

Over 1,000 Nuns Ousted In 3 Years From Red China

Hong Kong—(NC)—More than 1,000 nuns have been forced out of communist China and have crossed Freedom Bridge here, an American missionary reports.

Father Paul J. Duchesne, Maryknoller from Cohoes, N. Y., who is in charge of the Catholic Welfare Bureau here, has met and given aid to many of these nuns.

One ousted nun he met was 81 years old. She had been blind for the last 25 of her 61 years in China. Blindness followed an unsuccessful operation on a cataract. Asked why she had not long ago returned to her native France, she replied:

"I KNEW the catechism by heart in Chinese but not in French, so I stayed on to teach."

"Some Sisters had been hauled through the streets in an open truck, with placards around their necks declaring their crimes," Father Duchesne said. "Five nuns in Chengtu were made to march through the streets, while 20 soldiers held revolvers on them. Another Sister, in her eighties, had traveled two full days in a wheelbarrow to reach the nearest bus line. Still others, out of prison, had been working 14 hours a day as shoemakers."

However, the Sisters rarely talk about their mistreatment in prison or under house arrest. Instead, they told Father Duchesne they were able to baptize many communists, including high ranking officials, on hospital death beds. They pointed with pride to the fact that nothing could induce their orphans and pupils to accuse the Sisters.

SOME OF the nuns hold decorations and medals from the previous Chinese government. Yet, the communists invented such fantastic charges as that they starved babies and even ate them. All together, they have accused the Sisters of killing at least 120,000 children.

That the communists themselves do not believe these charges is shown in the case of two Sisters. One, a doctor, had been condemned to two years of hard labor for "allowing many patients to die in the hospital through neglect." Yet she was told to continue her work in the

hospital, where she performed operations on communist officials, their wives and children.

In Chungking, a Sister-nurse was jailed after 25 years as a hospital matron. But the Reds released her so she might treat an official who was dangerously ill. However, when he recovered they threw her back into jail.

Missioner Predicts Purge Of Catholics In Red China

Cincinnati—(NC)—When all foreign missionaries are expelled, China will clamp down the Bamboo Curtain and begin religious persecution in earnest, a former prisoner of the Reds said here.

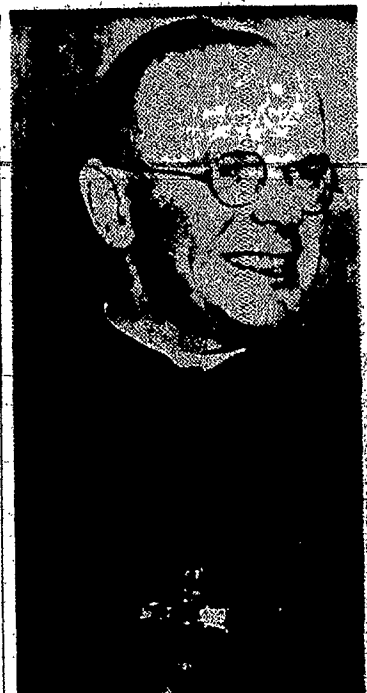
Communists in China are now being cautious because expelled priests and nuns carry news to the outside world, Msgr. Eugene Fahy, S.J., Prefect Apostolic of Yangchow, said here. Once this news link has ended, Red cruelty will no longer be tempered by fears of adverse world opinion, said the Monsignor who spent 10 months in a communist jail before being ousted from China.

MSGR. FAHY predicted ruthless persecution of Chinese Catholics once the curtain is sealed. "Native religious leaders will have to be exterminated," he said. "They cannot be expelled like other nationals."

He quoted a Red official as saying that religion "will be stamped out in China 'even if we must kill three million Catholics to do it.'"

Part of the Red plan includes renewed attempts to set up a Chinese "Catholic Church" under communist control, he said.

Msgr. Fahy said he is certain firm in their faith even under harshest persecution, "but we cannot permit them to struggle alone—they need our prayers."



CARDINAL GRIFFIN Defies Reds



ARCHBISHOP BERAN Defies Caesar

Reds Challenged To Give Archbishop Public Trial

London—(NC)—His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster, has challenged the communist regime in Czechoslovakia to bring Archbishop Josef Beran of Prague to public trial.

"His communist jailers have never dared to place Archbishop Beran on trial," the Cardinal said at a Mass in Westminster cathedral here for the persecuted Church in Czechoslovakia.

"They could label him a 'fascist reactionary' and 'an enemy of the people' yet they could not destroy the truth," the Cardinal added. "They could not deny, he said, that because he refused to submit to fascist pressure Archbishop Beran was arrested by the Nazi Gestapo in June, 1942, and endured nearly three years in Dachau and other concentration camps."

It is hard to call such a man a "fascist reactionary" or an "enemy of the people," Cardinal Griffin said.

"He can hardly use such a term for this distinguished and heroic prelate to whom President Benes gave the highest Czechoslovakian military decoration for his leadership in patriotic duty. Why then does he languish in prison at this

time? Quite simply because he refused to render to Caesar the things that are God's."

Lithuanian Bishops Held Near Moscow

Los Angeles—(NC)—News of three Lithuanian Bishops, seized by the Soviets in World War II, was reported here by Father John A. Kucngis, pastor of St. Casimir's Church.

Lithuanian sources in Rome, Father Kucngis said, have learned from a former Italian army chaplain, recently released by the Soviets, that two of the Bishops are held in Vladimir prison camp 100 miles from Moscow.

The Italian priest, Father Pietro Alligiani, S.J., declared he was held at the same camp with Archbishop Michael Relyns of Wilna, Auxiliary Bishop Francis Ramanauskas of Rieland and Bishop Casimir Matulonis of Kalesory, who died last September of maltreatment.

Archbishop Relyns was reported seriously ill by the former Italian chaplain, Father Kucngis said.

40 Priests Held By Reds In Slovakia

Vienna—(NC)—More than 40 Catholic priests were arrested by communist authorities in the wake of "illegal" celebrations in Slovakia commemorating the 15th anniversary of the proclamation of Slovakia's independence, it was reported here.

(Now a part of Red-ruled Czechoslovakia, Slovakia originally was incorporated in the Republic of Czechoslovakia which was created after the defeat of Austria in World War I. In March, 1939, however, Slovakia declared itself an independent, self-governing state and remained so until the communist "liberation" of 1945.)

THE PRIESTS were said to have been arrested for offering "unlawful" Masses and paying tribute to Msgr. Joseph Tiso, the president of the independent Slovak state, who was hanged in 1947 after having been found guilty of "treason" toward the Czechoslovak Republic.

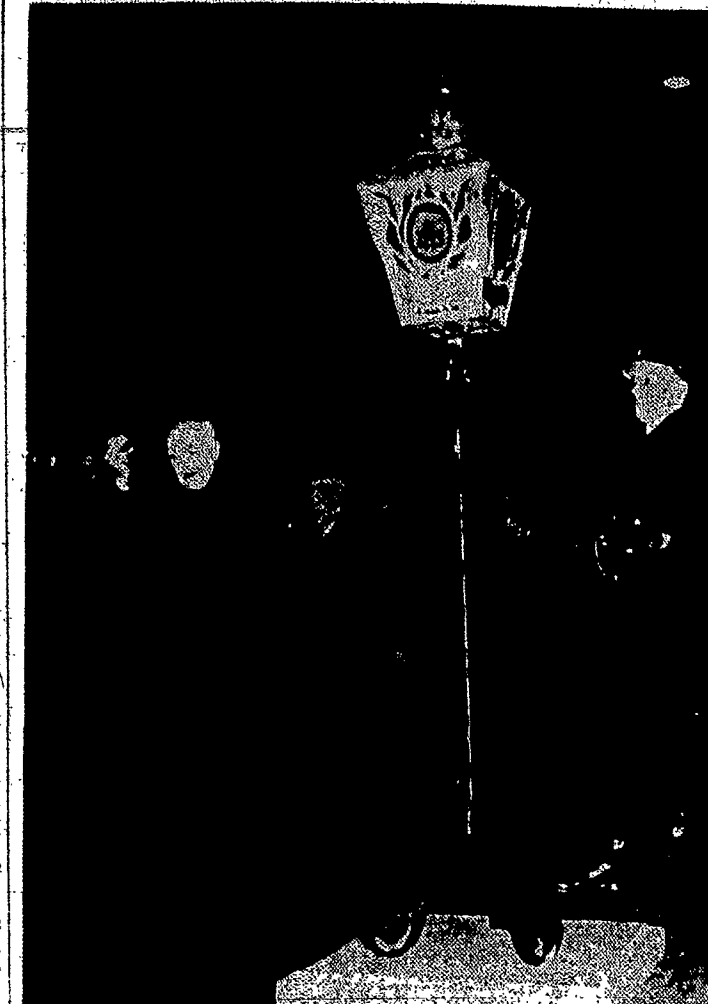
Meanwhile, according to reports, about 1,000 Slovaks were questioned by the police, and hundreds detained in custody for taking part in independence demonstrations.

Groups of Slovak farmers, the report said, gathered in remote country areas around wayside crucifixes and in rural chapels where they could pray for Slovak independence without attracting the attention of the police or of local Communist Party officials.

THE COMMUNIST authorities have been doing their best since the "liberation" to wipe out memories of the former Slovak national state, but the reports indicated that these efforts have been far from successful.

Proof of this, the reports said, was to be found in nationalistic inscriptions found painted on the walls of the churches, schools, public buildings and even private houses on the anniversary of Slovakia's independence. Some of the inscriptions read: "Long live the memory of the martyr, Father Tiso, the first President of Slovakia," and "The Slovaks do not want Czecho-Russian communism."

SILENT CATHOLIC PROCESSION



Amsterdam, The Netherlands—A total of more than 100,000 men participated in three weekly silent processions past this burning lamp here which marks the spot where a miracle of the Blessed Sacrament occurred in the 14th century. The processions, held through the winding streets of this city, commemorated the miracle's anniversary. Since the miracle in 1354, public processions were held yearly until the Reformation. After that, none was held until 1885 when some 60 men started a silent march along the same route followed in the middle ages. Silent processions have been held since then because the country's constitution forbids the public adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Although it is believed that this ban will be removed in the near future, the silent processions will be continued as a sign of devotion to the Sacred Host. (RNS Photo.)

Night Easter Vigil To Be Broadcast

Munich—(NC)—The ceremonies of the Easter Vigil will be broadcast over the network of the Bavarian Radio during night from Easter Saturday to Easter Sunday.

The broadcast will originate in the Neumunster church in Wuerzburg, Bavaria. Pontifical Mass of Easter will also be broadcast.

In 1952, Pope Pius XII renewed for a three-year term, the permission previously granted to Bishops in 1951 to restore the Easter Vigil to its proper

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Iron Curtain Parents Pay Red Fines

Vienna—(NC)—Catholic parents behind the Iron Curtain are paying heavy fines to keep their children from the atheist indoctrination given in the state schools, according to reports reaching here.

The reports tell of a constant decrease in the number of pupils in the state schools, particularly in the countryside. In Polish rural areas, it is stated, only 65 per cent of the children attend the Red schools.

IN SLOVAKIA reportedly not more than 40 per cent of the Catholic children are going to the Red-run schools. In many Catholic villages in Hungary the school attendance is said to be down to between 40 and 65 per cent; in one section of Rumania down to 35 per cent.

Catholic parents in these areas have reportedly banded together and hired "private tutors" for their children. They have employed former schoolmasters, lawyers, and civil servants ousted from their jobs by the Red regime.

Since private schools are forbidden in most of the Red-ruled lands the tutor is not given more than ten children to instruct, the reports state.

Red police have several times broken up these private classes in the homes of Catholic parents. It is reported, and have threatened the tutors. But the movement to circumvent Communist indoctrination of the children goes on.

Small Hospital Given To Nuns

New London, Conn.—(NC)—A 26-bed private hospital given to the Daughters of Mary of the Immaculate Conception will be known as Marian Hospital in commemoration of the Marian Year.

The hospital, which will be the first Catholic hospital in the recently established Norwich diocese, was given to the Sisters by the widow of New London surgeon Dr. Hugh Lema, Sr. It will be open to people of all creeds in New London and surrounding areas.

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