

Cardinal Protests Banning Chaplains From UN Prisoners

New York (NC) — His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, as Military Vicar for the Armed Forces of the United States, has protested against the refusal of the United Nations custodial forces to permit access to prisoners of war by Korean and Chinese-speaking Catholic chaplains.

Cardinal Spellman's action followed a decision by Lt. Gen. K. S. Thimayya, Indian chairman of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission, that no chaplains would be provided for the prisoners of war because India could not furnish Chinese-speaking or Korean-speaking priests or ministers.

AS REPORTED from Korea, the Neutral Nations Commission has refused to accept Protestant and Catholic chaplains, who speak Chinese and Korean, offered by the UN Command. General Thimayya has said the laymen among the prisoners could hold services satisfactorily.

Cardinal Spellman's protest was voiced in telegrams to General Thimayya, Dag Hammarskjold, Secretary General of the United Nations; Gen. John E. Hull, UN Supreme Commander in Korea and the Far East; and Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, chief of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations.

Text of the telegram follows: "As Military Bishop for United Nations Catholic chaplains and military personnel in Korea, I anxiously await word of resumption of complete chaplain service to Catholic prisoners of war in case of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission. Not only the Geneva Convention but democratic ideals demand that complete chaplain ministry and free personnel access to Chinese and Korean-speaking chaplains be guaranteed individual prisoners of war."

IN A STATEMENT from the Military Ordinate office, Bishop James H. Griffin, Chancellor of the Military Ordinate, said:

"It should be noted that Article II of the Geneva Convention requires the detaining power to provide ministers of religion and permit laymen to be substituted only for denominations which re-

Neutral Nations Seen Breaking Geneva Convention

By FATHER P. J. O'CONNOR

Seoul, Korea (NC) — The Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission has already violated Articles 34 and 37 of the Geneva Convention by its failure to provide chaplains for Korean and Chinese anti-Communist prisoners of war in its custody.

The prisoners have asked for chaplains. The obligation of the Commission and of the Indian custodial force has been spotlighted in the public press conference last Tuesday (October 6). Lt. Gen. K. S. Thimayya, chairman of the commission and commander of the Indian forces, assured the NC correspondent that the commission would reconsider the matter the next day. The first "solution" as outlined by him obviously failed to meet Geneva Convention requirements and he apparently recognized the fact.

The commission has reportedly discussed the question at least two days since then. Still, this evening (October 11) the commission spokesman can report "no decision reached." Representatives of India, Switzerland, Sweden, Poland and Czechoslovakia make up the commission in which a majority vote decides.

Steps Forced To Provide Chaplains For POW's

By FATHER PATRICK O'CONNOR

Panmunjom, Korea, Oct. 12 (NC) — The Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission has finally decided today to "explore the possibilities of getting chaplains from India."

The delay in providing chaplains already amounts to a violation of Articles 34 and 37 of the Convention. Lt. Gen. K. S. Thimayya, commander of the Indian forces and chairman of the commission, told a press conference October 6 that any chaplains obtainable from India "would not know Korean or Chinese." Now the commission apparently wants to verify this before making the next move.

If chaplains who speak the required languages are found in India, they would have to be flown all the way to Korea. TO EXPLAIN the commission's action, when qualified chaplains

are already available in Korea, the spokesman said chaplains for the prisoners could "only be Indians" because the armistice agreement says "operating personnel... shall be provided exclusively by India."

This correspondent pointed out that first of all the text of the agreement does not oblige India to provide only Indian personnel. It places the obligation of providing personnel on India alone without restricting their origin.

Secondly, the truce agreement already has been interpreted to permit non-Indian personnel for some operations connected with the prisoners when qualified Indians are not at hand.

The spokesman admitted this, saying it was done because "there was no other way out."

The repatriation commission thus insists on the narrowest and

Missioners In Departure Ceremonies



Notre Dame, Ind.—The Very Rev. Christopher J. O'Toole, C.S.C., superior general of the Congregation of the Holy Cross (seated), gives letters of obedience to six Holy Cross missionaries during a departure ceremony in Sacred Heart church at Notre Dame University here. The missionaries, who were to leave for Pakistan, are left to right: the Rev. Gerald McMahon, C.S.C., of Binghamton, N. Y.; (kneeling) the Rev. Daniel Kennerk, C.S.C., of Fort Wayne, Ind.; the Rev. Thomas C. Zimmerman, C.S.C., of Crestline, O.; Brother Brian Lyon, C.S.C., of Loritto, Ky.; Sister Mary Carmen, C.S.C., of Woodland, Calif.; and Sister Mary Francis Bernard, C.S.C., of Detroit.

Israeli Catholics, Village Destroyed, Appeal To Pope

Jerusalem (NC) — Close to 700 Catholics in Israel have appealed to Pope Pius XII for aid after Israeli authorities destroyed their homes and the Catholic church at Kaf-Birama, three miles from the Lebanese border.

In a message sent to the Holy Father, the Israeli Catholics stated: "Israeli authorities have completely destroyed our church at Kaf-Birama, Wednesday, September 16. Six hundred and seventy Israeli citizens, faithful without lands, and without work."

DESTRUCTION OF the village was carried out on September 16 and 17 by fire bombs and dynamite. It occurred as the villagers were still hopeful of being permitted to return to the village from which they were forcibly ousted by Israeli troops five years ago.

The villagers still had before them promises made by the late Israeli President Chaim Weizmann in answer to a petition sent him by Maronite Patriarch Anthony Peter Arida of Antioch. Since 1949, the villagers said, the government has often promised they could return to their homes.

The villagers were not involved in the Arab-Jewish strife following the end of the British mandate. In October 1948, the village was occupied by Israeli troops. For 15 days the troops remained.

Diocese Arranges For Newspaper

Paterson, N. J. (NC) — Paterson's Bishop James A. McNulty has made arrangements with The Advocate, Newark archdiocese newspaper, to serve his diocese with the first edition scheduled for next January. It has been announced here that Father Carl J. Wolsin with offices in the Paterson Chancery Building, will serve as the Paterson edition editor.

Swiss Hierarchy Geneva (RNS) — The Swiss Roman Catholic hierarchy protested here against the recent arrest and banishment of Polish Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński by the Polish Communist regime.

\$300 Million To War Relief In Ten Years

St. Louis (NC) — American Catholics have contributed more than \$300,000,000 in cash and supplies for the relief of war victims throughout the world in the past ten years. This figure was announced by Father Aloysius J. Wycislo, assistant executive director of War Relief Services — National Catholic Welfare Conference, at the Catholic Charities meetings here.

In addition, according to Father Wycislo, 155,000 refugees have been aided in finding homes in the United States through the cooperation of Catholic Charities directors.

French Parish Gets Negro Pastor

Toulouse, France (NC) — For what is thought to be the first time in history a French parish has a Negro pastor. He is a priest from French West Africa, in France to study. He has been named temporary pastor of a rural parish near here. His parishoners have come to regard him so highly that a number of them are advocating a sort of permanent priest exchange program between France and its overseas possessions.

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