

# Reds 'Re-Write' Gospels To Dupe Satellite Peoples

By JUDITH LISTOWEL  
(Correspondent, N.C. W.C. NEWS SERVICE)

London — The Communists are "re-writing" the Gospels in a new tactic designed to deceive poorly educated peoples in Soviet satellite countries into thinking that Christianity and Communism are entirely compatible.

Instead of openly vilifying the Christian Faith, the new Moscow regime of Premier Georgi Malenkov has resorted to the device of giving Catholics and other Christian believers versions of the Scriptures which portray Christ as the friend of Communism.

**THE FINE HAND** of Metropolitan Nikolai of Krutitsky, a high dignitary of the Russian Orthodox Church, is detected in the new Soviet maneuver. Frequently referred to as the "Red Rasputin," this strongly pro-Red churchman has long been a powerful influence in the shaping of Soviet anti-religious policy.

Not only Christians, but Buddhists and adherents of many other faiths living under Red rule, are the targets of the new drive to make the Gospels a weapon of Communist propaganda.

In fact, one of the most striking illustrations of Moscow's new technique is to be found in a recent issue of a newspaper published in Viet Nam, a largely Buddhist country where Catholics number less than 2,000,000. This was the story of Christ as relayed by Viet Minh propagandists and published in Nham Dan as well as broadcast over the Viet Nam radio.

"ONE THOUSAND nine hundred and fifty-three years ago, a simple infant of the people was born with the name of Jesus. His mother, the Bible says, was a landless peasant oppressed and robbed by the landowners, who was obliged to give birth in a cold and desolate stable. During his infancy and until the day he became a man, Jesus had neither money nor property, nor rice fields, and lived only by his hands. "During all his life, he struggled with all his might against the landowners, feudalists, bourgeois and exploiters. During all his life, he defended the people

and resolutely ranked himself with the working class. During all his life, he led active propaganda, teaching everyone to love his fatherland, practice justice and serve mankind.

"Unfortunately, among his twelve trusted disciples there was a man called Judas, who sold him for a few cents to the clique of the reactionaries, all, like the Judases of today, betraying God and their fatherland to serve the colonialist imperialists. Jesus, making a sacrifice of his life, died on the cross, but his precepts of love for the fatherland, equality of men and fraternity will echo throughout the world.

"All our compatriots — Buddhists and Catholics — support the agrarian policy in order to give the land to the person who cultivates it. Thus we apply exactly the precepts of Jesus and we sincerely respect his will. On the occasion of the anniversary of the birth of Jesus, we acclaim the Bible, love of the fatherland, equality of men and fraternity under God. We sincerely wish all our Catholic compatriots numerous benedictions."

**THE NEW Communist tactic** in dealing with religion has been notably illustrated also in England, where Reds are trying to infiltrate the Girl Guide movement. It can be observed in the speeches of Party members and fellow travelers, whose chief theme is: "You can be a good Christian and a good Communist."

It is expected that a Communist version of Christ's life, similar to that propagated in Viet Nam, but adapted to the Anglo-Saxon mentality, will be circulated here any day. Believed to have helped Metropolitan Nikolai in preparing this blasphemous concoction is Douglas Maclean formerly on the staff of the Foreign Office in London, who disappeared in May, 1951.

## Mass Under The 'Big Top'



London—Animals join star performers at the traditional Circus Mass under the "Big Top" prior to the show's opening in Earl's Court here. Celebrating the Mass is Father F. Gobber of Italy, assisted by another priest. (RNS Photo).

## Roman Rota Reports Catholic Gains On Marriage Cases Reported In West Germany

Vatican City — (NC) — More than a third of the 170 marriage cases decided by the Sacred Roman Rota in 1953 were handled without charge to the petitioners, according to a report published here by the Vatican press office. The Rota is a court of appeals from diocesan tribunals in matrimonial cases.

Seventy-six, or 44.7 per cent of the Rota's decisions declared the nullity of marriages, while 94, or 55.3 per cent, upheld the validity of marriages which are challenged before the court.

Twenty-five of the 76 affirmative cases, or those in which marriages were found to be null, were dealt with gratuitously as also were 43 of the 94 cases in which opposite decisions were handed down. In addition to these cases, 28 decrees on incidental matters were issued by the high tribunal.

**WHILE THE ROTA** is not limited to matrimonial matters, the preponderance of its work actually consists of such cases. Only seven decisions on other than matrimonial matters were rendered in 1953, bringing the total for the year to 177.

In handling cases free of charge, the Rota adheres to a longstanding tradition of assuring a hearing for persons unable to bear the expenses of a trial. In the first part of 1952, the Holy See spent about \$11,000 handling cases for which petitioners could not pay.

The Vatican press office report noted that there had been a great increase in the Rota's work. It pointed out that the present load represents more than a tenfold increase over the past 40 years. In 1913 there were 37 cases pending before the tribunal, while today there are 910. Meanwhile the number of judges has increased only from 12 to 15 and the staff personnel remains more or less the same. Two of the judges are Americans — Msgrs. Francis J. Brennan, of Philadelphia, and William J. Do-

## Catholic Gains Reported In West Germany

Woodstock, Md. — (NC) — Migrants from east Germany and iron curtain countries has made Catholicism in west Germany numerically stronger than at any time since the Reformation. Father Gustave A. Weigel, S.J., said here.

The theology professor at Woodstock College here has returned from a speaking tour throughout west Germany, conducted under the auspices of the State Department's cultural affairs section. He was accompanied on the trip by a Protestant minister and a Jewish Rabbi.

**FATHER WEIGEL** estimated that some 50 per cent of the west German population now is Catholic. He said that a spirit of mutual religious tolerance exists and this has bolstered the Christian Democratic Union, the Christian party which successfully is holding the center against socialist and Communist extremes in the republic.

There are some 900 churches in west Germany, Father Weigel said, which are used for both Catholic and Protestant services at different times.

Father Weigel said he was told by one German Bishop that Catholicism still is strong in east Germany, where the Catholics among the population are in the minority.

**ONE NATIONAL** trait among the Germans which surprised Father Weigel was their pride in being addressed as Europeans. He said the Germans appear confident of a secure future with other European nations. He estimated that 10 per cent of the 50-million population of west Germany is made up of refugees and escapees from the iron curtain countries.

## Mauriac Urges Tito Seen Useless In Event Of War

Paris — (NC) — Francois Mauriac, the famous writer who has always been a warm defender of the priest-worker apostolate, has called on its members to submit willingly to the instructions of the Holy See.

Writing in the daily newspaper, Le Figaro, M. Mauriac says: "Nothing is as clear as the point of view of the Church as stated by (His Eminence Achille) Cardinal Lienart (Bishop of Lille). The experiment cannot be continued under its present form. It must be continued under a new form."

**"IT IS NOT** for us to decide regarding the merits of this decision, what is important for us today is to know how it will be received by the priest-workers; they will either show, by placing their membership in the Church above all things, that the apprehensions of the hierarchy have been in vain or they will justify them by an obstinate attitude."

The article then states that in the view of the author, the Holy See's decision may well have been prompted by the consideration that the deproletarianization of the workers will make rapid progress during the next 50 years while the function of the priest will remain the same until the end of time.

"The man who has received from the Son of Man the power to forgive sins and who consecrates and elevates the chalice in the name of all the peoples, will never be a man like others," M. Mauriac writes.

**"If the priest-worker** believes in what he is and what he does, then the greatest love toward his brethren must be for him to give up serving them according to his own views — no matter how just they may appear to him and no matter how ineffective he may, perhaps, deem the methods imposed by the hierarchy."

## Our Lady's Statue Planned For Port

Dublin — (NC) — Funds have been collected by dock and port workers to erect a statue of Our Lady at Dublin port and a site has been granted by the Port and Docks Board.

Plans for the memorial will be submitted to the Archbishop of Dublin and the board for their approval.

Los Angeles — (NC) — "The United States will eventually say that its support of Tito was one of the biggest mistakes it ever made," declared Dr. Anthony Butkovich

Croatian-born educator and lecturer in an interview here.

Giving five reasons why he thinks Tito will be useless to the U. S. in the event of a war with Russia, he said:

**"FIRST OF ALL** the Croatian people. They have fought for hundreds of years for independence — and Tito has given them slavery.

"The peoples within Yugoslavia are deeply religious. Forty per cent of the country is Catholic. Tito's persecution of the Church shows them he is not of them.

"Too," he continued "Tito has completely shattered the social-economic structure of the country, a structure that he collapsed by failures in collectivization of agriculture and industry.

**"ANOTHER REASON** Tito would be of no use to the West is because of the poor geographical position of the country, a position strategically impossible to hold. Major Yugoslav cities are within a few hours from Russian tanks and planes; the harbors are small to land troops or supplies, while the mountain roads leading from the sea to the cities are too small for military vehicles."

The last reason Dr. Butkovich advanced was: "As for Tito as an effective guerrilla fighter, this is impossible. He would have to have more support than simply a hard-core military force, and he is so detested by the peasantry for what he has done to them that they would never go to his aid."

## Loss In Church Membership Feared Under Tito Regime

Vienna — (NC) — There is serious danger ahead that the Catholic Church's membership in Yugoslavia may just dwindle away if the Communist government there last another ten to 20 years.

This opinion was expressed by a Yugoslav citizen living in Yugoslavia, who has followed closely developments of the past ten years there. He asked not to be identified.

**THE VAST** majority of Yugoslav Catholics have remained unaffected to Tito's "Marxist enlightenment," he reported, and they continue to flock to churches and religious services. These staunch Catholics are made up of the adults and those youths who had received sound religious training before the advent of the communists.

The situation is different, he reported, when one looks at the youths who were only two and three years old when Tito came to power. They have received their entire education in communist kindergartens and schools.

**THESE CHILDREN** look upon Tito as a "great savior" and on the Church as a capitalist device to enslave the workers. Reported by parents make little effort to correct these erroneous doctrines being instilled in the minds of their children; principally because they are afraid to. They fear that they might be unwittingly denounced by their children and be prosecuted as "enemies of the people's republic."

## Schismatic Group Re-Unites With Catholic Church

Trivulla, Travancore, India — (NC) — The pastor of a Jacobite schismatic church and his followers were reunited here with the Catholic Church.

Father Abraham Puthanpedikayil, pastor of the Jacobite church at Mundakkayam, and about 100 of his parishioners were received into the Catholic Church in the presence of Bishop Joseph Mar Severios of Trivulla. Bishop Severios, himself a convert from the Jacobite church, recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

The Jacobite church of Malabar traces its origin as a schismatic body to the historic Coonen Cross revolt in Cochin in 1653 when a body of Chaldean-Syrian Christians of Malabar renounced allegiance to the Holy See and established an indigenous "Church" of their own.

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