

Released NBC Newsman Credits Fr. O'Connor With Truth On Far East

Los Angeles—(NC)—“You can get the straight picture of what is going on in the Far East from Father O'Connor,” said one of the two American newsmen recently released after 18 months imprisonment by Chinese Communists.

The newsmen interviewed here was Dick Applegate, Hong Kong correspondent of the National Broadcasting Company, who along with Donald Dixon, International News Service cor-

respondent, returned to the Friday morning club here, said he was shocked by the apathy toward the communist threat he found in the United States.

He told his Los Angeles audience that his frequent interviews with Chinese commissars left him convinced that the United States is on the schedule of communist world conquest. “They think they can take over the world. The terrifying thing is that they’re doing it,” he said. When he was captured in 1953, the communists controlled one-sixth of the world. Now they claim one-third of the world. “You can’t say that we were victors in Korea. The West suffered outright defeat in Indo-China,” the NBC correspondent added.

The newsmen saw no possibility that the Chinese could throw off communism. “They are occupied by their own army. All the people hear is what the communists want them to hear.”



FATHER O'CONNOR

pondent, and Captain Benjamin Kramer had been seized in March 1953, aboard a yacht off Hong Kong and held on charges of “violating Chinese law.” They were released and returned to Hong Kong September 15.

The “Father O'Connor” Mr. Applegate referred to is Father Patrick O'Connor of the Society of St. Columban, who is Far East correspondent for the N.C.W.C. News Service. The former captive attributed his release to the prayers and efforts of his friends including Father O'Connor.

Last week it was revealed that Father O'Connor had a part in effecting the release of the newsmen he had worked beside as a war correspondent in Korea. From Saigon, Father O'Connor cabled the president of the Correspondents Club suggesting he send a message to Clement Attlee, who was then visiting China, asking Mr. Attlee to intercede with the Chinese Communists on behalf of the two newsmen. A short time later the men were released.

MR. APPLEGATE, in a talk



St. Maria Goretti Shrine Proposed

Fort Wayne, Ind.—(NC)—Although he is seriously ill as the result of a cerebral hemorrhage, Archbishop John F. Noll, Bishop of Fort Wayne, has let it be known that he is anxious for the erection of a national shrine to St. Maria Goretti.

The Archbishop has been the moving spirit in such outstanding projects as the building of the monument to Christ, the Light of the World, which forms the facade of the National Catholic Welfare Conference headquarters in Washington, D. C., and in the campaign for the soon-to-be started building of the superstructure of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on the campus of the Catholic University of America in the capital city.

The convalescing prelate confided to Father James Conroy, associate editor of Our Sunday Visitor, national Catholic weekly, his anxiety for the erection of a national shrine to the “20th century child martyr for the cause of purity.” Father Conroy also directs the “Fighting Sixty-Ninth,” an organization for young people devoted to the promotion of chastity and modesty in dress.

The Archbishop let it be known that he is anxious that devotion to St. Maria Goretti be encouraged among the millions of American Catholics.

Vietnam Radio Tells Death Of Pro-Red Priest

Halong, North Vietnam — (NC)—Father Pham Ba Truc, a Vietnamese priest who sided with the communist Vietnam through the past eight years, died on October 5 in Thai Nguyen, the Vietnamese provisional capital, according to the Vietnamese radio.

The radio announcement said that the priest died of a heart ailment.

Vietnamese suspicions are aroused by an eight-day delay between the death and the announcement. Some think that Father Truc may have been liquidated. He is known to have said privately that he did not agree with the Vietnamese authorities though he worked with them.

Father Truc, aged 56, belonged to the Hanoi vicariate. He took postgraduate studies in Rome where he gained three doctorates.

HE JOINED THE Vietnamese movement in 1946 when many Vietnamese, including ecclesiastics, were inclined to swallow the nationalistic bait on the Vietnam Red line. He stayed with the movement and became a member of the Vietnamese “national assembly” and vice-president of the Vietnam-controlled Citizens League.

An appeal for Vietnamese Catholic support of the Vietnamese appeared over his name after the Geneva conference. Father Truc always lived as a priest. Apparently he was carried away by an uncritical ultranationalism. He never advocated communism though as far as is known he never publicly repudiated the communist element dominant in the Vietnamese movement.

CONFER ON FOOD PROGRAM



Washington, D.C.—Foreign Operations Administration Chief Harold E. Stassen exchanged a hand shake with Monsignor Alopius J. Wyckoff, executive director, War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare conference, at a meeting here with leaders of organizations in the American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service. Purpose of the meeting was to iron out details of coordination in the expanded program of food distribution, through the relief agencies, to the hungry abroad, following national legislation making surplus commodities increasingly available for this purpose. (RNS Photo).

Church Status Improved In Holy City

St. Meinrad, Ind.—(NC)—The Abbot of Dormition Abbey in Jerusalem — part of the border between Israeli territory and the normal land fronting Jordan — declared here the abbey's position “is much better than it was a year ago.”

Dormition Abbey is located on the site tradition holds to be where the Blessed Mother died and was assumed into heaven. Long in the hands of Benedictines from Germany, its property had been disputed by the Government of Israel for years.

According to its superior, Abbot Leo Rudloff, O.S.B., however, “the whole situation is now much more settled.” Abbot Leo recalled in an interview here that the Church's ownership of the property was acknowledged in an agreement that became effective last Spring.

He said because of this and other factors the abbey's “hopes for the future are much better than a year ago.” The Abbot, a native of Germany who is now an American citizen, came to St. Meinrad for the observance of

the archabbey's 100th anniversary.

Rockford Diocese Plans Cathedral

Rockford, Ill.—(NC)—Plans for the construction of a new cathedral here were announced by Bishop Raymond F. Hillinger following a meeting with the diocesan consultants. The new cathedral will be called St. Peter's.

3rd Degree Methods Condemned By Pope

Castelgandolfo, Italy — (NC) — His Holiness Pope Pius XII told criminologists meeting in Rome for an international convention that the use of third degree methods in police investigations is wrong. He told them also they should contribute to the rehabilitation as well as the arrest and conviction of criminals.

“Many evil-doers, especially professional ones,” the Holy Father said, “do not merit much regard or consideration. But the gravity, the dignity of justice and public authority demand a strict observance of the judicial rules for the arrest and interrogation of the suspect.”

POPE PIUS praised the work of the international police group as “an eminent service to society,” but he asked: “Has not today's justice perhaps returned, from many sides, and under scarcely masked appearances, to a true torture and, at times, to the more violent trials of other times?”

The Pontiff reminded his hearers of an address to delegates to the Sixth International Congress of Penal Law a year ago in which he declared: “The judicial investigation must exclude physical and psychic torture and narcoanalysis; first of all, because they violate a natural right, even if the accused is really guilty; and, secondly, because they too often give erroneous results.”

IT IS NOT unusual for them to end in the precise confessions desired by the court and in the ruin of the accused, not because the latter is guilty in fact, but because his physical and psychic energy is exhausted, and he is ready to make all the declarations required.”

Pope Plus, who spoke in French, advised his talk by stating that no judgment concerning the malefactor and his actions must “depart from the principles that every man is by nature the possessor of a liberty which generates responsibility.”

HE STRESSED especially that police officials have a duty not only to apprehend wrong-doers but also to help them redeem themselves.

“One should never,” he declared, “make haste to condemn a man irretrievably, or to abandon him completely. To help someone to return to the path of right and of high aims that both reason and revelation point out to mankind is always a good action, that carries its own reward.”

Priests Ask Release Of Jailed Bishop

Trieste—(NC)—All priests in the province of Hercegovina have signed a petition asking the release of imprisoned Bishop Peter Cule of Mostar, according to reports received here from inside Yugoslavia.

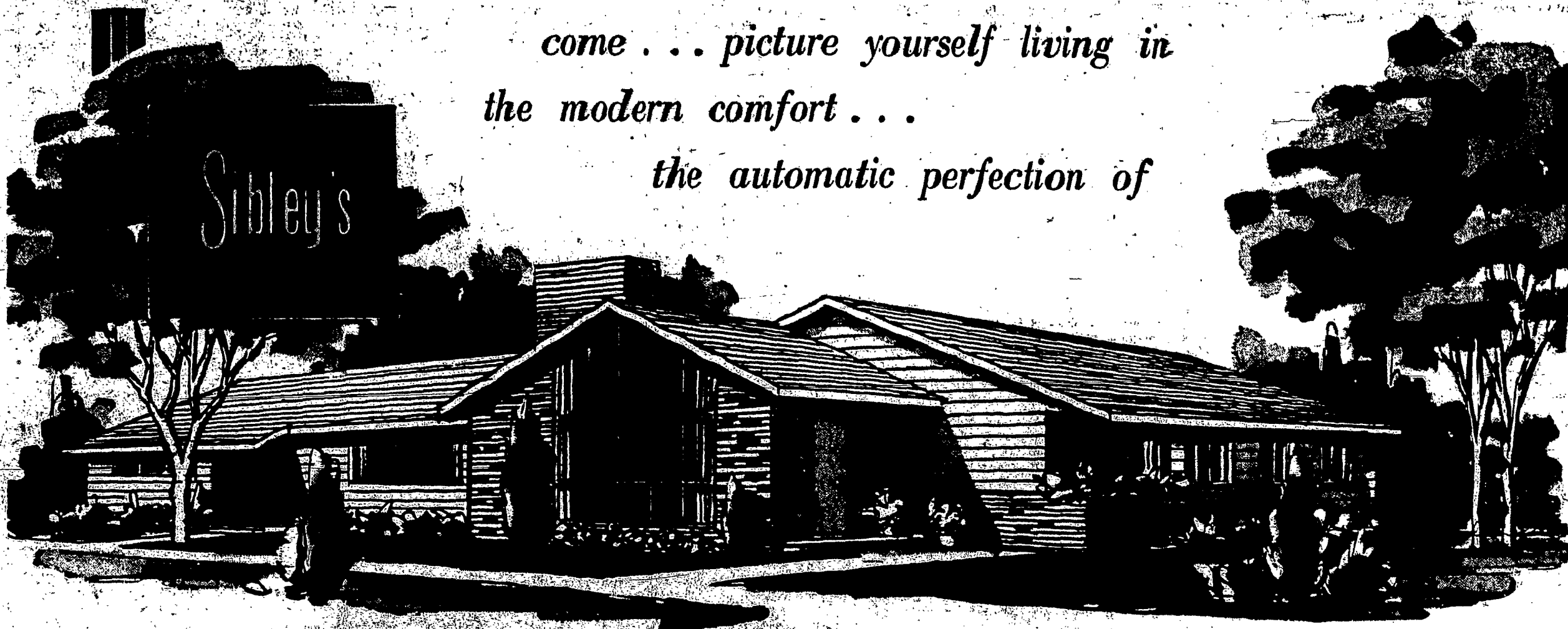
The petition is said to have been presented to Tito personally by Father Milo Kela, O.F.M., Franciscan provincial, in the town of Trebinje. Tito came there to give a speech commemorating the liberation of the town from the nazis ten years ago.

While nothing is known about any answer of Tito to the priests' petition, reports received here state that the imprisoned Bishop's mother was stopped by secret police when she attempted to approach Tito and hand him a letter asking her son's freedom.

BISHOP CULE was sentenced in 1948 to 11 years imprisonment as an alleged “fascist” collaborator. Three years later, he was seriously injured in a train wreck while being transported from one prison to another.

(Some months ago, a U. S. State Department official confirmed reports that the Bishop is suffering from tuberculosis and a blood disease similar to that afflicting His Eminence Aloysius Cardinal Sepinski.)

According to reports from Zagreb, capital of Croatia, considerable interest has been aroused there by the fact that Tito in his speech at Trebinje framed from the customary attacks on the “reactionary” Bishops and the clergy.



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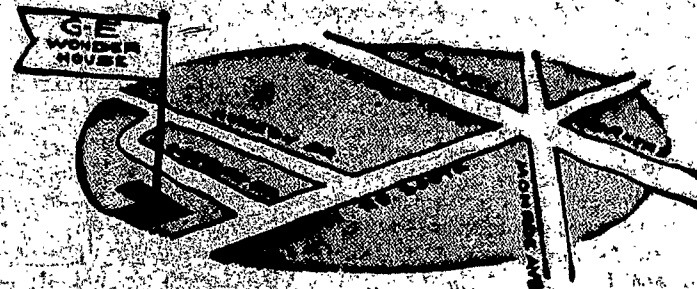
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