

VATICAN SCIENTIST

Church Not Against Calendar Reform

Vatican City—(BNS)—The Catholic Church is not irrevocably committed to the present calendar and would consider modifications necessary for economic or social needs provided certain conditions were observed, the director of the Vatican Observatory said today.

Writing in the Observatory Roman, Vatican daily, today, the Rev. Daniel O'Connell, S.J., commented on proposals for reform of the calendar on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations meeting in Geneva.

FATHER O'CONNELL said that it is incorrect to describe the new proposals as a "reform of the Gregorian Calendar" as it was intended to correct the defects of the Gregorian reform, which in any way the rule laid down by Pope Gregory XIII, 1582, was intended to determine the Leap Year, which is determined by those who favor a "world calendar" as perfectly adapted to its purpose.

It is true in any that the church has no reason to oppose in principle a modification of the present calendar, Father O'Connell said.

It is indeed a venerable tradition, he said, that places Easter on the first Sunday after the full moon following the Vernal Equinox (the beginning of spring). The church, however, which made this rule would also undoubtedly have the power to alter it if there were grave reasons which would make such a change advisable.

FATHER O'CONNELL stressed that the Gregorian Calendar was merely a continuation of the Julian Calendar, as drawn up by Julius Caesar in 46 and 45 B.C. He pointed out that the Gregorian reform of 1582 consisted of perfecting the rule for leap years and arranging that the date of March 21 would always coincide with the Vernal Equinox.

The Vatican official said that the new plan for a world calendar

New Law Hits Church Schools In South Africa

Cape Town, South Africa—(BNS)—The biggest challenge facing the Church in South Africa at the moment is the declared intention of the government to take control of the mission schools under the provisions of the new Bantu Education Act.

This law threatens to wipe out the mission schools through refusal to continue state subsidies they have received in the past. The hierarchy has so far issued no official statement on the matter, but negotiations are said to be underway between the Bishops and the Department of Native Affairs.

WITH THE FATE of her 819 pupils at stake, the Church meanwhile has followed with the closest interest important speeches by Minister of Native Affairs Dr. H. F. Verwoerd outlining the government's policy with regard to implementing the Bantu Education Act.

The minister stated that there would no longer be a system of mission schools. These would, in the future, come under the supervision of the Department of Native Affairs, he said.

DR. VERWOED said that if the Church or any non-Catholic denomination was prepared to maintain schools entirely at its own expense, it would be free to do so. He stated the Church would also be free to run a training school to provide teachers for such schools at its own expense, or it could employ teachers trained by state training schools.

However, the Minister declared, "so far as subsidized teacher's training schools are concerned, the training of African teachers cannot be left in the hands of missionary societies... The principle must be accepted that the training of Native teachers for state Bantu, community and state-subsidized schools must be under state control."

According to Dr. Verwoerd, arrangements are to be made to indemnify the Church as far as possible for any financial loss resulting from the transfer of the mission schools to state control.

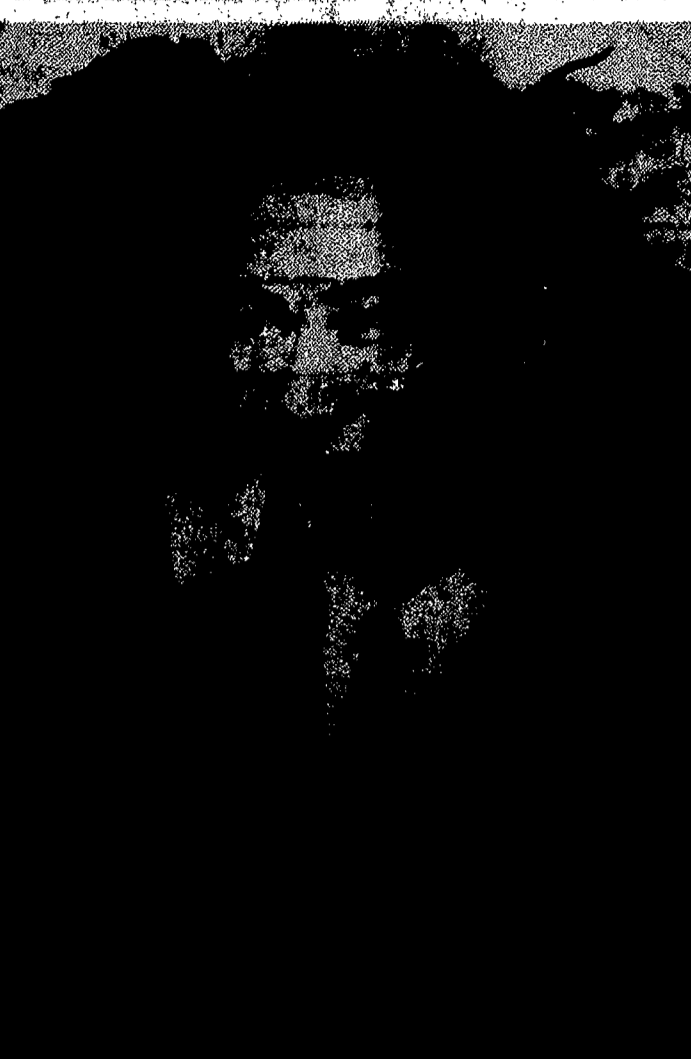
Marian Year Seals Offered

West Roxbury, Mass.—(NC)—Decorative seals portraying the Blessed Mother are being distributed by the curator of the Francis Cardinal Spellman Stamp Collection free of charge as a special Marian Year tribute.

The blue and white seals, which can be placed on mailing envelopes, consist of a simply-drawn picture of the Immaculate Conception, and bear the inscription "Marian Year."

According to the curator of the Cardinal Spellman collection, Sister M. Fidelms, 50 of the seals will be sent free to all who forward a stamped, self-addressed envelope to her at Saint Theresa Convent, 20 Pine Lodge Road, West Roxbury, Mass.

CATHOLIC HEAD OF VIETNAM



Vietnam, Indo-China—Ngo Dinh Diem, Catholic, is the new Prime Minister of war-torn Vietnam in Indo-China. He returned here after a self-imposed exile for two years in the United States and Belgium. Mr. Diem resigned as Minister of the Interior in the Vietnamese government before the war began in Indo-China in protest against French authority. He is a staunch supporter of independence for his country. (BNS Photo)

Vietnam's New Premier, Catholic, Pledges Reforms

Saigon, Vietnam—(NC)—Ngo Dinh Diem, a Catholic, returned here as Vietnam's new Prime Minister with a promise that he will fight for complete democracy in this country and direct participation of the people in the affairs of state. The nationalist leader had left the country four years ago because of disagreements with Chief of State Bao Dai.

REFERRING to the communist threat in Indo-China, Diem spoke of the "very grave hours" through which Vietnam is passing and called for national cohesion to save the situation and "achieve peace and unity."

Diem's return here coincided with a proclamation by Bao Dai, who is in France, giving his Prime Minister full authority in the direction of national affairs. The Prime Minister also pledged to work for a durable peace that will permit all Vietnamese to rebuild their homes and reconstruct the country. He promised social reforms to improve the lot of peasants and workers and to abolish corruption.

NOW IN HIS early fifties, Diem belongs to a noble Catholic family of the mandarin class. He is a brother of Bishop Peter Ngo Dinh Thuc, Vicar Apostolic of Vinh-Long. Another brother was killed by the communistized Vietminh forces.

'Peace Of Surrender'

Betrayal Sellout Of Christian People Charged To Parleys On Vietnam War

By FATHER PATRICK O'CONNOR

Hanoi, Vietnam—(NC)—The greatest sellout of Christian people since Poland now may threaten the Catholics of North Vietnam. It may well threaten those of all Vietnam.

French representatives in Geneva—and, maybe, in parallel discussions elsewhere—are making a deal with the Communist Vietminh. They say it's for peace. That it's a tricky peace. Everybody knows that it would be only the peace of surrender.

surrender of the Vietnamese people and of Vietnamese territory to Communist rule.

IT WOULD increase, not lessen, the danger of a third world war. The Communists plan the conquest of all Asia and the world. Every gain makes them more aggressive.

There are about one million Catholics in North Vietnam, and about 1,500,000 in the entire country. They are not only Catholic, Vietnamese who dread Communist rule.

The French and Vietnamese governments, now associated in the French Union, have an obligation to defend these people. No government has the right to trade them for a cease-fire deal that will open the way for persecution.

Nobody should belittle the immense sacrifices made by France in the long Indo-China war. If this war has not ended favorably by now, it is because others as well as France have made mistakes.

Archbishop Mannix Warns Australia On Red Peril

Melbourne, Australia—(NC)—Archbishop Daniel Mannix of Melbourne warned in a public address here that "if Australians don't throw in their lot with those who axe

preparing to take active measures against communism, the Australia we know and love may be finished."

The 90-year-old, Irish-born prelate declared that although the communist danger is growing nearer to Australian shores, governments and politicians here are "wobbling between London and Washington" and have no firm policy in face of the menace.

"I am afraid," he said, "that the Australian people are not quite awake to the danger of the position in which they live. We have conferences in Geneva, Washington and London and all over the world, but the western powers seem to have found no way yet to stop the forward march of communism."

"In Australia we have succeeded for the moment in putting an end to the communist grip upon most of the industrial unions. But we have to look beyond

Australia to see the danger that is looming not far from our shores. Our quarrel is not with Asian nations struggling to be free, but with communism.

It would seem, Archbishop Mannix added, "that unless the Western Powers, and Australia among them, succeed, and that very soon, in stopping the communist advance in Asia, as well as in Europe, this country is in very grievous peril. I wonder if the young people of Australia are going to be the owners of this country in the time to come, or shall Australia be overrun by communists—white, black, or brown, as the case may be."

Head Broadcasters' Association, N. C.—(NC)—The Catholic Broadcasters' Association elected Father John V. Suhr of Marquette, Mich., president, during its seventh annual convention here.

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