

Columbia President Hits Protestant Role As Peril To Nation

Bogota, Colombia — (NC) — Protestant proselytizing among Latin American peoples "does not lead so much to an increase in the number of sincere and upright Protestants as it does to the loss of all religious faith and the embracing of communism by those who have become exposed to teachings fundamentally opposed to the essential dogmas of Catholicism."

THIS WAS asserted here by newly-elected President Gustavo Rojas Pinilla in an inaugural speech before the National Constituent Assembly in which he declared that Protestant propaganda in this predominantly Catholic country is one of the problems for which the government is "seeking an amicable solution."

(In Washington, D.C., the National Association of Evangelicals announced it had asked the State Department to protest to the Columbia government against references to Protestant activities in President Rojas Pinilla's speech.)

President Rojas Pinilla described the Catholic unity of the Colombian people as " unquestionably the most solid foundation of their nationality," and said that Protestant proselytizing campaigns are thus a threat to national welfare. Such campaigns in this and other parts of Latin America are also, he added, a menace to pan-American solidarity in the fight against communism.

"We are Catholics, just as other people are Buddhists or Moslems," the President said. "Protestant propaganda is not in the interest of a nation like Colombia, which is solidly organized and constituted on the basis of Christian culture. Colombia fully appreciates the Good Neighbor policy and sees in these proselytizing campaigns the greatest danger not only to national unity but to pan-American solidarity in the fight against communism."

President Rojas Pinilla added that the Protestant proselytizing campaigns "are being astutely taken advantage of by the enemies of Christian civilization to throw into their arms simple and ignorant peasants who, having lost their religious beliefs, are delivered defenseless to the service of foreign ideologies."

THE PRESIDENT prefaced his remarks on the Protestant cam-

aigns in Colombia by stating that the constitution guarantees full religious freedom "in such a way that one can be born, live, be educated in, and die in the religion one professes, whatever it may be." However, he added that the Catholic unity of the people must be preserved for the good of the nation.

"If we add religious conflicts to the struggle waged by the political parties," he said, "we shall soon be assisting at the dissolution of the fatherland. Since the end of the past century and the beginning of the present, party leaders, happily, have tried to eliminate the religious factor from political contests, accepting as an accomplished fact the Catholic unity of the nation."

"History and experience attest that Protestant propaganda among Latin American peoples does not lead to an increase in the number of sincere and upright Protestants as it does to the loss of all religious faith and the embracing of communism by those who have become exposed to teachings fundamentally opposed to the essential dogmas of Catholicism."

Catholic Bishop Gives \$100 To Protestant Hospital

Fonce, P. R. — (NC) — Bishop James E. McManus, C.S.S.R., of Fonce, has donated \$100 to a Protestant hospital to be built in Puerto Rico.

Bishop McManus gave the money to the Menonites who plan to build the hospital in Alcala with a capacity of 30 beds.

The hospital is to replace an old wooden house which has been in use for the last 18 years and has served thousands of persons, regardless of religion race or social condition. The new hospital estimated cost is \$337,000.

Famed Virgin Statue Crowned



Walsingham, England—The celebrated statue of Our Lady of Walsingham is carried to the national Marian Shrine at Old Frory here prior to being crowned by Archbishop Gerald F. O'Hara of Savannah, Ga., Apostolic Delegate to Great Britain, in the presence of 15,000 pilgrims to the shrine. The crown, shown on a cushion, was of gold studded with more than 100 gems, many of them heirlooms owned by Catholics from all over the world. Later, the Virgin statue was carried in procession along the "pontifical mile" to the Slipper Chapel, in which the statue is enshrined, where it was again enthroned. Pilgrims in the procession, who walked barefoot, heard Archbishop O'Hara declare that the coronation "symbolized the return of England to her ancient devotion to the Mother of God." (RNS Photo).

Why Writer Was Denied Religious Burial

Paris Cardinal Answers Graham Greene

Paris — (NC) — His Eminence Maurice Cardinal Felin, Archbishop of Paris, has replied to novelist Graham Greene's criticism of his refusal to grant a religious burial to the noted French writer, Colette, in an open letter to the British Catholic author published here.

HIS EMINENCE declared that he had no intention of entering into a controversy with Mr. Greene, but wanted only to recall the Church's rules concerning religious funerals.

In another open letter, Mr. Greene had criticized the Cardinal's refusal of a church burial to Colette, France's best known woman writer who was twice divorced and remarried. He maintained that the refusal made the Church appear uncharitable and that it would give scandal to well-informed persons. He based much of his letter on the argument that all baptized Catholics

have the right to be accompanied to their graves by a priest. A person who has been baptized, the Cardinal agreed, has a right to a religious burial. But, His Eminence added, he has this right only on the condition that he has not shown by his attitude that he has renounced that society of which he became a member through baptism. If he has left it willingly and freely, the Cardinal said, the Church does not want to impose her rites upon him.

It is true, Cardinal Felin continued, that others have sometimes been granted a religious burial under conditions similar to those in which Colette died. But, he went on, either they had given some sign of repentance before their death or the Church had been deceived as to their true attitude.

IF SOME PERSONS were scandalized by his refusal, he stated, they were not the well-informed, as Mr. Greene claimed. Such persons, the Cardinal said, would have been scandalized if a religious burial had been allowed. He cited as proof of this point the numerous letters he had received following Mr. Greene's open letter to him.

His refusal of public prayers for Colette, the Cardinal noted, in no way forbade private prayers for her soul. The charity of which Mr. Greene spoke, he said, urges him to pray for her himself that she might be forgiven by a merciful God.

Cardinal Felin closed his letter by expressing his high regard for Mr. Greene.

Mr. Greene's open letter to Cardinal Felin was criticized earlier in an editorial in La Croix, Paris Catholic daily.

Anglicans Seen Stricter On Divorce Issue

Paris — (NC) — While the Anglican attitude towards divorce appears to be growing stricter—coming closer to the Catholic position—is completely unacceptable—Lutheran and Calvinist attitudes are tending to become more lenient.

THESE TRENDS were reported in a paper on "The Indissolubility of Marriage since 1914," presented to the International Congress of Comparative Law by Dr. Brendan F. Brown of Washington, D. C.

The Congress was attended by some 200 law scholars from ten countries, including Vatican City, Japan and two Moslem nations. The American delegation numbered 25, including Father O'Brien vice chancellor of the Los Angeles archdiocese, who presented a paper on "Canon Law and the State."

Dr. Brown's report to the Congress subcommittee on canon law, of which he was the chairman, noted that during the past 30 years many persons belonging to the Church of England and the Episcopal Church in the United States had adopted a view on marriage which absolutely excluded the possibility of divorce. Anglicans have traditionally allowed divorce only on grounds of adultery.

ON THE OTHER hand, the report pointed out, Lutherans, who teach the acceptability of divorce for adultery or "malicious desertion" have shown a trend towards a still more lenient view regarding the valid causes for divorce and the right of remarriage of divorced persons.

Dr. Brown's paper also discussed the new provisions concerning marriage and divorce adopted in 1953 by the Presbyterian Church in the United States.

Protestant Takes Orphans To Lourdes

London — (NC) — Back from a pilgrimage to Lourdes is M. R. Eytton, former seaman of the British Royal Navy and a Protestant. With him were nine Catholic orphan girls and two nuns whom he took to the shrine at his own expense.

Mr. Eytton, who lives at Portsmouth, the naval base town, saw the film "The Song of Bernadette." Then he read Franz Werfel's book, on which the film was based.

So impressed was he that he went to Lourdes himself. At the grotto he made Our Lady a promise that he would come back with a party of orphans.

Mr. Eytton spent all his savings, about \$840, on the pilgrimage.

Four Sons All Born On Assumption Day

Bellmawr, N. J. — (NC) — Mr. and Mrs. John Hoban had their fourth son on August 15, the Feast of the Assumption. He followed twins born on the Feast in 1951 and another brother born on the same day in 1947.



De Gasperi Buried In Rome Church

Rome — (NC) — Italy witnessed one of the most impressive funerals in decades as the remains of Alcide de Gasperi were laid to rest in the Basilica of St. Lawrence outside the Walls.

Burial of the veteran Christian Democratic leader in the Basilica of St. Lawrence carried with it a fitting symbolism. The edifice had been destroyed during World War II and was rebuilt in the postwar era just as most of Italy had been patiently rebuilt under the inspiration of De Gasperi.

THE FORMER premier died as he had lived, a profoundly Catholic man and in the bosom of his family. He had requested prayers for the dying and uttered the name of Jesus as his final breath escaped him. He died unexpectedly (August 19) at the age of 73 after suffering several heart attacks in his modest mountain home in Sella Val Sugana, northern Italy.

Before his burial in St. Lawrence a Solemn Requiem Mass was offered for him in the church here where he could be found daily for Mass or visits to the Blessed Sacrament. The funeral Mass was offered in the Jesuit Church of Gesù, right across the square from the central headquarters of the Christian Democratic party.

Premier Marco Scelba and other members of the government persuaded Mrs. De Gasperi to permit burial of her husband as a national figure rather than in the small family plot with his parents in the Dolomites of South Tyrol. Pope Pius XII acceded to the government's request that he be buried in the Basilica of St. Lawrence.

So impressed was he that he went to Lourdes himself. At the grotto he made Our Lady a promise that he would come back with a party of orphans. Mr. Eytton spent all his savings, about \$840, on the pilgrimage.

India Gives Assurance On Xavier Shrine

New Delhi, India — (NC) — The Indian government has again assured the Goans that the venerated shrine of St. Francis Xavier will be in no way endangered if that Portuguese province is merged with India.

This new assurance came in a statement issued by the Indian Ministry for External Affairs. A similar pledge was given by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru some months ago.

IN RECENT days two leading members of the Indian hierarchy labeled as groundless fears that the Xavier shrine would be desecrated and religious freedom curtailed if Goa merged with India. The statements were made by Valerian Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, and Archbishop Joseph Fernandes of Delhi-Simla, which includes the national capital area.

The foreign ministry's statement said: "The government of India wishes to repeat once again categorically the assurance given from time to time in the past that India will maintain the special cultural and religious position of Goa."

"IT IS NOT India's intention to affect in any way the cultural traditions of Goa. The constitution of India guarantees all religious freedom to function. Christianity is one of the major and respected religions of India which has always had full freedom to function."

"Religious freedom includes full freedom to worship and to maintain places of worship. The government of India wishes to declare specifically that all places of worship in Goa, as in India, including the tomb of St. Francis Xavier, will have full freedom to enee."

Rumanian Prelate Dies In Red Prison

Vienna — (NC) — Msgr. Vladimir Ghika, one of the many victims of Communist persecution of religion in Rumania, has died in prison at the age of 80. Reports reaching here attribute his death to maltreatment he suffered at the hands of his persecutors.

Monsignor Ghika who belonged to an aristocratic family served as a Rumanian diplomat before he became a priest. Many years he worked in the slums of Paris where he lived in an old railroad car equipped as a chapel. Named a protonotary apostolic in 1931, he returned to Rumania before World War II.

After the war, when the Communists seized full power in Rumania and permitted King Michael to depart for Paris, Monsignor Ghika was also allowed to leave the country, but at the last moment decided to remain in Rumania. When he protested against the persecution of religion, he was arrested and sentenced to 20 years imprisonment.

No 'Pray For Peace' On Mail Envelopes

Washington — (NC) — A bill authorizing the Postmaster General to provide a special cancelling stamp bearing the words "Pray For Peace" died in the U.S. legislature as Congress adjourned. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Louis C. Rabaut of Michigan had been approved unanimously by the House but failed to reach the Senate floor in time for action.

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