

Vatican Blasts Red Boasts Of Freedom

Vatican City—(RNS)—Osservatore Romano, Vatican newspaper, ridiculed declarations by Premier Josef Cyrankiewicz of Poland that religious freedom exists in his country.

An article by Federico Alessandrini, Osservatore's co-editor, labelled such declarations "Marxist propaganda" forced upon youth while Catholicism is actually "oppressed and harassed."

"CATHOLIC SCHOOLS are closed one after another," the paper said, "religious instruction suppressed, internal church jurisdiction trampled upon, and attempts are made to change the very formation of the clergy along Marxist lines."

Added to all of this, the Osservatore editor said, Catholics in Poland have had forced upon them a so-called "Catholic" press created by the Communist regime to support its own actions.

Mr. Alessandrini assailed members of this press as a "heretical group" in the services of the Polish government.

No "propaganda declaration" of religious freedom, he warned, can change the facts with regard to the situation of Catholics and the Church in Poland.

Neither, he said, can their plight leave indifferent all those who declare they want to defend the rights and dignity of human beings.

Vatican Radio Refutes Tito On Religious Liberty

Vatican City—(NC)—Vatican Radio has taken sharp issue with an assertion made by Marshal Tito to 20 visiting American students that there is freedom of religion in Yugoslavia.

The conversation, to which Vatican Radio took such strong exception, took place July 25 and was reported in Zagreb's Vjesnik on August 4.

Those who do not know the position of the Church in Yugoslavia may well conceive the idea that communism is merely indifferent toward religion rather than it persecutes it," the Vatican broadcast said.

"Tito has the audacity to declare that in Yugoslavia the practice of religion is free, but he does not say that there are members of certain professions in Yugoslavia—officers, soldiers, civil servants, teachers—who would lose their jobs at once if they were to enter a church."

"Tito, it seems, had compared the status of the Church in Yugoslavia with American freedom of religion and the separation of

General Collins Named For Award

Washington, D.C.—(RNS)—General J. Lawton Collins, currently United States representative to NATO, has been named to receive the Cardinal Gibbons Medal for 1955 in recognition of outstanding service to the nation.

It will be presented to him on Nov. 12 during the traditional homecoming weekend at Catholic University of America here.

General Collins, former Army Chief of Staff, was U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam prior to his NATO assignment.

The medal is awarded annually by the university's Alumni Association to an individual who has rendered distinguished service to country, Church or to the university.

Vietminh's 'Freedom Role' Seen For Cry From Fact

Vatican City—(NC)—The hollowness of the promises of religious freedom made by the communist regime of Ho Chi Minh in northern Vietnam has been exposed here by Osservatore Romano, Vatican City daily, and Eides, Catholic missions news agency.

Both contrasted the apparent benevolence of the Vietminh with the grim reality of the present situation.

WHILE HO CHI MINH'S June 14 decree, which reflects the regime's concern over the continuing exodus to the south, made all

pects of a reality that is quite different.

The continuing persecution of Catholics in North Vietnam was cited by Eides, which stated, "The phrases concerning religious freedom and respect for religious beliefs to be found in Ho Chi Minh's June 14 decree take on their true meaning in the light of these facts."

EIDES NOTED that according to the letter of the law, religious organizations can exist, but that they must have their programs approved.

"This condition," it said, "can empty the articles of the decree of all meaning. For instance, pri-

vate schools may exist, but they must conform to the government's educational program which requires the teaching of Marxism and anti-Christianism."

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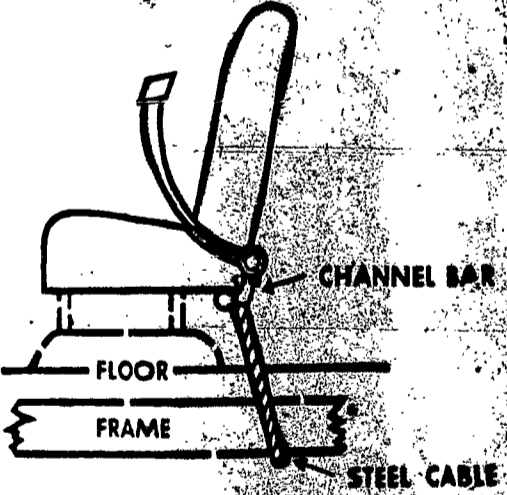
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