

Croatians Ask U. S. To Get Release Of Cardinal Stepinac

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

Chicago—The United States government was called on here to use its good offices to obtain the complete and speedy release of His Eminence Aloysius Cardinal Stepinac and imprisoned Bishop Peter Cule of Mostar, Yugoslavia.

The call came in resolutions adopted at the eighth annual Croatian American Day held by the United American Croatians. It is a nation-wide organization of Croatian people in America to provide for the social and cultural welfare of American Croatians and to extend help to those forced to flee Croatia because of terror on oppression.

ANOTHER RESOLUTION expressed "public thanks and gratitude to our government for its efforts and interest in helping to send medical aid to the critically ill Cardinal Stepinac." It added: "This humanitarian act of the United States of America is sincerely appreciated by all Croats world-wide, and freedom loving people in general."

The annual meeting was opened with a High Mass offered in the Sacred Heart (Croatian) Church here. The Mass was said for the speedy recovery and complete freedom of Cardinal Stepinac, the Archbishop of Zagreb, who is now confined by the Tito regime to his native village of Krasic.

ONE OF THE SPEAKERS at the meeting was Dr. John F. Rusic, one of the two American doctors who went to Yugoslavia to treat Cardinal Stepinac, on behalf of the American Bishops through the National Catholic Welfare Conference. The doctor is chief surgeon of Holy Cross Hospital here and supreme medical advisor and examiner of the Croatian Catholic Union, a fraternal insurance organization.

Another speaker was Father Stephen Lackovic, the former secretary to Cardinal Stepinac, who emphasized that the Cardinal is a living saint, ready to die for God and his people, who today suffer under Communist tyranny.

"We ask our Government," the

Polish Priest Disappearance Still Mystery

London — (NC)—Fifty detectives from the north of England met in Sheffield, Yorkshire, to discuss the case of Father Henry Bornynski, chaplain to Bradford's 2,000 Polish refugees, who has been missing for over a month.

Despite intensive inquiries throughout the country and among the Poles themselves, no developments have yet been recorded in the mystery of the 42-year-old priest who vanished on July 13 after receiving a phone call at his home.

POLICE BELIEVE that he has not left the country. It is suspected that he may have been kidnapped or even murdered by Communists because of his outspoken attacks.

Tributes to the character and popularity of Father Bornynski have been general in the press reports of his disappearance. Typical was that in the Daily Mail, national newspaper, which said the police investigations had proved that the priest "led an impeccable personal life."

THE ARTICLE by feature-writer Walter Terry added: "Hardly an extra fact has emerged to show why Father Bornynski, a good priest who loved his people, should disappear with only ten shillings (\$1.40) in his pocket—and leave 300 Pounds (\$480) in the bank."

Microfilming Vatican Papers Progresses

St. Paul, Minn. — (RNS)—The project of microfilming 10 million manuscripts in the Vatican library to make them available for American scholars is about one-sixth completed. It was reported here at the national convention of the Knights of Columbus, sponsors of the project.

The microfilming will cost about \$250,000 and is expected to be completed in "a couple years," according to the Rev. Joseph P. Donnelly, S.J., St. Louis, Mo., director of libraries at St. Louis University, where the microfilms are being placed.

Pope Receives GE Employees



Rome—An audience with Pope Pius XII climaxed a three-week European trip made by about 140 women employees of the General Electric plant at Fort Wayne, Ind. The women reported that the Pontiff obligingly stood upon a chair—at the request of one of them—so that he could see everyone in the audience without straining. (RNS Photo)

Red Power Grab Reported Curbed By Coup In Iran

Cairo, Egypt, (NC)—The royalist coup in Iran has for the time being checked the insidious march to power by communism in that country.

This is the reaction of Christian circles here over the series of attempted coups and coups which catapulted a Shah supporter, Maj. Gen. Fazzolah Zahedi, into the post of premier, and landed former premier Mohammed Mossadegh in prison.

Christian circles had expressed concern over what they termed Mossadegh's secret collaboration with the Communists, who are officially outlawed by Iran. Both the young Shah, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, and the new premier are known to be opposed staunchly to Communism.

WHILE CHRISTIANS form only a small minority of the Iranian population, the fact is expressed here that they would quickly feel the heavy hand of Communism should the Reds ever seize complete power in Iran.

During Iran's troubles with Russia over the Azerbaijan province (1944-1946), a puppet Communist regime there immediately began a persecution of religious groups. Religious worship was restricted, religious schools closed, and religious instruction forbidden in the Communist-controlled schools. The property of both devout Christians and Moslems was confiscated.

Iranian Catholics number only about 17,000 in a population of

20 million, or less than one in a thousand. The Catholics belong to the Latin, Armenian and Chaldean rites. Since 1925 they have enjoyed a great measure of freedom, with the exception of the troubles in Azerbaijan.

CHRISTIANITY reportedly was first introduced in Iran shortly after the Resurrection of Christ.

However, the Christians in the Iran area embraced the Nestorian heresy in the early Christian centuries. Later they almost were wiped out when the Moslems gained power there.

Many of the present day Catholics in Iran are descendants of heretical groups and have rejoined the Church within the last century.

Jail Term Ends, Polish Bishop's Rights In Doubt

London — (NC)—A Polish Bishop's eight-year prison term expired this week. But there was no indication that the Communist regime would permit him to return to the administration of his diocese.

The problem is Bishop Karl M. Splitt of Gdansk, who was sentenced to jail by the Polish regime after the war for alleged "collaboration with the Nazis." He was paroled from jail at the end of 1951, but then was not permitted to take over his diocese, but move about freely in Poland, nor leave the country.

The question asked in Polish circles here is whether the 65-year-old Bishop will remain under those unjust conditions even after he has served his full sentence. The Gdansk diocese is at present administered by a vicar capitular, Father Jan Gynaszewski.

Exiled Bishop Named To Serve White Russians

Vatican City — (NC)—His Holiness Pope Pius XII has appointed Bishop Boleslaus Sloskans, these are Catholics.

White Russians now living in exile, but only a small minority of them are Catholics. Bishop Sloskans, who is Titular Bishop of Chium, was born in Latvia in 1893. He was ordained in St. Petersburg (now Leningrad) in 1926.

The Russian Communists arrested Bishop Sloskans in 1927 "for spying." He was sentenced to five years of hard labor. He was again arrested, this time later was arrested again and sent to Siberia where he remained imprisoned for 10 years.

Irish Nuns Plan U. S. Community

Cobb, Ireland — (RNS)—Mother Canice Walsh, daughter of Ireland's Minister for Agriculture Thomas Walsh, and five nuns from the mother house of the Sisters of St. Brigid at Tullow, County Carlow, have asked for the U. S. to establish the first Brigidine community in America at San Antonio, Tex.

Their mission was undertaken at the invitation of Archbishop Robert E. Lucy of San Antonio.

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