

'Communist Tool'

Protestant Bishop Challenged On Pro-Red Statement

Washington—(NC)—A statement made to the World Council of Churches meeting by a Hungarian Protestant clergyman that religious freedom still exists in his country was contradicted here by two witnesses appearing before a select congressional committee investigating communist aggression in Hungary.



Washington, D. C.—Magr. Bela Varga, president of the National Hungarian Council in exile (right), is shown following his appearance here before a House Committee investigating Communist seizure and control of Hungary. With him are Rep. Charles J. Kersten (center), chairman of the committee, and Major Gen. John H. Stokes, Jr., U. S. A., who also testified. Magr. Varga was the last free-elected speaker of the Hungarian Parliament before the government came under Communist control. (RNS Photo).

Magr. Bela Varga, president of the Hungarian National Council and exiled speaker of the Hungarian Parliament, told the committee that "communism and religious freedom are mutually exclusive as fire and water."

"He who tells the contrary," he added, "does not know communism or religion or he is a conscious tool of the communists."

Another witness, Maj. Gen. John H. Stokes, Jr., commander of the Military District of Washington, who served for three years in Hungary after the war as deputy commander of the American element of the Allied Control Commission of Hungary, testified that by the fall of 1948 "all churches in Hungary, except the Roman Catholic Church, had been forced to capitulate... and the arrest of Cardinal Mindszenty broke the last of the Catholic Church resistance."

TWO OF THE committee members asked Monsignor Varga to tell what he knew of Bishop Janos Peter, the Hungarian Protestant churchman who told the World Council of Churches that there is still religious freedom in Hungary and that conditions in the communist country are favorable for the growth of churches.

Monsignor Varga said that Bishop Peter, who was reluctant to "attack" Bishop Peter, said he would leave this for some prominent Hungarian Protestant who would testify before the committee in New York. However, he said: "A man who leaves the country with a communist passport and returns to a communist country is a communist agent because he must do what he is commanded by the communist government in order to get the passport."

General Stokes called the prelate's statement on passports significant because, he said, passports in Hungary are given out by the communists "only to trusted confidants who will do their work and return."

Chairman Charles Kersten of Wisconsin said that there is a possibility that Bishop Peter's recent statement is in line with the communist program of deceiving by attempting to show there is religious freedom in Hungary, and that he is over here as part of this program. In Munich, Germany, Congressman Kersten said, the committee received testimony that the Hungarian communists were keeping a few big churches open as "showplaces" to prove religious freedom whereas in fact they had closed 3,000 churches.

Congressman Bonin commented that it is the communists' familiar "pattern of confusion." He said it was much the same situation as in Spain during the Civil War where the communists kept a couple of churches open for propaganda purposes and closed the rest and killed the clergy.

IN HIS STATEMENT, General Stokes said that the Roman Catholic Church in Hungary "under the strong spiritual leadership of Cardinal Mindszenty," refused to surrender after the other churches capitulated and "brought every communist move to subjugate the church to the will of the government."

Nine Mercy Nuns Make Final Vows

Nine novice nuns of the Sisters of Mercy pronounced their final vows at impressive rites held Sunday, August 22, in the Motherhouse Chapel on Blossom Road. The ceremony climaxed six years of novitiate and juniorate religious training for the nine Sisters.

The Rev. Charles J. Azzi, pastor of Mount Carmel Church, Rochester, presided at the ceremony and was assisted by the Rev. Richard Torney, Motherhouse chaplain.

"The harvest is great, but the laborers are few" was the theme of Father Azzi's sermon to the young sisters and their families. Father stated the work of these sisters would succeed not because of their own natural talents but because Christ had chosen them to do His work.

The following are the young women who pronounced their final vows:

Sister Mary Annette, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D'Amico of St. John the Evangelist Parish.

Sister Mary Plus, daughter of Mr. Martin J. Keough of St. Patrick's Parish, Aurora, New York.

Sister Mary Bryan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bryan E. Ford of Old St. Mary's Parish.

Sister Mary Elsie, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Elmer O'Brien of Corpus Christi Parish.

Sister Mary Frances Cabrini, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Schiabi of St. Pius Parish, Cohocton, New York.

Sister Marie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Marshall of St. Salome's Parish.

Sister Marie Martin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Quinn of St. John the Evangelist Parish.

Sister Marie Raymond, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Raymond J. Brown of Blessed Sacrament Parish.

Sister Mary Roger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Williams of St. John the Evangelist Parish.

As the community choir sang the Veni Creator, the nine women entered the church cloister and carrying in white robes and veils, proceeded to the altar. The Rev. Charles J. Azzi, pastor of Mount Carmel Church, presided at the ceremony and was assisted by the Rev. Richard Torney, Motherhouse chaplain. The ceremony climaxed six years of novitiate and juniorate religious training for the nine Sisters.

Twice a year they return to St. Paul to visit their friends and their daughter, a Sister of St. Joseph.

When Mr. Braut, partially blind from cataracts, decided to retire in 1949 following the last operation on his eyes, he and his wife told their daughter of their plans to visit as many churches as they could and to say two decades of the Rosary in each church.

Other groups representing the diocese are: St. Mary, Auburn, (the Rev. Charles J. McCarthy, moderator); St. Mary, Watkins Glen, (the Rev. Hugh Brady, moderator); St. Joseph, Wayland, (the Rev. Gerald Kreig, moderator); Holy Trinity, Webster.

Also, Holy Family High School, Auburn; De Sales High School, Geneva, (the Rev. Dr. Joseph L. Hogan, moderator); Nazareth College, Rochester; St. William, Williamsville, (the Rev. William White, moderator); St. Peter and Paul, Rochester; and Holy Rosary, Rochester, (the Rev. James Marvin, moderator).

Other priests attending are: the Reverend Fathers Edward Steinkirchner, assistant diocesan director of the Sodality Unions; Robert Down, vicar of Orlando; and George Schmitt.

Sodalists Attend Action School



AMONG 175 DELEGATES from the Diocese of Rochester attending the Sodality Summer School of Catholic Action at Fordham University are: (from left, front row) Margaret Fox, Wayland; Joan Cook, Nazareth Academy; Vicki Villal, Watkins Glen; Joan Ruby, Mercy High; (back row) Kathy Whalen, St. Agnes High; Darlene Stecko, Nazareth; Louis Guard, DeSales High, Geneva; Rev. Edward Steinkirchner, Katie Moynihan, Sodality Union of Rochester; Anthony Giannora, Holy Family High, Auburn; William Cotterill, Aquinas and Rev. Richard Torney.

Area Teen-Agers Attend Sodality Summer School

New York—More than 1,600 students are registered for the Sodality Summer School of Catholic Action now being conducted at Fordham University with a representation from the Rochester diocese of about 175 delegates.

The Rochester diocese is also present for the Sodality of Our Lady, the Sodality of Our Lady, the Rev. Daniel Lord, S.J., is playing a leading role despite his illness.

SOME OF THE sessions being offered treat such topics as youth guidance, mental prayer, vocational guidance, the Mass, Catholic answer to race prejudice, the home, sewing, study of society, Cane and pre-Cane, the Red menace, also all phases of Sodality work are being studied.

"Nazareth Academy" is represented by 30 girls; Our Lady of Mercy High School, 37 girls; St. Agnes High School, 11 girls; and Aquinas Institute, 3 boys. Moderators of the four Rochester high schools are also present for the exercises which began Monday and end tomorrow.

OTHER GROUPS representing the diocese are: St. Mary, Auburn, (the Rev. Charles J. McCarthy, moderator); St. Mary, Watkins Glen, (the Rev. Hugh Brady, moderator); St. Joseph, Wayland, (the Rev. Gerald Kreig, moderator); Holy Trinity, Webster.

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Boy Convert In Red China Has Spirit Of Martyrs

Hong Kong—(NC)—Salem missionaries here vouch for the truth of what they regard as one of the most unusual convert stories to come out of Red China. It concerns a teenager named Tze who used to study at a Salesian school in Peking.

Tze's father had steadfastly refused to allow him to be baptized while two of his brothers were far advanced in the Chinese Communist Party.

Not long ago, the Reds asked the students at Tze's school to sign a "loyalty" pledge to the Mao-Tse-Tung government which contained the phrase, "Long live communism." A small group of Catholic boys refused to sign, and so did Tze. Red police officials wanted to know why.

"Because," the Catholic boys replied, "communism is materialistic and contrary to our faith."

One official turned to the boy and said, "You haven't been baptized. Why don't you sign?"

"For the same reason," the boy answered.

"But you are not a Catholic."

"I believe in God and all the same," Tze insisted.

That night he secretly visited a priest. He pleaded to be

Retired Couple Spend Last Years Visiting Churches

(N.C.W.C. News Service)

Perennial pilgrims, Mr. and Mrs. Alcide Braut, both 70, of St. Paul, Minn., promised five years ago to visit as many churches in the United States as possible before they died.

With their trailer hitched to their car, they have visited thousands of churches. The past nine months they traveled over 15,000 miles and have stayed at every church in Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina, and nearly every one in Virginia.

Twice a year they return to St. Paul to visit their friends and their daughter, a Sister of St. Joseph.

When Mr. Braut, partially blind from cataracts, decided to retire in 1949 following the last operation on his eyes, he and his wife told their daughter of their plans to visit as many churches as they could and to say two decades of the Rosary in each church.

Holy Father Immodesty In Dress 'Serious Plague'

Vatican City—(NC)—Pope Pius XII has appealed to the Bishops of the world to take action against immodesty in dress, which has "spiritually ruinous effects, especially on young people" and is "a most serious plague of the present time."

The Holy Father's appeal was conveyed through a letter written at his express instruction by His Eminence Pietro Cardinal Ciriaci, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of the Council, and published in the Acta Apostolicae Sedis, official Vatican bulletin.

"Even in the house of God there is a tendency to wear dress that is unworthy of the occasion and irreverent and whose spiritually ruinous effects, especially on young people, are easy to imagine."

CARDINAL CIRIACI said that even such pagan leaders as Cleopatra and Seneca had spoken out against styles of dress offensive to modesty and decency. He stated that an additional reason for Christians to observe modesty is the Catholic teaching that the body is the temple of the Holy Ghost and should be preserved from any profanation.

The Cardinal suggested that appeals be made to fathers and mothers to give their children, good example as well as teaching them to avoid the dangers of immodesty. He invited Catholic organizations to regard the matter among the most important to be considered in their apostolic endeavors.

Back-To-School News is featured in this edition of the Catholic Courier Journal. Early next month the vast and growing educational system of the Rochester Diocese, including almost 90 parish schools, 15 high schools, and 12 other institutions of higher education, will welcome to the classroom over 42,000 students.

Pertinent information on the Rochester Diocesan schools is presented in this issue on pages 1-A, 2-A, 5-A, 6-A, 6 and 7.

Bishop Sheen

U. S. Catholics Give 71 Percent Of Mission Aid

Notre Dame, Ind.—(RNS)—American Catholics have contributed 71 per cent of all the mission funds available to Pope Pius XII, Auxiliary Bishop Fulton J. Sheen of New York said here.

Addressing the fifth annual meeting of the Mission Society of America, Bishop Sheen said that through her missionaries and their work the Church is giving more help to peoples of pagan lands "than the Red Cross or any other organization."

HE SAID that in 25 mission countries and 853 missions areas some 100,000 missionaries, about 4,500 of them American, are operating 45,000 elementary schools, 10,000 secondary and professional schools, 1,300 hospitals, 1,300 orphanages and a variety of other institutions.

Bishop Sheen lauded American missionaries who, he said, "have withstood trial and persecution as well as any in the world."

Americans make good missionaries, the prelate said, because "they are never nationalistic" in their approach to the pagans of foreign lands. He added that most Americans are themselves only a few generations removed from foreign countries and have an "international spirit" which makes their work particularly effective.

Comparing the present state of the missions to Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Bishop lamented the loss of one million Catholics in Vietnam, "the most Catholic part of Asia."

HE ALSO NOTED that where there were 5,000 missionaries in China, there are now only about 150.

The Communists are not so much in search of land as they are for the minds of men, Bishop Sheen observed. "Souls again are back in style," he said.

More than 200 representatives of American religious orders which send missionaries abroad attended the session.

Moscow Goes All Out For Atheist Drive

Washington, D. C.—(NC)—Moscow is conducting a "relentless new propaganda drive to stamp out religion from one end of the Soviet Union to the other," the U. S. Information Agency declared in a dispatch to its overseas posts.

THE DISPATCH cited a Vatican radio statement of August 18 which, it said, had called attention to a new anti-religious campaign the most intense and best organized since that of 1930, had begun in Russia.

AIM OF THE NEW Soviet drive, the U. S. Information Agency said, is to use "every conceivable means to destroy religious faith and create instead a 'scientific, communistic approach' toward life."

The Agency reported that communist writers are turning out stacks of anti-religious pamphlets, "one of which, entitled, 'In Satan's Service,' pictures Vatican history as one of oppression. It said the Odessa Radio had reported early in August that "3,400 lectures on scientific and anti-religious themes were delivered for the workers of the Odessa region in the first half of the year."

Archbishop Alter

'Unity Comes From God, Cannot Be Man-Made'

Notre Dame, Ind.—(NC)—The religious missionary effort of the Catholic Students Mission Crusade is an approach that holds out the "final and most effective hope for mankind" in its search for religious unity and unity among nations, Archbishop Karl J. Alter declared here.

BISHOP ALTER, who is national president of the CSMC as well as chairman of the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, delivered the keynote address at the opening of the 16th national convention of the CSMC at the University of Notre Dame.

He told the more than 3,000 student delegates that "in any attempt to achieve religious unity we must start with the concept that God Himself has willed that there be such unity among men."

"Unless God has decreed a definite plan for a purpose," he said, "it is futile for man to try to search for it and even more absurd to try to invent one. The divine plan to attain religious unity can indeed be discovered by the mind of man, if sincere and enlightened by God's grace, but it will never be the result of some human compromise or the product of some mechanical organization."

"WE HAVE witnessed within the past weeks at Evanston, Ill., the Archbishop said, "a so-called ecumenical council of churches, striving to attain some degree of unity in the midst of their diversity and contradictions."

"To the extent that they subscribe to the idea of unity in the human family we can sympathize with their efforts. But to the extent that the concept of unity and the plan to achieve it is to be conceived as the product of human ingenuity or the product of man's creation—that extent at least we differ radically from these exponents of either international or religious unity."

"We believe with the ancient conviction," he continued, "that there is such a divine plan. We believe that Christ sought to establish a Church, not for His purpose. And we believe, furthermore, that Christ wants all men to be members of that Church, which He founded. It is the most important of all missions as it is of unity."

Television Mass 'Sells' Non-Catholic On Church Rite

Albuquerque, N. M.—(NC)—A television broadcast has changed the opinion of a non-Catholic who wondered why Catholics were so foolish as to stick to something as old and outmoded as the Mass.

After viewing the Sacrifice of the Mass over station KOAT-TV and hearing an explanation of its meaning by a priest, the same woman said she was "completely sold on the Mass—and I can easily understand why Catholics attach such great importance to it."

The special televised Mass was the result of a layman's committee in Holy Ghost Parish seeking ways to make the Church known to others.

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Pope Leads Angelus Over Vatican Radio

Vatican City—(NC)—The Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, led the Angelus over Vatican radio and the Italian network on the Feast of the Assumption.