

Neutrals Still Fail To Provide Chaplains

Panmunjom, Korea — (NC) — The Indian custodian force and the Neutral Nations Commission still fail to provide chaplains for the Chinese and North Korean anti-communist prisoners they hold. Seven weeks now have passed since the first of these prisoners were transferred to their custody in the demilitarized zone.

Previous reports stated that about 500 Korean Catholics and 278 Chinese Catholics are among the 2,500 anti-communist prisoners of war whom the Reds attempt to persuade into returning to their communist homelands.

After repeated questions from outside and lengthy discussion behind closed doors, the commission voted to cable to India on October 12, asking if priests and ministers speaking Chinese and Korean were available there. The Indian commander, Maj. Gen. K. S. Thimayya, had said a week earlier that he did not think such qualified chaplains were available in India.

On the day the cable was sent the Indian spokesman told the NC News Service correspondence that an answer might be expected within two days. Now, 19 days later, the same spokesman informed the NC correspondent, "No reply received yet from India." He said no provision has been made to supply chaplains in the meantime from Korea.

ACTUALLY, CHAPLAINS of India.

U. S. Program Irks Catholics In Lebanon

Beirut, Lebanon — (NC) — U. S. assistance programs in the Near East have won the gratitude of Lebanese Catholics, but they are "confused" by the proselytizing activities of American Protestant missionaries in completely Catholic communities of their country.

THIS WAS one of the reports made here to Msgr. Thomas J. McMahon, president of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine and national secretary of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association in New York, who spent a week visiting Church dignitaries and Catholic officials in charge of relief programs for Arab refugees from Palestine.

The report came from a prominent prelate who asked: "With 1,000,000 pagans in the world who do your American Protestant missionaries have to choose as a so-called mission field this country of Lebanon, where 53 per cent of the people are Christians, and 37 per cent are Catholics with a history going back to the Apostles?"

The same prelate said that the "undying gratitude" of Catholics here to the 30 million Catholics of the United States for their "tremendous generosity in these trying times" was not enough to dispel the misgivings among the people over certain phases of American activity in these parts.

IN THIS connection, another Catholic dignitary reported to Monsignor McMahon that only one Catholic institution in the entire Middle East has received millions of dollars.

"I admire the United States, and I pray God to bless her and keep her," the Lebanese Catholic spokesman declared, "but I must point out the attitude of my people, who are eternally grateful to you and your people, but are confused by the use of what sometimes is American government money to encourage proselytizing."

Lebanon is the only country in Asia besides the Philippine Republic that has a Christian majority. The works of the Catholic Church are multiple. Ancient monasteries are on almost every peak in almost every valley of the country.

Iron Curtain Catholics Face Schism Threat

Vienna — (NC) — A new effort is being made by the Kremlin-controlled Russian Orthodox Church to lead eastern Europe's Catholics into schism.

Reports reaching here state that a team of high-ranking Russian Orthodox clergymen are now touring the Iron Curtain countries to examine prospects for bringing the Catholic Church in Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary under the influence of the Russian Orthodox Church.

COMING FROM the office of the Moscow patriarchate, the Orthodox clergymen first stopped at Bratislava, Slovakia. They are scheduled to visit also Prague, and parts of Poland, Hungary and Rumania.

The Moscow synod of the Orthodox Church is reported following with great attention the Red assault on the Catholic Church in Poland. The synod is said to believe that the time is ripe for a plan to impose the Orthodox Church on Eastern Europe and eliminate the Catholic Church there.

At Bratislava, the Orthodox clergymen reportedly offered scholarships to 120 Slovak Catholic youths to study at Orthodox seminaries in Moscow and Kiev. The offer was made to youths at the Maxim Gorki state orphanage at Bratislava.

THE MOSCOW mission was reported devoting much time to its factfinding in Slovakia which has traditionally had a very strong devotion to the Church of Rome. The Russian clergymen toured the Slovak national shrines and witnessed the deep religious devotion of the rural population.

Red Poles, Czechs Irked By Cardinal Spellman Talk

Munich, Germany — (NC) — Communist radio stations in Poland and Czechoslovakia are singling out His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Henry Ford II, and Walter P. Reuther for special vilification in the general attacks on Radio Free Europe and its sponsor, the Crusade for Freedom.

ALL THREE came in for swift and bitter denunciation immediately following the broadcast by the Cardinal-Archbishop of New York of a message of sympathy to Iron Curtain captives, during a recent visit to Radio Free Europe headquarters here.

The effectiveness of this broadcast is reflected in the speed with which the satellite stations in Prague and Warsaw rushed to answer. The Reds compared Cardinal Spellman to Hitler and branded him a "Vatican spy." In the same broadcast the Reds denounced Mr. Ford and Mr. Reuther, chairman and vice chairman respectively of the Crusade for Freedom, which was then holding a conference in Washington.

In his message, reported earlier, Cardinal Spellman prayed for peace, which he said could be attained, in part, through continuous broadcasts to captives behind the Iron Curtain, setting forth America's true aims for "freedom of all peoples."

Twelve hours after Cardinal Spellman spoke, the Czech radio came on the air to denounce the New York prelate. "Cardinal Spellman prayed to God that Radio Free Europe, so heartily supported by his countrymen, would succeed in its aims. Adolf Hitler also used to turn to Providence when he did not know what to do," the radio charged.

"TO GIVE the Cardinal's prayers more splendor, a society called the American Freedom Movement met in America. Here the appeals to the Almighty and Providence were joined by Henry Ford, the notorious manufacturer of cars and tanks. In moving harmony with him was Reuther, the leader of the American trade union organization, and other people harboring the pious wish to conquer the democratic countries in order to revive America's dead business in these regions," the Prague radio said.

The Cardinal's message also caused a similar outcry from Poland, now in the throes of a major Catholic purge in which an estimated 2,500 priests and laymen have been imprisoned in the past three months.

Nixon Handles Fund Honoring Heroic Priest

Denver, Colo. — (NC) — A \$1,700 fund honoring a Catholic Army chaplain is being distributed in the Orient by Vice President Nixon.

Collected by the China-Burma-India Veterans Association the fund will go to underprivileged children in India, Pakistan, Burma and Nationalist China.

It was spurred by the Ex-CBI Roundup, publication of the veteran group, after a story appeared in that magazine describing the heroic death of Father Martin J. O'Gara, S.J., in a plane crash while en route home from service in the China-Burma-India theater.

Father O'Gara aided passengers to escape from the burning plane and gave his own parachute to a serviceman. Eight passengers escaped the ship but Father O'Gara went down with the plane when it crashed into the Mediterranean Sea.

Vice President Nixon was asked by the veterans to distribute the fund money during his current worldwide tour.

He called the Chaplain O'Gara Fund one of the finest gestures of charity he had witnessed in a long time.

Catholics Buy 'Huckleberry' House As Retreat Center

Washington, D. C. — (NS) — The house where John Wilkes Booth hid after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln will become part of a Catholic men's retreat center, it was announced here.

The old mansion, known as "Huckleberry," is situated on a 238-acre tract on the Potomac River 40 miles below Washington. The property traces its history back to the earliest Catholic settlements in Maryland about 1650.

Booth made his way through southern Maryland after the shooting of President Lincoln in Ford's Theatre the night of April 14, 1865. Ten days later he was ferried south across the

Potomac at night by two "Jinks," men who carried "Huckleberry" on their backs and hid the assassin in a Virginia barn and in a hay stack, although numerous dramatic stories that he escaped were told for many years.

Purchase of the "Huckleberry" tract and house was announced by the Rev. Neil Gargan, director of the League of Retreatants of the Archdiocese of Washington. He said \$300,000 must be raised to erect a retreat house and restore other buildings on the property. The league has more than 2,000 members.

ST. LOUIS LIBRARY TO HONOR POPE — Permission for construction of the Pope Pius XII Memorial Library to house Vatican Library microfilms in the U.S. has been granted by His Holiness Pope Pius XII, it was announced here.

The library, at St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo., will make more than 600,000 treasured manuscripts of the Vatican Library available to scholars in the U.S. for the first time.

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GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

THE vast majority of people read nothing but the newspapers. As a result they know the conflicts and scandals and passing events of the world but little of the goodness and heroism of the faithful. Our times are dark indeed but they are not as dark as in previous centuries. For example, take 64 years, the average lifetime of a man running from 1389 to 1453. The Church then suffered from without and from within. From without by the invasion of the Turks, who defeated the Serbs, the French and invaded Eastern Europe; from within by the 100 Years War, a crusade against Pope Martin V, a Council which denied the primacy of Peter, the definitive schism of the Greek Orthodox Church, and the fall of Constantinople to the Turks.

Today there is a cold war, but there is also a warm love. We can thank God for three blessings: 1) the greatest unity within the Church between the faithful and the Bishops and the Holy Father; 2) a spirit of sacrifice and generosity for the spread of the Kingdom of God throughout the world; 3) the multitude of martyrs who are dying for the faith behind the Iron and Bamboo Curtains.

This consciousness of blessings intensifies as we read together two books: the Annals of the Martyrs of the first five centuries, and the account of the martyrdom of our missionaries in China. It is remarkable how the fortitude of the Chinese and the Eastern Catholics matches the courage of the early martyrs. Our Lord is never without His witnesses.

As we read of young Chinese Catholics defying the Communists by the continuous recitation of the Rosary outside prisons where priests and Sisters are martyred, it reminds us of one of the Elders in the Book of the Apocalypse asking: "Who are they who are robed in white?" The Lord answered: "These have come here out of the great affliction; they have washed their robes white in the Blood of the Lamb." They are the martyrs! The martyrs of the twentieth century!

You are their brothers and sisters if you make a sacrifice to spread and propagate the Faith for which they died. Have you ever received a God Love You Letter? These good people have; they have denied themselves something for Jesus and Mary!

GOD LOVE YOU to S. D. for \$8. "Enclosed is a day's wages for you to use as you see fit." ... to S. M. for \$3. "I shall continue to send \$5 a week until I reach the sum of \$96.65, the price of a winter coat which I am sacrificing for the Missions." ... to J. A. C. for \$3. "Please consider this as my 'dime' and a dime for 49 other people who may want to help but can't through no fault of their own." ... to J. M. "This \$100 was to be used as part payment on a new television but we had the old one repaired instead." ... to A. G. "Enclosed is \$20 for the Missions in gratitude for my health and being able to earn my living." ... to M. E. N. for \$2. "I was going to buy a necklace and bracelet but I don't have to have the jewelry and I know you can always use the money." ... to Mr. and Mrs. F. R. "I am enclosing \$10 in gratitude and thanksgiving for favors and blessings received from Our Lord and the Blessed Mother and many Saints." ... to T. and M. M. "We feel sorry for the little children in the far away missions. This \$5 we received selling flowers in front of our house." ... to E. C. "I was wounded in Korea and know how much these people need this money. The 'Chink' who wounded me is the one I hope will get my dime. If I didn't get wounded I would still be there. That 'Chink' did me a great favor so now I would like to help him." ... to C. R. "Please accept this small sacrifice for those starving in India. I wanted to buy rats but kept thinking of the poor people who haven't any food on their tables."

Our Lord said: "Pray for them who persecute you." The World Mission Rosary will be a good reminder to pay for those who persecute. At your request and a \$2 offering we will send you a World Mission Rosary blessed by me.

Be a Catholic who loves the Sacrifice of the Mass by a sacrifice of self. Cut out this column pin your sacrifice to it and mail it to the Most Reverend Fulton J. Sheen National Director of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith 100 East 58th Street, New York 16, New York or your Diocesan Director Very Rev. Msgr. John S. Randall, 56 Chestnut Street, Albany, New York.

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