

House Group Hears Of Red Persecution

New York (NC)—A Catholic Bishop exiled from Lithuania told members of a house committee here how he obtained secret communist documents relating to anti-religious measures by Soviet forces occupying his homeland in 1941.

Auxiliary Bishop Vincent Brizys of Kaunas, told of Soviet suppression of religion in testimony before the House Select Committee to investigate seizure and forced incorporation of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia by the USSR. The committee, headed by Representative Charles J. Kersten of Wisconsin, has been hearing testimony for several days.

BISHOP BRIZYS said he obtained from friends secret Soviet documents in which the teaching of all religion to children and the observance of all holy days were ordered abolished. He submitted true copies of the documents to the committee.

The prelate, who came to the United States in 1951, testified that within five months after the Soviets occupied Lithuania in 1940, Church property was confiscated and leading personnel of Catholic and patriotic societies were arrested; many were tortured and shot and others sent to concentration camps in Russia.

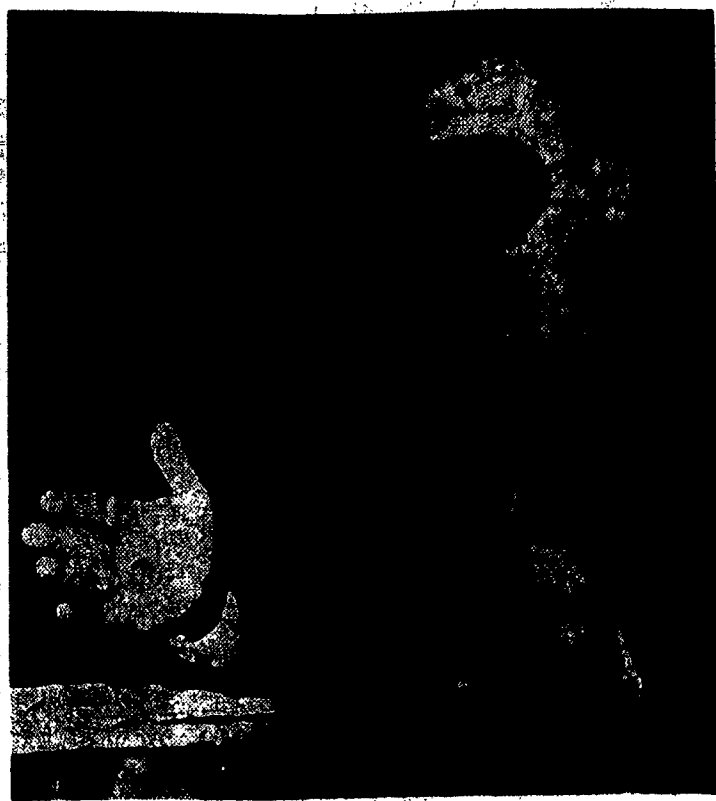
"All Catholic newspapers and magazines were suppressed during the first week of occupation," Bishop Brizys said. "Efforts to have at least one catechism or prayer book were futile. Without any compensation all printing establishments were taken over."

Prelates and priests, expelled from their rectories, were repeatedly evicted from rooms provided for them by private persons, Bishop Brizys said, adding that in one year 16 Catholic priests were killed in Lithuania. In 1941, the prelate said, the Soviet plenipotentiary in Kaunas told him, "with all its power and all its experience Moscow will combat religion everywhere."

A LITHUANIAN priest wearing a mask to conceal his identity so that relatives now in his homeland will not suffer reprisals, told the committee that he had been imprisoned by the Russians and subjected to brutal punishment for six months.

At one time while he was being tortured, the priest said, a captor scoffed at his faith saying: "Show where is your God now. Your God is on vacation now. Nobody helps you."

In another development, Chairman Kersten said his committee may soon be ready to ask the U. S. Government to demand that the Soviets get out of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.



Washington, D.C.—Masked to hide his identity, an exiled Lithuanian Catholic priest, who suffered terrorism at the hands of the Communists when they invaded his country, tells his story before a special House committee here. The Congressman were investigating the seizure by Russia in 1940 of the Baltic states Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. The priest declined to identify himself to avoid bringing harm to his relatives still living in Lithuania. He was one of five exiled clergymen from the Baltic who testified before the committee. (RNS Photo)

St. Bridget Prayer Booklet Censured for Superstition

Yonkers, N. Y. — (NC) — The booklet, "The Secret of Happiness," dealing with 15 prayers reputedly revealed to St. Bridget of Sweden, was disapproved because of "false and superstitious promises which accompany the prayers," according to The Cowl magazine, published here by the Capuchin Fathers.

Several months ago when the booklet was being circulated widely in the New York archdiocese area and other places, His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, warned Catholics that the prayer booklet was disapproved. The Cardinal's warning stated that there is absolutely no foundation for the story and no mention of the prayers or promises are found in any of St. Bridget's authentic writings. The Cowl emphasized that it is the promises which are objectionable and the reason for the condemnation.

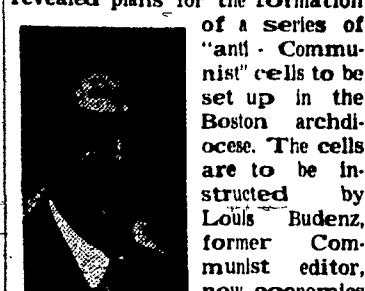
the Imprimatur of the Seez and Nice dioceses in France. The Cowl magazine said that the material in the booklet was condemned as early as June 30, 1951, by the Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office. The set of 15 prayers to be recited daily are supposed to have been given by Our Lord to St. Bridget with a number of promises attached to the performance of the devotion. The magazine pointed out that there is absolutely no foundation for the story and no mention of the prayers or promises are found in any of St. Bridget's authentic writings. The Cowl emphasized that it is the promises which are objectionable and the reason for the condemnation.

A project in which the women are trained to make hand-work goods was reported by Sister Mary Gabriella of the Maryknoll Sisters' Clinic in Pusan. In a letter to War Relief Services, National Catholic Welfare Conference in New York.

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Budenz Listed To Train Anti-Red Cells

Lawrence, Mass. — (NC) — The Archbishop of Boston has revealed plans for the formation of a series of "anti-Communist" cells to be set up in the Boston archdiocese. The cells are to be instructed by Louis Budenz, former Communist editor, now economics professor at Fordham University.



Archbishop Richard J. Cushing proposed a widespread movement headed by professional and business men in an address before the Bon Secours Hospital Men's Guild here.

THE PRELATE said that he planned to have Mr. Budenz teach community leaders Communist methods and practices, so that those leaders can recognize and combat them.

"I want Budenz to spend six to eight weeks teaching 60 to 80 business and professional men the methods and evils of Communism," he said. "These men could then take what they have learned and instruct others in understanding and combatting the evils of Communism."

A former managing editor of the Communist Daily Worker, Mr. Budenz was brought back to the Catholic faith by Auxiliary Bishop Fulton J. Sheen of New York, several years ago.

Archbishop Cushing declared that Mr. Budenz "is especially qualified to acquaint these men with the subtle programs of Communism."

PEARL HARBOR DEAD TRIBUTE



Pearl Harbor, Hawaii—Chaplain (Lt. Comdr.) Otto E. Sporrer of Los Angeles, Calif., Catholic chaplain at the U.S. Navy receiving station here, holds a silver chalice designed as a tribute to the service men and women who died during the attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941. Contributed by personnel stationed here, the chalice was used for the first time on the 12th anniversary of the attack in services at the Catholic chapel here, where it will remain. The Roman design of the vessel incorporates the basic ships of the Navy's modern fleet. Around the cup's base are the designs of an aircraft carrier, a battleship, a cruiser and two destroyers. Also etched into the base is the Papal Coat of Arms. A cross and an anchor are designed on the back of the cup's paten, or plate, with the following motto engraved in Latin: "Hail Star of the Sea, Make Us Humble and Chaste." (RNS Photo)

Nuns Direct Korean Widows Support

New York (NC)—Widows of Korean soldiers are working to support themselves and their families under a Maryknoll Sisters rehabilitation program.

A project in which the women are trained to make hand-work goods was reported by Sister Mary Gabriella of the Maryknoll Sisters' Clinic in Pusan. In a letter to War Relief Services, National Catholic Welfare Conference in New York.

THE WORK project started in a little room at the Pusan con-

vent where the widows were taught how to make luncheon sets, guest towels, men's shirts, and many other articles which have a market locally.

The project grew and now occupies a workshop called Nazareth House, erected by the United Nations Civil Assistance Command for Korea.

Women at Nazareth House have also made and sold more than 30,000 hand-painted Christmas cards, the sister reported. "It is a great satisfaction to

these people who have been deprived of the bare necessities of life for so long to be able to earn enough to provide some of them for themselves and their families," Sister Gabriella said.

New Orphanage Jamaica Plain, Mass.—(NC)—An opening crowd of more than 10,000 men, women and children visited Nazareth, the new \$4,000,000 child care center, in this Boston suburb.

Hierarchy In U.S. Nears 200 Mark

Washington — (NC) — With a membership of 194, the Hierarchy of the United States is now larger than it has ever been before.

Included are 35 Archbishops, 162 Bishops and one Mitred Abbot, Abbot Vincent G. Taylor, O.S.B., of Belmont Abbey.

Of the 35 Archbishops, 26 are the heads of archdiocesan sees, including the four Cardinals. Their Eminences Edward Cardinal Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit; Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago; Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, and James Francis Cardinal McIntyre, Archbishop of Los Angeles. The rank of Cardinal is a personal honor and in no way affects the rank of the holder their title "ad personam," see a Cardinal may hold.

SEVEN OF the Archbishops that is personally. This is also an honor granted by the Pope which has no effect on the rank of their jurisdictions. The seven "ad personam" Archbishops are Edward F. Hoban, Bishop of Cleveland; Joseph P. Hurley, Bishop of St. Augustine; Thomas E. Molloy, Bishop of Brooklyn; Aloisius J. Muench, Bishop of Fargo and Papal Nuncio to Germany; John F. Noll, Bishop of Fort Wayne; Gerald P. O'Hara, Bishop of Savannah-Atlanta and Papal Nuncio to Ireland; and John Mark Gannon, Bishop of Erie.

Also among the Archbishops are Archbishop Leo Binz, Co-adjutor of Dubuque, and Archbishop William D. O'Brien, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago. Archbishop O'Brien holds his rank as the result of the temporary elevation of his titular see to archiepiscopal status by the Holy Father as a mark of personal esteem.

The 162 Bishops include the heads of 90 Latin Rite dioceses within the United States proper. Four others head sees outside the borders of the country proper: Bishops James P. Davis of San Juan, Puerto Rico; James E. McManus, C.S.S.R., of Ponce, Puerto Rico; Dermot O'Flanagan of Juneau, Alaska, and James J. Sweeney of Honolulu, Hawaii.

THREE OF THE Bishops are Vicars Apostolic: Bishop Apollinaris Baumgartner, O.F.M. Cap., Vicar Apostolic of Guam; Bishop

Francis D. Gleason, S.J., Vicar Apostolic of Alaska, and Bishop Thomas J. Feeney, Vicar Apostolic of the Caroline and Marshall Islands.

All these Bishops with jurisdictions outside the country have their sees in U. S. territories, possessions or mandated areas.

Three of the Bishops, including one Auxiliary, belong to an Eastern Rite. They are Bishop Daniel Ivancho of the Pittsburgh diocese of the Greek Rite, Bishop Constantine Bohachevsky of the Ukrainian Greek Rite diocese and Bishop Ambrose J. Senyahyn, O. S. B. M., Auxiliary of the Ukrainian Greek Rite diocese.

THERE ARE FOUR Coadjutor Bishops, a smaller number than in many years. They are Coadjutor Bishops Daniel J. Feeney of Portland, Maine; Thomas K. Gorman of Dallas; Thomas J. McDonnell of Wheeling and William A. Scully of Albany.

Fifty of the Bishops are Auxiliaries, 47 of whom are attached to regular dioceses. One, already mentioned, belongs to the Greek Rite and the two others are attached to the Military Ordinariate, which is headed by Cardinal Spellman as Military Vicar. They are Bishop William R. Arnold, Military Delegate, and Bishop James H. Griffiths, Chancellor of the Military Ordinariate.

Special Marian Year Hymn Composed

Vatican City — (NC) — A special Marian Year hymn, "To the Virgin Immaculate," has been composed by Magr. Licinio Ruffo, of Rome, according to a Vatican press office announcement.

The announcement said that the hymn, with words supplied by P. E. Romanelli, has been published by the Franciscan Fathers at the Church of Santa Maria in Araceli, under the patronage of the Marian Year committee.



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(signed) Pius P. P. XII From a Pontifical Letter of the Holy Father, sent to the Most Reverend Edmund V. O'Hara, Bishop of Kansas City.

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