

Belgrade Pressures Church To Back Stand On Trieste

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

Graz, Austria — Reports from Yugoslavia indicate that the Tito regime is seeking to exploit its dispute with Italy over Trieste for pressuring the Church into supporting Belgrade's side.

Students of the situation in this Austrian city are not at all surprised by these developments. They have been aware for a long time that the centuries-old ethnic tensions between Slovenes and Italians offered a tailor-made opportunity for the Tito regime to feather its own nest and to drag religion into the issue.

For a long time of the most notable tendencies of Tito propaganda has been to accuse the Church — that is, the Holy See in Rome — of conspiring with the Italian government and supporting Italian "imperialistic ambitions" along the Dalmatian coast, in Trieste and Slovenia.

NOR CAN there be any doubt that this Yugoslav propaganda line has met with a certain measure of success among those who allow their national and racial sentiments, hopes and resentments to becloud the fact that the Church and religion stand above parties, races and nationalities.

Making clever use of this unholy confusion of nationalism and religion, the Tito regime, the reports say, now seeks to induce Catholic leaders, both of the clergy and laity, to issue statements condemning Italy's position on Trieste and warning the Vatican to keep its hands off the dispute.

A convenient tool for these moves is offered by the regime-sponsored associations of "patriotic" priests who are willing to go along with the Belgrade government in its fallacious argument that the Vatican and the Italian government are both "enemies of the Yugoslav people."

THOSE WHO refuse to fall into this propaganda trap are then exposed as "bad citizens" as

Necedah Quiet Town Three Years After Report Of 'Visions'

Newark, N. J. — (NC) — Necedah, Wis., the town which drew thousands of persons three years ago after reports that a farm woman had seen visions of the Blessed Virgin, is now a quiet community where few vestiges of the excitement remain.

Floyd Anderson, editor of The Advocate here, who recently revisited the town, reports only a few people now come to Necedah remembering the past events. At an "Information Center" he was told that anniversaries of the "apparitions" are being celebrated, but there are no more apparitions.

According to Mr. Anderson: "That is the Necedah story, three years later. . . Still attracting a few curiosity seekers, those who are on vacation and see a 'Necedah' highway sign and drive over to see what is there, but slowly dying. It has its 'hard core' of adherents, those who sincerely, or for other reasons, believe in the 'apparitions.' But this is a small group; the general public has decided the 'apparitions' were not authentic."

80,000 Catholic Children Held In Soviet Camps

London — (RNS) — About 80,000 Catholic children from Poland, the Ukraine and Rumania are in so-called correction camps in the Soviet Union.

The Vatican Radio said "this sensational news" had been "released by a Soviet citizen who has succeeded in escaping to the West. He had been for a long time working in the north of Russia."

"These children were forcibly taken away from their parents and sent to the regions of Irkutsk and Igarka," the station said. "Since they had, owing to their Catholic religion, become dangerous for other children, they were sent to correction camps where they are forced to work ten to twelve hours a day."

Chinese Priests Found Slain In Hong Kong

Hong Kong — (NC) — Two Chinese priests were found murdered early this morning at All Souls' rectory here. They were Father John Baptist Cheng, 35, a native of Hong Kong, and Father Peter Ngai, 53, who was born at Sheun-yong-wai.

THE TWO priests' bodies were found by All Souls' pastor, Father James Zillio, who spent Sunday night at the Cathedral. Returning about 5:30 a.m., he saw that telephone and electric wires had been cut, and investigated.

Father Cheng's hands had been bound and his head clubbed with a large instrument. Father Ngai was found murdered the same way in the next room. The rectory had been thoroughly ransacked, but money and valuables were intact. This and the fact that one of the priests was an outspoken writer, critic of the Reds and youth leader led many here to suspect that they were victims of Red agents.

FATHER CHENG was ordained here in 1941 and was director of the Catholic Student Association here. He was a zealous promoter of the Legion of Mary, and founder and editor of the modern student journal, Kung Kao Po.

Father Ngai was ordained in 1930 for the Hong Kong diocese. After about a year at Sheun-yong-wai, he was assigned as assistant at St. Margaret's Church here. He has been assistant pastor at All Souls' Church here since 1946 and was known to all as kind, quiet, spiritual and zealous.

Receives Nobility — Castelgandolfo, Italy — (NC) — Archduke Robert of Austria and Duchess Anna of Austria were received in private audience by Pope Pius XII at his summer residence here. Duchess Anna was accompanied by her daughter, Duchess Margherita.

CATHOLIC PSYCHOLOGISTS MEET



Cleveland — The Rev. Charles A. Curran of St. Charles Seminary, Columbus, O. (right) was elected president of the American Catholic Psychological Association at its annual meeting here. He succeeds Dr. Alexander A. Schneider of Fordham University, New York (left). Shown with them is Sister Mary Annette Walters, C.S.J., of St. Catherine College, St. Paul, Minn., who was named to the association's board of directors. (RNS Photo)

Chaplains Aid Freed GI's On Long Voyage Home

Incheon, Korea — (NC) — Later groups of released prisoners of war, like the earlier ones, on returning to the United States have chaplains aboard their transports who have served in Korea.

The last four of the eight ships bringing ex-prisoners home have the following priests, veterans of the Korea war, on board:

Father (Capt.) Timothy J. Quinn, O.F.M., native of Scranton, Pa., who served with the 5th field artillery.

Giant Holy Name Rally, Night Mass For 15,000 — Omaha, Neb. — (NC) — With 15,000 persons participating, Archbishop Gerald T. Bergan of Omaha offered this archdiocese's first evening Pontifical Mass at Ak-Sar-Ben Field. Occasion was the largest Holy Name rally ever held here. Rally ceremonies began at dusk with lighting effects being used to illuminate the Pontifical Mass which followed later.

FATHER (CAPT.) JOHN D. BENSON, native of Loominster, Mass., a priest of Washington Archdiocese, who served with the 7th division, later with a medical battalion in the 45th "Thunderbird" division and finally with the 179th regiment.

Father (Capt.) Albert D. Bull of the Chicago Archdiocese, who

Christian Democrats Win Landslide Vote In German Election

Frankfurt — (NC) — Backed by nearly 50 per cent of the total electorate in a record post-war vote turnout, Chancellor Konrad Adenauer scored an unprecedented victory in the first truly free elections Germany has had since Hitler's ill-fated advent to power.

Latest returns indicate that over 45 per cent of the total vote cast went to Dr. Adenauer's party, the Christian Democratic Union. Their principal opponent, the Socialists, obtained but 28.8 per cent.

IN ALL, 86.2 per cent of registered voters cast their ballots. The returns show they not only endorse Dr. Adenauer's policies of close cooperation with the western powers but reject at the same time Soviet-inspired propaganda that these policies were "sponsored by American imperialism."

One significant aspect of this gratifying result is the total failure of the radical parties of both the right and left to win the support of voters. The communists garnered but 2.2 per cent of the total vote cast as against 5.7 per cent four years ago. They as well as the groups of would-be neo nazis will have no representation whatsoever in the new Bundestag.

(West Germany's communist leader, Max Reimann, lost his parliament seat to a Christian Democrat, Dr. Fritz Hellwig, in the cutlery-manufacturing city of Solingen — known as Germany's "Reddest district.")

The Bundestag will convene October 2 in Bonn to inaugurate a new four year legislative period. Undoubtedly it will reappoint Dr. Adenauer as chancellor of the West German Federal Republic.

DR. ADENAUER'S party which is backed by both Protestants and Catholics, will command an absolute majority in the parliament, with 244 out of 444 seats. With the help of its pre-

sumptive coalition partners, it will even be able to muster a two-thirds majority which the Socialists will be unable to break. Socialist leader Erich Ollenhauer and his friends will hold but 150 seats. The Free Democrats have gained 48 seats, the Expellee Party 27, the right-wing German Party 15, the Catholic Leftwing Center Party three seats. The Bavarian Party has lost all the 17 seats it held in the old Bundestag. Only six parties will be represented in the newly elected body.

The election was an imposing demonstration of democracy in action. The German people, who were deprived of their freedoms under Nazi dictatorship and only now are regaining their sovereignty, have reaffirmed their faith in democracy. They have left no doubt as to their determination to side with the West and against Soviet communism.

They have again chosen as their popular leader a Catholic who is a man of peace and good will. Incidentally they have endorsed without reservation the Atlantic peace program of the United States, the North Atlantic alliance. The victors of the last war and the vanquished can now go on in full partnership in the accomplishment of the big task ahead: the unification of Germany and European integration, which may well prove to be the cornerstones of worldwide peace.

Mariano Elio — Lisbon — President Jose Craveiro Lopes of Portugal will be chairman of the celebrations in honor of the centenary of the definition of the Immaculate Conception dogma to take place next June at the Marian shrine in Sameiro.

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