier town for nearly three months and the citizens were getting worried.

Laredo still had a meager water supply, but the Rio Grande, its sole source, ran dry here for the first time in history.

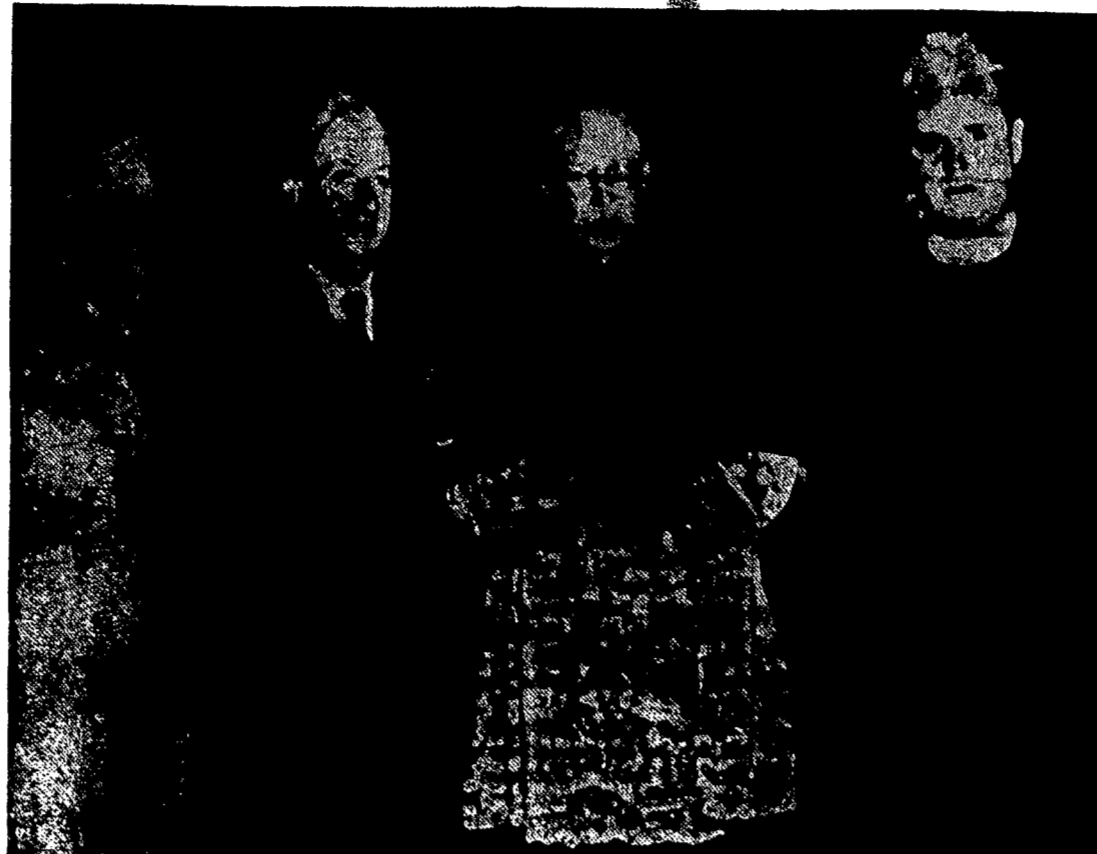
Then Mayor Hugh S. Clark called upon the townfolk to resort to prayer. He asked that all stores and business establishments shut down so that the citizens could gather in Jarvis Plaza and pray for rain. More than 1,200 showed up for the service, which was conducted by Catholics and Protestant clergymen.

Mgr. John J. Lennon, dean of the Laredo Catholic church, who conducted the Catholic service at the rally, said that prayers for rain had been started in all Catholic Churches several days before the meeting.

The day after the rally there was a tremendous dust storm whirled along on a 60-mile-an-hour wind. The dust cut visibility to zero and then the rain began to fall. The rainfall was measured at .46 of an inch and rapidly soaked into the parched soil. It was the only rainfall reported along the lower reaches of the Rio Grande and weather forecasters predicted more was on the way. It was the first rain in Laredo since Mar. 18.

New Singler Arrives
New Singler, (NC) — Father James F. Smith, M.M., secretary of the Church of the Transfiguration, in New York's Chinatown, arrived here to take over his new post as superior of the Maryknoll Mission of the South China region, which includes the Philippines and Formosa.

Catholic War Vets Meet



Detroit—His Eminence Edward Cardinal Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit, preached the sermon at the annual Mass celebrated in connection with the 18th national convention of the Catholic War Veterans of America here. The Mass was held by the Rev. John J. Wallace of the Church of the Epiphany, New York, national chaplain of the CWV (right). Shown with them are: Mrs. Robert Bennett of Detroit, now president of the CWV's Ladies Auxiliary; and Thomas J. Calko of Brooklyn, N. Y., re-elected CWV national commander. (Religious News Service Photo).

Red Ties Bar Education Job, Report Claims

(N.C.W.C. News Service)

Syracuse, N.Y.—"Anyone who accepts the discipline of the Communist Party should not be on a college faculty, or in any educational system, or in any position of public trust and influence."

This is one of the conclusions reached by a special joint committee of representatives of Le Moyne College, Syracuse University and the Onondaga County American Legion which considered the subject "Maintaining Freedom of Expression in These Times." The report was submitted to the county Legion convention at Skaneateles, N.Y.

CONSIDERING the controversial subject of Congressional investigations of educational institutions, the report stated:

"No question exists about the legal right of Congressional committees or other properly constituted agencies of government to carry out investigations for the purpose of determining what legislation, if any, is needed in the present situation. Such investigative power, although occasionally abused, is a safeguard of freedom. No other American insti-

tution should try to claim exemption from such investigation.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, our institutions and citizens have the right to expect and to demand that any investigation be so conducted as to guarantee a fair hearing, conducted with responsibility, understanding and restraint. Such powers of investigation should not be prostituted to serve private as opposed to public interest.

"Americans should not hesitate to testify in matters regarding loyalty and the national security; nor should a loyal citizen have need of the protection of the Fifth Amendment. Anyone who hides behind the Fifth Amendment at once creates a strong presumption that he places self-interest above loyalty to country."

'I Keep Praying'

Hiccup Victim Trusts God

Glendale, Calif. — (NC) — A young man who planned to become a priest began his sixth year of constant hiccupping with the belief that prayer will bring about his recovery.

Doctors have warned Jack O'Leary not to build his hopes for recovery from what is the longest seizure of hiccupping in recorded medical history. More than 200 doctors have attempted to cure him without success.

Now down to 78 pounds from the hiccupps that wrack his nervous system every second, O'Leary has gained a pound for the first time since he was stricken five years ago. He is unable to sleep more than one hour at a time and can only keep food down for short periods.

But at 6 a.m. each Sunday Jack O'Leary is at Mass. "I keep praying," he says. "And that gives the strength to carry on."

Chaplains Give Last Rites At Air Disaster

(N.C.W.C. News Service)

Tokyo — Six Catholic chaplains were on hand to give conditional last rites to the 129 U.S. servicemen killed near here in history's worst air disaster.

The first priest reached the scene as flames covering the giant two-decked transport plane still surged high into the sky, fed by some 3,000 gallons of gasoline from its shattered fuel tanks.

The chaplain was Father (L.L.) Alfred H. Tegels, a Benedictine from Osakis, Minn.

"It was terrible, terrible," Father Tegels said mournfully. "The priest is chaplain at the Tachikawa Air Base, where the plane took off before it developed engine trouble, staggered in the misty sky and plummeted nose first into a rain-soaked rice field."

WITHIN 30 MINUTES after the crash Father Tegels was giving conditional absolution beside the twisted, burning plane. Then as the charred bodies were brought out and laid in neat rows on the freshly fertilized rice fields, he appointed conditionally more than 40 of the burned bodies.

The crisp hands of one body were still clenched tightly about a Rosary.

Father Tegels was joined shortly by five other chaplains from nearby air bases. They were Fathers (M.J.) Raymond F. Coleman of Baltimore; (L.T. Col.) Thomas F. Shea of Hartford; (Capt.) John B. Murphy, Vincentian from St. Louis; (Maj.) Christopher J. Hincley of Fort Wayne; and (Lt.) Frank H. Eber of St. Cloud.

FATHER COLEMAN experienced an interesting aftermath to the crash.

The following morning a young Air Force private called on him and opened the conversation with these words:

"Father, can I have instructions?"

His caller had lost three buddies in the crash of the Globemaster. He related that he had been baptized a Catholic and had attended parochial school for about a year. But he had been withdrawn by his non-Catholic father before he was ready for his First Communion.

7 Priests Arrested As China Changes Policy On Church

(N.C.W.C. NEWS SERVICE)

Hong Kong — A new wave of arrests in Communist China, landing at least seven American priests in prison, appears to have roughly upset the recent policy of greater tolerance toward religion.

The new terror against the Catholic Church is reported from Shanghai, where the Catholic community has for a long time enjoyed relative freedom in its religious affairs. About a dozen priests suddenly were clapped in jail, according to information reaching here from three sources.

Those arrested include six American Jesuits and an American Maryknoller. They are Fathers Thomas Phillips of Butte, Mont.; John A. Houle, and John W. Clifford of San Francisco. All are Jesuits and members of Christ the King Parish in Shanghai.

Also: Father Charles J. McCarty of San Francisco, rector of the Jesuit seminary at Zikawei, near Shanghai, and Joseph P. McCormack of New York, a Maryknoller in Shanghai.

(A letter from Father Houle, dated May 11 in Shanghai and received in San Francisco on June 9, made no mention of impending arrest for any of the Fathers nor of any press campaign against them. Father Houle's letter spoke mainly about a large May procession held at Christ the King parish in honor of the Blessed Virgin.)

OTHER PRIESTS seized by the Reds are Fathers Ferdinand Lacretelle, French Jesuit superior in Shanghai; Francis Yu, Chinese Jesuit at Christ the King parish; Joseph Desmeier, C.M., Vincentian superior in Shanghai, and Chinese priests at the parishes of St. Peter and St. Francis in Shanghai.

The arrests occurred on the night of Monday, June 15.

A European woman who arrived here from Shanghai said she had called at Christ the King parish on Wednesday, June 17, and found that soldiers had taken up positions in the church and the surrounding area.

THE SHANGHAI arrests are interpreted here as a change in Communist policy, perhaps dictated by Red reversals in Europe and Korea.

Meanwhile two Italian missionaries arrived here after being forced out of their missions in the Hanchung diocese, Shenst province. Two Franciscans and an Augustinian priest were expelled from Hankow.

The Italian missionaries are Fathers Brevi Santo and Cintio Carmelo, both members of the Milan Foreign Mission Society. They had been under house arrest for about two years. They were told to leave because it was "the will of the people."

The priests reported that three Chinese priests in the Hanchung diocese are in prison, a fourth under house arrest. An Italian priest still in the diocese is also under house arrest, they said.

Business Halted For Cardinal's Visit

Dublin — (NC) — All business was suspended in Cork as thousands thronged the decorated streets to greet His Eminence John Cardinal D'Alton, Archbishop of Armagh, on his first official visit to Ireland's leading southern city.

An Army band rendered the salute as the Cardinal passed through a triumphal arch inscribed with a Gaelic greeting. He was welcomed by Bishop Cornelius Lucey of Cork, Lord Mayor P. McGrath, and numerous other public officials who knelt to kiss his ring. Led by three bands and a thousand Catholic Boy Scouts, a procession led the way to the Cathedral, where a formal liturgical reception took place, followed by a Te Deum.

Granted Scholarship
New Orleans — (NC) — Miss Elise Cambon, music director of St. Louis Cathedral here has been awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study the classic organ in Germany. She will attend the Hochschule fuer Musik in Frankfurt-am-Main, and will study under Helmut Walcha, blind organist.

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