

Catholics Deny 'Kidnapping' Of Colombia Boys

Manizales, Colombia (NC) — Catholic authorities have discredited Protestant charges that two Protestant children were "kidnapped" here at the instigation of Bishop Luis Concha of Manizales and put in a Catholic orphanage.

The charges were made in a special news bulletin published by the Confederacion Evangelica de Colombia (CEDEC) and reportedly distributed to all parts of Latin America.

Pointing out, first of all, that the children involved were not Protestants but Catholics, the Catholic authorities explained that the incident involved simply an act of charity after their mother, an agnostic Catholic, had thrown them out of her home because they wanted to make their first Holy Communion.

The children are Abraham and Octavio Morales Castro, aged 13 and 12, respectively. Their mother, Maria Ignacia Castro, had been baptized a Catholic but abandoned the Church to join a Protestant sect after the death of her husband in 1950. The boys have eight other brothers and sisters — the eldest 27, and the youngest, four.

In spite of the mother's renunciation of her Faith, the Catholic authorities revealed, the two boys continued to practice the Catholic religion. They attended religious classes in their school, went to Sunday Mass, and took part in processions and recitations of the Rosary.

IT WAS LEARNED—the Catholic explanation went on—that the boys' mother objected to these activities and punished them, even to the point of driving them out of the home on some occasions.

The situation approached its climax when the boys began to prepare for their first Communion. On July 7, they came to school in the afternoon reporting that their mother had denied them lunch and told them she no longer regarded them as her sons because they refused to follow the Protestant religion.

The teacher thereupon consulted with Father Jose Ignacio Gorman, S.J., head of his school. The children were admitted to the Holy Communion conducted by the Sisters of the Poor of St. Peter Claver. This priest afterwards brought the case to the attention of Bishop Concha, who suggested that Father Gorman get in touch with the civil authorities in regard to the legal aspects of the case.

THE MATTER finally was placed in the hands of the Juvenile Court. Questioned by the judge, the Morales boys stated that after being driven from their home they wished to take refuge in the orphanage. After receiving their assurance that they were happy in the orphanage, the judge issued a ruling that the boys be entrusted temporarily to the care of the Mother Superior of the orphanage.

The Catholic authorities stressed that the two boys regularly are visited by their mother and also have been visited by Protestant ministers, who have talked to them at length. They pointed out since the children had been baptized in the Catholic Faith and wished to continue in it, their mother could not violate their consciences even after she had become a member of a Protestant sect.

German Catholics Build Apartments

Cologne, Germany — (RNS) — More than 50,000 apartments have been completed under the German Catholic Building Program since the end of the war. It was reported here by the Catholic Settlement Service.

Catholic building associations are operating in all German dioceses with the aim of easing the acute housing shortage. In 1952 alone, the report said, these associations were responsible for the construction of over 12,000 home units.

\$25,000 Given Chestnut Hill

Philadelphia (NC) — A check for \$25,000 from 1953 alumnae members of a Silver Jubilee Fund was presented to Mother Maria Kozicki, Superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill College here. Alumnae chapters from various cities and states including a group from San Francisco, attended the reunion.

Corning Native Consecrated Bishop



Tucson, Ariz.—Bishop Francis J. Green, 41, Vicar General of Tucson since 1950, and native of Corning, N.Y., was consecrated Titular Bishop of Serra and Auxiliary to Bishop Daniel J. Gercke of Tucson in impressive ceremonies at St. Augustine Cathedral here. Here is shown accepting the mitre from Bishop Gercke who officiated at the rite. Ordained in 1932, Bishop Green was made a monsignor in 1951. He will retain his position as Vicar General and as pastor of St. Peter and Paul Church here. With Bishop Gercke, he now shares responsibility for the spiritual guidance of more than 185,000 Catholics in the rapidly-growing diocese of Tucson. (RNS Photo)

Negro Bishop Installation Set In West Africa

Accra, Gold Coast, Africa — (NC) — Elaborate preparations are being made here for the first installation of a Negro Catholic Bishop in West Africa.

The prelate is Bishop Joseph O. Bowers, S.V.D., who was made Bishop of Accra by His Holiness Pope Pius XII early this year and consecrated in Bay St. Louis, Miss., by His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York.

The second Bishop of Negro blood consecrated in the United States, Bishop Bowers left New York on September 1, and

stopped off in England for a visit before resuming his journey to the Gold Coast.

ON HIS ARRIVAL here, the new Bishop will be escorted in solemn procession to the cathedral, where the installation ceremonies will take place. On the next day, a Solemn Pontifical Mass will be offered at the site of the new Cathedral of the Holy Spirit.

On the third day, the clergy and faithful of the Accra See will meet their new Bishop at a reception to be held at the Accra Community Center. This is ex-

More Attacks On Bishop Explode Tito's Claim Of 'Religious Freedom'

Graz, Austria (NC) — More mutilated, bleeding Bishops and a pillaged seminary must be added to the grim picture of Tito's "religious freedom" in Yugoslavia.

Reports reaching here state that two Yugoslav Bishops have again fallen victim to the campaign of terror and violence which is striking all Church leaders refusing to accept the government's program for "church-state peace." An American priest, tourist reportedly witnessed a mob attack on a noted Croat clergyman. At the same time it was learned that a Red mob smashed its way into the large Catholic seminary at Sibenik, making shambles of the school's interior.

THE TWO BISHOPS now nursing their wounds after a new battering by Red mobs are Bishop Janko Budanovic of Subotica, who is 90 years old, and Cyril Banik, Apostolic Administrator of Sibenik, who is 63.

AGED Bishop Budanovic, who was seized by Red hoodlums some days earlier and spirited away in a truck, was found lying in a side street in Subotica. The aged prelate was

bruised from beatings, his clothes shredded, his eye glasses broken and his episcopal ring stolen. During the harrowing interval he had been held by Red thugs at an isolated farmhouse near Sorabor, it is reported.

Bishop Banik, who only a few weeks ago was set upon by a Red-organized mob at Dojni, his birthplace, was seized by another Red mob at Sibenik and beaten until he lay unconscious, the report states.

In all, eleven Catholic Bishops and several Orthodox Bishops are known to have been kicked, beaten and lacerated in what is interpreted here as an official campaign of terror to make the Church leaders bow to Tito's wishes.

THE REGIME has so far refused to accept any responsibility for this naked terrorism. It blames the acts of violence on

"irresponsible elements" but at the same time condones the violence by stating that the perpetrators are merely displaying an "understandable anger" over the "ant-state attitude" of the Bishops.

The main issue between the Bishops and the Tito regime at the present time is whether the Hierarchy should give recognition to the government-sponsored "priests associations" seeking to turn the Churches into tools of the state. The Bishops have forbidden priests to join the associations and have excommunicated the leaders of the movement.

The nine other Bishops who have reportedly suffered attacks from Red mobs are: Archbishop Josif Ujelic of Belgrade and Michael Pusic, Bishop of Hvar, and Bishop Victor Burić of Senj, Paul Butorac of Dubrovnik, Francis Cokada of Skopje, Maximilian Draculic, Apostolic Administrator of Maribor, Francis Frensch of Split, Joseph Pavilic, Auxiliary of Senj, and Anton Vovk, Apostolic Administrator of Ljubljana.

Making Desperate Effort:

Yugoslavia Seeks Ban On Card. Stepinac Book

London — (NC) — Secret police in Communist Yugoslavia are making desperate efforts to prevent a book on the "trial" of Cardinal Stepinac published in the United States from reaching the hands of readers in their country.

This was disclosed in reports reaching here from Trieste, brownik, Fiume, Zadar, and Ljubljana. The importation of this book, in which the trial of the war criminal and avowed enemy of the Yugoslav peoples is distorted, is certainly bound to undermine the people's regime in Yugoslavia.

THE REPORTS stated that last August a circular was issued by postal officials in Zagreb calling attention to "a bulky, noxious publication of the life and trial of Alojz Stepinac, former Archbishop of Zagreb, which was issued in the United States by the enemies of the Yugoslav Republic with the aim of discrediting his trial and sentence by the People's Supreme Court in Zagreb."

The circular went on to say: "Many attempts have been made from the U.S.A., and from the Anglo-American Zone of Trieste to mail this book to different addresses in Zagreb, Split, Du-

bridge, and other cities in Yugoslavia."

"For that reason," the circular added, "an absolute ban on the book has been ordered by the Ministry of the Interior."

THE TRIESTE reports disclosed that a reward has been promised for each copy of the book which has been issued not to destroy the copies but to send them, carefully packed, to the Ministry of the Interior. In addition the reports said, orders were given that on no account must the book reach Cardinal Stepinac, who is interned in the village of Krusic.

Arctic Bishop Flies On Mission Plane

Fort Smith, N.W.T. — (NC) — With Father William Leising, O.M.I., as his pilot, Bishop J. M. Trocellier, O.M.I., Vicar Apostolic of the Mackenzie, in a five-week period completed his pastoral visit of all the Far Northern mission posts in the Arctic and sub-Arctic.

The mission plane is dedicated to St. Joseph. There are some 30 missions in the vicariate. Part of the introduction of the airplane by Archbishop Gabriel Brynati, the predecessor of Bishop Trocellier, a pastoral visit by dog team and boat took from two to three years to complete.

British Nuns Set Up 1st Community In U. S.

London — (NC) — Five nuns left England for Atwater, Calif., to establish the first American foundation of the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. They were going to help meet the shortage of teachers and nuns in the Monterey-Fresno diocese. In charge was Mother Leonard accompanied by Sisters Gerard Majella, Mary Dominic, Olive Plunkett and Mary of Jesus. All are certified teachers.

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