

Missioner's 'Code Letter'

China Reds Will Use Americans They Hold As Bargaining Pawns

Yunling City, N. J.—(NC)—Communist China is readying itself to pull a squeeze play by using Americans still in China "as bargaining pawns" at the coming Geneva conference, Bishop O'Gara, C.P., of Yunling, China, has warned.

"The dope is authentic—straight from the horse's mouth," the Bishop wrote in a letter to the Passionists' Eastern provincial headquarters here. The priest, who was expelled from China by the Reds last year after 22 months in prison, had been in Rome for the last three months where he conferred with Pope Pius XII on the situation of Catholic missionaries in China. He returned to the United States early this month.



BISHOP O'GARA

we will make monkeys out of you and the other hundred Americans still in China since they intend to use every method to gain a seat in the United Nations." (Americans are referred to as "likies" presumably after President Eisenhower's well known nickname.)

Bishop O'Gara characterized this as a "direct threat." He said that three American Passionist priests, under "severe" house arrest in Yunling for more than three years, have been warned personally. He wrote that two other American Passionists are in prison, one for more than 23 months, and their whereabouts is unknown. He related that another American Passionist reached the border of Hong Kong six months ago but was taken back into Red China and now is confined at Changsha, the capital of Hunan, "under circumstances which cannot be ascertained."

"Such a threat will have serious consequences for them," Bishop O'Gara wrote. He added: "This information comes directly from the place where I myself was imprisoned by the Chinese communists and from a prison official who worked me over during my two years of imprisonment. It certainly should be brought to the attention of those who will represent America—and Americans held and threatened by the Reds in China—at the Geneva meeting."

Americans Reported Held As Hostages

Hong Kong — "Not one American missioner has been expelled from Red China since last September," observes Father James F. Smith, society superior of Maryknoll Missioners in Southeast Asia.

"Speculation here is that the Americans are being held back as possible hostages in the event of trouble between Communist China and the United States.

"This is only a guess, but the fact remains that priests and Sisters of other nationalities continue to cross the border regularly."

under "house arrest" in the China interior. The letter relayed a threat to all Americans in China by the Reds regarding the coming Geneva conference.

"I think the matter should be brought to the attention of the U. S. delegation," the Bishop wrote. He quoted the letter, "in actual semi-code used by priests in an effort to reach responsible sources outside of the Bamboo Curtain."

THE "SEMI-CODE" portion of the letter stated: "Now that the boys in the striped pants are going Genevawards—well that will put us in more proximate relation to wearing a striped suit in your old school upstairs—as one of your old teachers told us 'any monkeyshines by your dull

pupil we will make monkeys out of you three and the other hundred likies—so they really intend to get front seats at that place at the end of 42nd Street."

The Bishop wrote that translated, it means:

"Now that the diplomats are going to Geneva, it will put us in greater danger of wearing prison garb in the jail where you were confined, as one of the prison heads told us 'any monkeyshines by Dulles and

House Pamphlet Campaign Aims At Communist Error

Philadelphia—(NC)—More than 300 schoolboys of five city parishes are distributing 50,000 pamphlets prepared by the Catholic Graphic Arts Guild here to emphasize the practical value of Christian belief for the individual, the community and the nation.

THE PAMPHLETS being distributed from door-to-door in St. Stephen, Holy Child, Cathedral, St. Patrick and St. Elizabeth parishes is the first of a series. They explain the purpose and spirit of the Guild and the Catholic Information Center, both of which are directed by Father John G. McFadden.

Established a year ago, the Guild aims to combat the destructive errors of atheistic Communism by advertising and publicizing the truths of Jesus Christ. Its members are profes-

sional men and women employed in every phase of the graphic arts.

FATHER McFADDEN said that the pamphlet, known as "The Seed," urges the fair-minded to examine Christ's teachings in the objective spirit of the soul seeking truth. It also suggests that the troubled souls seek the help of a parish priest.

Subsequent pamphlets to be distributed bi-weekly will cover such topics: What are You?; How to be Happy; How to be Happy in Your Family; How to be Happy as a Citizen, and, How to beappy in Your Job.

Msgr. Sheehy Becomes Rear Admiral



Washington, D. C.—Msgr. Maurice S. Sheehy, head of the Department of Religious Education at Catholic University of America here (second, right), is congratulated by Secretary of the Navy Robert B. Anderson after taking the oath as a Rear Admiral in the Navy's Chaplain Reserve Corps. Looking on are: Mrs. Ellen Sheehy, the priest's mother; and Fleet Admiral William D. Leahy (left). Msgr. Sheehy is the first reserve chaplain of any denomination to be promoted to Rear Admiral, the highest rank that can be attained by a chaplain. He is the third Catholic Chaplain in history to hold flag rank. A decorated veteran of World War II, Msgr. Sheehy wears the Bronze Star Medal, the Commendation Ribbon and the Pacific Campaign Ribbon with six battle stars.

Catholic Unionists Honor Sen. Wagner

New York—(NC)—The Association of Catholic Trade Unionists will award its 1954 Quadragesimo Anno Medal posthumously to the late Senator Robert F. Wagner Sr. convert to Catholicism and author of the Wagner Act.

Mayor Robert F. Wagner Jr. of New York City will accept the award in honor of his father at the A.C.T.U.'s annual Communion Breakfast April 25 at the Hotel New Yorker here. The New York Senator died May 5, 1953.

The Quadragesimo Anno Medal is awarded annually to an individual who has endeavored to translate into American economic and social life the basic program contained in the social encyclicals of the Pope.

Hits Red-Nation Delegates To Protestant Meeting

Chicago—(NC)—A demand that delegates from Communist-controlled countries be barred from attending the World Council of Churches (Protestant) convention in Evanston, Ill. next August, has been made by members of the American Legion.

Commander Al W. Leonard of DeKalb, Ill. said a resolution was adopted unanimously at a meeting in Elgin. He said it declared that delegates from China, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and the eastern zone of Germany, scheduled to attend the Protestant convention, were "merely mouthpieces for the Soviet government and were appointed to church posts as government representatives."

The resolution, he said, also stated that the Immigration Laws

Calendar Reform Opposed By U.S. At United Nations

New York—(NC)—A proposal for world calendar reform offered in the United Nations has been opposed by the United States and Britain. The objections came at a meeting in which a World Jewish Congress representative said that the calendar change would set off bitter religious controversy.

United States also maintained that religious groups seem to be opposed to the Indian-sponsored plan. Britain said there was no public demand for such a calendar change.

The plan which was placed on the provisional agenda for an Economic and Social Council meeting in Geneva this summer called for a year of three-month quarters made up of 91 days each. It also included an international holiday called "Worldsday."

At a seven-nation committee meeting, Dr. Maurice L. Perle, secretary of the World Jewish Congress said that under the plan the Sabbath would become a "moving and wandering festival."

THERE HAS been no official Catholic expression on various calendar reform proposals, including the one currently before the U.N. This proposal would have each quarter of the year begin on a Sunday with a 31-day month followed by two 30-day months. Each year would be rounded out with an unnumbered day following December 30, and leap years would have an extra day after June 30, too.

Individual Catholic scholars and clergymen have spoken both for and against calendar changes. The objections usually focus on the fact that the method of setting the date of Easter, liturgically the Church's top-ranking feast, would be altered.

Both sides have agreed there would be no objection from the viewpoint of dogma. But opponents have urged that existing reasons are not of sufficient weight to warrant abandonment of deeply rooted traditions.

Among recent Catholic spokesmen in support of the calendar change is Father Laurence J. Kenney, S. J., of St. Louis, writing in the Jesuit weekly, America, in 1948.

Jurist Urges Ban On Red Party

Washington—(NC)—Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Michael A. Musmanno petitioned Congress to outlaw the Communist Party, which he said "has no place in this land of God, of law, of decency and respect for one's fellow man."

The jurist, a long-time foe of Communism, made his appeal in testimony before a House Judiciary subcommittee, which is considering several bills designed to outlaw the Communist Party.

The Communist Party in the United States, Justice Musmanno said, is an extension of the Soviet foreign office. It is not a political party.

Concord, N. H.—(NC)—A measure designed to outlaw the Communist Party in New Hampshire and another to put God into the pledge of allegiance to the flag are expected to be considered at the special session of the New Hampshire Legislature which has opened.

The special session was called to consider reform of the State's highway damage award law. Rep. Joseph Atchala of Manchester said he would introduce the bill to outlaw the Communist Party and Rep. Ned R. Harman of Newport announced he would sponsor the measure to change the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

University Fund Villanova, Pa.—(NC)—Villanova University inaugurated a development foundation program to raise \$22,000,000 over a 20-year period at a meeting of its board of associates in Philadelphia.



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