

Peron Decree Perils Religion Study In Argentine Schools

Buenos Aires, Argentina. — (NC) — The future of religious instruction in Argentine public schools appeared threatened with a new decree issued here by President Juan Peron.

The decree abolished the National Department of Religious Teaching and the Inspectorate General of Religious Education under which religious instruction in the schools was carried out. This function reportedly will now be taken over by the Ministry of Education. However, there was confusion over whether and how this would be done.

THE PRESIDENTIAL decree also changes abruptly the setup under which future religious instruction, if any, would operate. In the past the government submitted the names of religious teachers—either priest or Catholic laymen—to the local bishop for his approval. The decree states that this provision "leaves the executive power a complete and exclusive authority by subjecting it to prior approval by ecclesiastical authorities."

A few weeks ago the Peron government has been carrying on a campaign to limit the activities of the Church, principally to suppress its influence in the labor movement. Peron has stated that there is any Church-state barrier, insisting that it is only a matter of calling to task some "bad priest" or "bad bishop" and it is done. Eight priests are known to have been arrested.

Meanwhile the bishop directed a memorandum to the President and a letter to the Minister of Education, protesting the rights of the Church. He stated that the Peronist government had no right to interfere in the internal affairs of the Church, since in their own minds of only some days ago the Peronists expressed their admiration for the work of the Church in the past.

It is felt that this year it was estimated that about 75 per cent

of the Argentine public school pupils were taking the Catholic religion course.

The 1947 law specified that the text of the religious instruction should have the accord of the ecclesiastical authorities. The new presidential decree appears to strike also at this provision. It states that regarding "preparation and approval of educational programs, it is imperative to observe them in accordance with the targets set by the second five-year plan for the various educational cycles and specialties, adapting them to the principles of national doctrine."

Communists Hope World Will Forget, Says Irish Prelate

Dublin — (RNS) — Archbishop John Charles McQuinn of Dublin said in a pastoral letter to the Irish people that the Communists hope that after "the first shock of surprise and indignation we shall forget the fate of the great figures whom they have persecuted and some to death."

"It is equally their hope," he said "that through the silence of the world press, we shall cease to think of the labor slavery of millions of Russian people who daily starve, and of the millions of American people who are being persecuted by Communism."

"During this Marian Year we have thought much about our own people," he said. "Let us now begin to remember fully, every day, the meaning of the words 'I shall not forget you.' Let us pray for the strength of conscience in spite of every trial and test. We may have money on those who for the moment, under pressure of persecution, have become apostates from the Faith."

Chaplain Chief Challenges Red Polish Regime

Munich, Germany — (RNS) — Chaplain (Major General) Patrick J. Ryan, chief of U.S. Army chaplains, in a broadcast to Polish Catholics, challenged the Communist government there to disclose the whereabouts of Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, Archbishop of Warsaw and Gniezno.

Speaking over the Voice of America, the chaplaincy chief said:

"WE IN AMERICA are very concerned about your Cardinal Wyszynski. Now he begins his second year of imprisonment. What a miscarriage of justice! Where is he? The Communists will not tell us. But rest assured, dear friends of Poland, that we, your fellow Catholics in America, remember you in our prayers."

Chaplain Ryan also made a broadcast to Hungary in which he spoke of the examples of faith shown by His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty, imprisoned Primate of that country.

"We know that the Communists cannot destroy the Hungarian people's faith in God," he declared.

LITTLE CHIEF EYES FBI



Little Chief, 11-year-old boy, is being investigated by the FBI. He is the son of a family living in Manhattan, in a family living from Central N.Y. While a student at St. Catherine's Indian School in Tucson, Ariz., he was awarded a scholarship by the Marquette League for Catholic Indian Mission of New York. The Little Chief plans to study law at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. in preparation for a career with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. (RNS Photo)

Dr. Bella Dodd Tells Conversion

New York City — (NC) — The greatest strength and the cleverest snare of the communist leaders "is their use of 'the will to goodness of their members.'"

Dr. Bella V. Dodd says in her new book "School of Darkness," published by F. J. Kennedy and Sons.

"They stir the emotions with phrases which are only a blurred picture of the eternal truths," she continues.

DR. DODD, who for 13 years served as a top-level leader of the New York Teacher's Union and of the American Communist Party, describes in her autobiography the steps by which she became involved with the Communist Party; the gradual change in her thought which finally led to her expulsion from the party and her return to the Church.

About her adoption of communist beliefs, she writes: "I did not become a communist overnight. It came a little at a time. I had a certain admiration for some of the scientific and philosophical ideas."

When a friend told her that by joining the Communist Party she would get hard Dr. Dodd answered: "I am only interested in the present. What the Communist Party says about the future is not important to me."

But as Dr. Dodd shows later in



DR. BELLA DODD
"Future Imperious"

After graduation she taught both at the secondary school level and at Hunter College. She started attending law school and received her law degree in 1930. During this time she was associated with the Teachers Union of New York State. She shows in her book the development of communist infiltration into this union during the Thirties.

AS SHE BECAME more involved with working with party affairs she resigned from her teaching position in 1936 and took a full-time position with the Teachers Union. At that time she was a concealed affiliate of the party and later became an open member, eventually having a position on the Party's Politburo with Earl Browder and William Z. Foster and others.

She describes the changes within herself and the changes of attitudes and policies she observed within the Party. In 1949 she was expelled by the Party.

Some time after she had given testimony before the Senate Internal Security Committee she met Bishop Fulton J. Sheen in Washington who later instructed her in the Faith.

She observes in the conclusion of her book that the spirit of those (communist) who were once schooled in darkness are doomed to defeat.

Catholics Throughout World Help Rebuild Nazareth

Jerusalem — Offerings, big and small, are being received here from Catholics throughout the world anxious to share in one of the significant projects initiated during the Marian Year—the rebuilding of the ancient Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth. It stands on the very spot where the Angel Gabriel spoke to the Virgin Mary and also conceived of the Holy Ghost.

The work of demolishing the old huts and other small buildings which grew up around the Church of the Annunciation during the past century has now been completed. Remains in an old long-abandoned cemetery nearby have been transferred to a new cemetery outside the town.

With the completion of these preliminary tasks, work is soon to begin on the gradual removal of the present humble church, built over two centuries ago, during the Turkish regime in the Holy Land.

IN THE INTERVAL between the removal of the present church and the building of a great new basilica, the nearby Church of St. Joseph will be used as the parish church for the Catholic people of this town of Jesus' Boyhood.

The most numerous and generous donations for the project so far have been those received from the United States through the Commissariat of the Holy Land in that country.

Among the contributions was a personal offering of \$5,000 from His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, who visited the ancient shrine in 1943 during a tour of Palestine, Lebanon and Syria as Military Vicar of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Card. Mindszenty Release Urged On Hungarian Reds

New York — (RNS) — A cable urging the release from prison of His Eminence, Cardinal Mindszenty, Primate of Hungary, was sent to Moscow, Budapest, and other cities of the Communist Party in that country, by the United Catholic Organizations for the Freeing of Cardinal Mindszenty.

This was announced here by Frederick L. Vorbeck, executive secretary of the organization which has headquarters at Richmond Hill, N.Y.

"We ask that, considering the advanced age of the Cardinal as well as his infirmities, the Hungarian government grant him his freedom for Christmas," the message said.

Cardinal Mindszenty, now 62, was sentenced to life imprisonment by a Communist court at Budapest in February, 1949, on charges of treason, espionage and black market dealings.

Rumors that the Hungarian government was considering releasing the Cardinal have been current in recent weeks. Last Oct. 2, the Austrian Catholic Press Service reported that he now is being held near the town of Novograd, Vrocon and that the Cardinal's mother had been granted permission to visit him once a month, the meetings to be held in a former Jesuit monastery in Budapest.

Carmelite Nuns Plan New Mexico House

Santa Fe, N.M. — (RNS) — Purchase of a ranch near Albuquerque for a second Carmelite convent in New Mexico is being considered here.

Archbishop Edwin V. Byrne of Santa Fe said that the present convent in Santa Fe has filled its quota.

"We are having so many applications to enter Carmel that we are looking around for a second foundation," he said. "The land we are considering in Albuquerque is very suitable, but we must see if we can gather sufficient funds for the project."

Scenic Floats Show Virtues Of Mary

Dezav (Mr. Philippines) — (NC) — Twenty scenic floats, each depicting a virtue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, took part in a solemn procession here during the Marian Year.

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