

'Not Chicken Feed' Vietnam Survives On American Aid

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

Saigon — United States government aid to Vietnamese refugees has been a life-saver, but it is still too soon to take the life-line away.

Spread over 680,000 refugees, even the generous American aid has meant nothing ample for the individual.

It has meant transportation south in U.S. Navy ships, emergency shelter, emergency relief and the means to make some kind of fresh start.

But a start is not enough for a refugee family that has torn itself by the roots from home and livelihood. Follow-up aid is needed if the family is to arrive at its goal of self-support.

The total expenditure from U.S. government funds specifically for Vietnamese refugees during the last fiscal year (ending June 30) was \$57 million. It was disbursed through the U.S. Operations Mission (USOM), which directs and finances a varied program of economic development in Vietnam.

Nobody can call 57 million dollars "chicken feed". Actually, however, it is only about 1/200th of the total spent by the American public on recreation.

The great majority of refugees arrived in the south with no more than they could carry, and that usually included a baby.

They brought a round, brown basket with a few pieces of cotton clothing, a couple of pairs of slippers, a tin bowl or two, a prayerbook, a religious picture and little else.

They received two outright grants, 100 piastres (about \$10 in buying power) and to build a little shack, 3000 piastres (buying power, about \$30). Apart from their first days in transient camps the refugees have never been on a dime.

When they were resettled in a new village, American dollars supplied some of them with aid-kind, tools, fertilizer, small machines and—rarely—a water-buffalo for ploughing or a fishing-boat.

Voluntary relief agencies from the U.S. and other countries have supplemented U.S. government aid. The French government and Secours Catholique, Catholic charity organization of France, have given valuable help. Furthermore, Vietnamese refugees have shared in the U.S. government's distribution of surplus foods to the needy of the world. But the main source of material aid for the refugees has been the budgeted funds of the U.S. Operations Mission.

First Abbot Elected For Canadian Abbey

St. Boniface — (NC) — Dom Fulgence Fortier, O.C.S.O., has been elected the first Abbot of the Trappist Abbey of Our Lady of the Prairies at St. Norbert, Manitoba.

Archbishop Maurice Badoux of St. Boniface will give him the official blessing on November 13.



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London Paper Lauds U. S. Aid To Needy

London — (NC) — A glowing tribute was paid here by one of Britain's best known Catholic journalists to the worldwide activities of Catholic Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference on behalf of "the hungry and the unwanted in parts of the world."

"It is right and proper," he said, "that American Catholics should be modest about it, but it is surely equally right that we should sometimes blow their trumpet for them."

The writer was Douglas Hyde, convert from communism, speaking in his weekly column in the Catholic Herald here. He described the work of the C.R.S.—N.C.W.C. in countries throughout Europe, Asia and Latin America. He gave special mention to the Catholic agency's efforts in France to "plan a new life for men and women who lack even a homeland they can call their own."

When I was in Korea last year, Mr. Hyde said, "I found its representatives distributing anything from rice for the hungry to medical supplies for lepers... regardless of what their religion might be... And in Central America earlier this year, I found N.C.W.C. assisting poverty-stricken campesinos in a hundred and one different ways."

A Little Child Shall Lead Them

Cheju Island, Korea. — "I'm Agatha and I've brought my mother to be baptized."

Columban Father Charles Cooper looked at the little 12-year-old Korean girl in amazement. That's a witch, he thought. It is mothers who usually bring their daughters into the Church.

He discovered that Agatha had taught her all the important prayers and much of the catechism.

"And please come to our village to perform the ceremony," Agatha went on. "I've five others waiting there to be baptized."

"That was a year ago," the Columban reports. "Today, thanks to this amazing teenage apostle, 150 persons are preparing for baptism in her village. I offer Mass there once a month. And every time I do, there's little Agatha in the front row, eyes shining, looking as if she has planned the whole thing. I really think she did."

Matt Talbot Said Example For Drinkers

Mahwah, N.J.—(NC)—If Matt Talbot, former alcoholic who died at the age of 69 in Dublin in 1925, is ever raised to sainthood by the Church, he will become an encouraging example to 4,000,000 alcoholics in the United States. Father Ronald F. Gray, O. Carm., told charter members of the Matt Talbot Retreat Movement at the Carmelite Retreat House here.

MATT TALBOT, an Irish laborer, was an excessive drinker for 16 years. He was able to break the habit after a long struggle. He kept the pledge for 41 years. Documents in his cause for beatification have been in Rome for a considerable time, but no decision has been announced.

The Matt Talbot Retreat Movement promotes weekend retreats for Catholic and non-Catholic members of Alcoholics Anonymous groups throughout the country.

"The publicity," said Father Gray, "that would be given to such an event, when an ex-alcoholic is raised to the highest honor known in the Church, could turn the eyes of the world, not only of alcoholics, to Matt Talbot's successful use of daily Mass, Communion and prayer to overcome slavery to drink, a needed lesson for the 4,000,000 alcoholics in this country."

Patsi Li, Rumi Ueno, Waifs Of War, Study At Pennsylvania College

Gwynedd Valley, Pa.—(NC)—A decade ago war made them enemies. Now they are the best of friends. Once their respective countrymen were engaged in a cruel, bloody struggle. Today these two young women study in the peaceful tranquility at Gwynedd-Mercy Junior College conducted here by the Sisters of Mercy.

One is a 19-year-old Patsi Li, the Chinese girl who became known as "the miracle girl of World War II." The other is Rumi Ueno, also 19, from Osaka, Japan. Both entered Gwynedd-Mercy College last September and almost immediately became close friends.

THE STORY of Patsi Li is well known but no one knows yet how she got to Guadalcanal from a ship which was torpedoed off Shanghai, 4,000 miles away, during the early days of World War II in the Pacific.

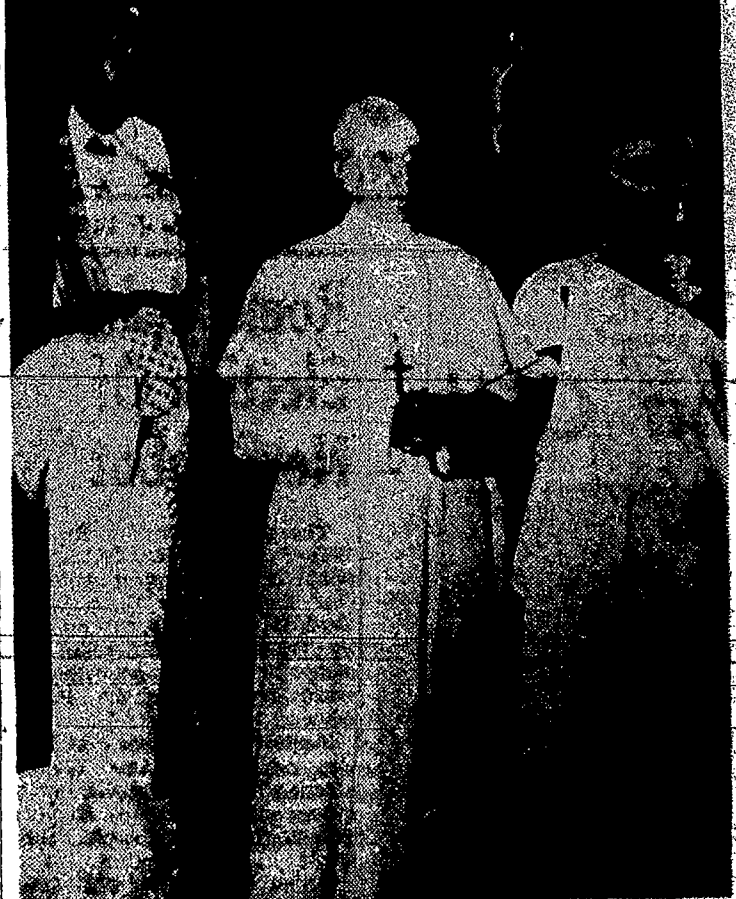
Nearer death than alive, the Chinese waif was carried through the Marine lines at Guadalcanal by natives and given over to the care of Father Frederic M. Gehring, C.M., former China missionary then serving as a Navy chaplain. It was he who gave her the name of Patsi Li (Little White Lotus Blossom) which turned out to be her real name and led to a post-war reunion with her mother.

She returned with her mother to China after the war, but in 1950 was brought to this country by Father Gehring. She attended the Mercy nuns' Walsingham Academy in Williamsburg, Va. She was graduated with honors last June and came to the college here to train as a laboratory technician with a view to studying nursing or medicine later.

RUMI UENO, too, knew at first hand the horrors of war. Her father died and she was living with her mother and sister in Asaka when she came under the care of the Sisters at Sacred Heart Convent in Ohayashi. She was baptised in the Catholic Faith when she was nine. Through the efforts of a missionary priest in Japan, she was enabled to come here to pursue her studies.

At the college here, Miss Ueno is taking a course in liberal arts, with additional business subjects.

'Tallest King' Gives Pope Royal Turban



CASTEL GANDOLFO, ITALY—Pope Pius XII received in private audience King Mwami Charles Mutara Rudahigwa of Ruanda Urundi, Africa, and his wife, Rosalia. The royal couple presented the Pontiff with a precious turban decorated with plumes and pearls, a symbol of regality, and the Pope gave the Catholic monarchs religious medals and a precious rosary. (EISA Photo)

Castelgandolfo (NC) — King Charles Mutara Rudahigwa, the Negro sovereign of Ruanda Urundi in the Belgian Congo, was received with his consort, Queen Rosalia, by His Holiness Pope Pius XII in a private audience.

"It was the most moving day of our lives," King Charles commented afterward. The royal pair, who are Catholics, had long planned the visit to Italy for the special purpose of paying homage to the Sovereign Pontiff.

The Holy Father received the King and Queen in the papal apartments where they were accorded special honors. During the audience King Charles presented His Holiness with a turban of white plumes and seed pearls, a special symbol of royalty among his people. The turban is given only by the king, and then rarely.

The 44-year-old king is considered to be the tallest ruler in the world, measuring seven feet tall. He belongs to the race of noble Vassali, an Ethiopian people known for their intelligence and spirit of initiative. Both he and the Queen were educated in Europe.

There are over a million and a half people in the Kingdom of Ruanda. The many Catholic missions there have reached a high state of development in some sections. The territory is populated by Bantu and Nguni tribes as well as by the Vassali.

King Charles, who was educated at the University of Brussels, has modern ideas about government. He is also keenly interested in agriculture and industry, which he has developed to some degree in his little kingdom.

The king, who is fluent in four languages, now wants to add Italian to them. He is taking an Italian grammar and several books back to Ruanda with him so that one of the missionaries can help him study it.

Belgian Workers Win 5 Day Week

Brussels — (NC) — Thanks to the efforts of this country's Christian trade unions, Belgium's steelworkers, coal miners and workers in several other large industries will soon enjoy a five-day, 45-hour work week.

The agreement with employers setting up the new work hours narrowly averted the threat of one of Belgium's bitterest labor conflicts. It was signed only two days before the deadline on which 300,000 workers were scheduled to strike.

When the Christian trade unions started their drive for the 45-hour week a year ago they ran into Socialist opposition. The Socialist unions were forced to oppose the drive because the Socialist Party was governing the country.

The 45-hour week was made up mainly of businessmen. Had Socialists backed the campaign, the Liberals might have withdrawn from the coalition and brought about the government's downfall.

Later, seeing they were losing their hold on the workers by opposing the 45-hour week, the Socialists reversed their policy and invited the Christian trade unions to support the movement for the five-day work week.

Ground Broken For \$2,500,000 School

Pittsburgh — (NC) — Ground was broken here for the new \$2,500,000 South Hills Catholic High School for Boys being constructed by the Pittsburgh diocese.

Expected to be one of the finest and best-equipped high schools in the United States, it will take care of 1,250 students when the school reaches the full four-year schedule.

Vatican Hits Press Reports On Princess

Vatican City — (RNS) — Osservatore Romano, Vatican City newspaper, denounced press handling of the Princess Margaret romance as the moral and journalistic bankruptcy of the century.

It scored newspapers for failing to emphasize the moral aspects involved and the "noble" message of the princess in announcing she would not marry Group Capt. Peter Townsend.

OSSERVATORE especially took the world press to task for "blaming the mortified heroine because she obeyed the austerity of the State and religion."

The Vatican City press organ also said that many newspapers had subordinated religious considerations to political ones.

The article in Osservatore was written by its editor-in-chief, Count Giuseppe Della Torre.

Chiding the press for its "imprudent" intrusion of privacy, "despite the discretion of the royal family," the Osservatore article emphasized that "it is the sacred right of everyone from the most humble to the most mighty not to make public everything that in one's heart is most precious, that which one regards as most intimate."

In violation of this right, Count Della Torre said, the press openly competed in discussing the feelings of the princess.

"And when the previsions of those who predicted a triumph of what they considered the rights of human beings had been destroyed by the noble message of the princess," he said, "these same individuals raved against what they called political prejudices, ecclesiastical subtleties, religious scruples."

"They would even remove from her unexpected decision the poetry of free sentiment, of free elevation to God, and would substitute for this freedom calculation and self-interest."

U.S. Seeks Polish Freedom

Washington — (NC) — Vice President Nixon told visiting Polish Archbishop Jozef Gawlina that the United States will never be a party to any deal or arrangement which would involve acquiescence in the enslavement of the Polish people by the Soviet Union.

He gave this assurance to the Archbishop, Bishop-elect of Polish refugees when the prelate called on him at his office in the U. S. Capitol Building.

Mr. Nixon said the American people continue to have great interest in the welfare of the Poles.

The problem, he said, is to find a practical formula that would make it possible by peaceful means for them again to have free elections and the right of self-determination.

Scenerama Nuns Leave For Japan Mission Post

Detroit — (NC) — Solemn departure ceremonies were held here for three young nuns of Detroit's first mission Sisterhood as they prepared to leave for mission posts in Japan.

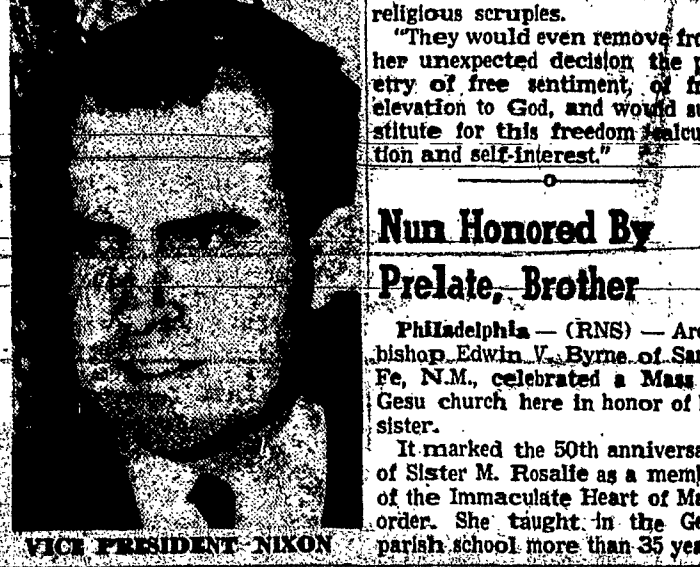
First of the Mission Sisters of St. Francis-Xavier to leave their home in Detroit were Sister Warren, Mich., motherhouse for foreign service are Mother M. Paul, Sister Margaret Mary and Sister Anne Marie, all natives of Detroit.

All three nuns were in Rochester, N.Y., during the recent Mission Scenerama Exhibit.

Joining His Eminence Edward Cardinal Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit, in the rites at St. Rita's Church here were Bishop Luke K. Aral of Yokohama, Japan; Msgr. Leo DeBarry, the Sisters' spiritual advisor, some 50 prelates and priests of the archdiocese, and nearly a thousand relatives, friends, benefactors and nuns.

N.C. Affiliations Pass 10,000 Mark

Washington — (NC) — The total of local organizations affiliated with the National Council of Catholic Women has passed the 10,000 mark. It was announced at the council's headquarters here.



VICE PRESIDENT NIXON

Nun Honored By Prelate, Brother

Philadelphia — (RNS) — Archbishop Edwin V. Byrne of Santa Fe, N.M., celebrated a Mass at Gesu church here in honor of his sister.

It marked the 50th anniversary of Sister M. Rosalie as a member of the Immaculate Heart of Mary order. She taught in the Gesu parish school more than 35 years.

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