

## U.S. Bishop Sets Foot On Free Soil After 5 Years In Red Prisons

HONG KONG — (RNS) — American-born Catholic Bishop Ambrose Henry Pinger, O.F.M., of Cheongtun will always remember his 59th birthday as the day he first set foot on free soil after spending five years in Chinese Communist prisons.

Released from a Shanghai prison Aug. 8, he arrived in Hong Kong aboard a British freighter following a rest interval at the Franciscan Mission in Shanghai.

Among his first words were here were: "It's sure a happy day for me because I was never certain where I would spend my 59th birthday."

Met by a group of fellow franciscans and others, the Bishop spoke sadly of the situation of the Catholic Church on the Communist mainland, where only five other American Catholic missionaries remain.

"The outlook is not good," he said. "There is no religious freedom and it is no longer possible for the Church there to have any contact with the Vatican."

Bishop Pinger, who was scheduled to be sent to a hospital here for treatment of high blood pressure, a run-down physical condition, said he had been "fatted up" before his release to make a good impression on the outside world. He had lost "a few pounds," he explained, in the course of his imprisonment.

The Bishop, a native of Lindsay, Neb., was arrested Aug. 4, 1951, in Tsingtao, but no official announcement of the charges against him was ever made. He said he was told in 1954 that he would be released that year, "but you can see this wasn't true."

Bishop Pinger said he had originally been placed under house arrest in April, 1951, when police raided the mission at Tsingtao in search of a nonexistent radio. The following Aug. 4, he added, four armed officers invaded the mission and took him to jail.

"I guess the only reason," Bishop Pinger commented, "was that I was a Catholic missionary. They didn't say why. They denounced the Legion of Mary as a political organization. I told them it was not a political, but a religious movement, but that made no difference."

When Bishop said he was later accused of engaging in espionage, he denied this, explaining



**Freed Bishop Homeward Bound**

Hong Kong — (RNS) — After five years imprisonment, Bishop Ambrose Pinger, O.F.M., 59, of Lindsay, Neb., is shown aboard the British ship Shillong here in Hong Kong harbor, bound for home. He began his missionary work in China in 1928 and was named first Bishop of Cheongtun in 1946. On arrest by the Communist regime in 1951, he was accused of activity against the state and participation in Legion of Mary activity. Bishop Pinger said he was in fair health, "considering the circumstances."

that he had merely talked to friends "about various construction projects."

Describing his jail experiences, Bishop Pinger said he had been "quite fortunate" so far as physical punishment was concerned. "They made me stand for hours on end and gave me slight slaps," he recalled. "I was shifted from cell to cell—15 in all—but I never knew why. This was their policy of making everything seem uncertain."

Bishop Pinger said the Communists continually held out the bait of release if he would "confess."

"When I told them I had nothing to confess," he said, "they told me I was their worst prisoner, and the only one who didn't confess. I knew this was not true, because they told the same to other prisoners."

Bishop Pinger said he was eventually brought to trial on Oct. 28 last year and sentenced to five years imprisonment for alleged espionage.

He said this was the second time he had been released from imprisonment, the first being when he was freed from Japanese internment during World War II. "Previously," he stated, "I had been a civilian under detention, but the next time I was just a prisoner in a cell."

## Pope States Hopes For Cancer Cure

Castelgandolfo, Italy — (NC) — Pope Pius XII declared he "cannot think without sorrow" about the enormous amount of pain humanity suffers because science knows so little about cancer.

Addressing the executive committee of the International Union Against Cancer, the Pope said: "WE SHALL ask the Lord to illuminate your spirit, to give birth to genial intuition which will increase the progress of science. But above all, we shall ask for each of you patience and perseverance in a work which is often exhausting and disconcerting."

The Holy Father, who spoke in French, told the 60 scientists that cancer is a moral cancer which is equally if not more dangerous than the physical disease.

"IF THE CREATOR has allowed the breaking loose of this dangerous physical disorder which is cancer," the Pope said, "He has also allowed even greater disorders, which are sins and evils of the soul."

"In their great effort of brotherly collaboration men will very soon arrive, so we keenly hope, at the prevention, reduction and even elimination of the first evil," he continued. "But we would like even more to see them unite with fervor and perseverance in the fight against moral evil, which is so much worse than the illness of the body."

## Cardinal Slated At Olympic Mass

Melbourne — (RNS) — Cardinal Gilroy, Archbishop of Sydney, will preside at an open-air Pontifical High Mass in connection with the 16th Olympic Games which will take place here Nov. 23-Dec. 8 it was announced.

Expected to be the first Catholic Mass ever televised in Australia, the ceremony will be held at Corneo Park on Nov. 25, the Sunday following the opening of the Games. Among the expected 100,000 congregation will be many Catholic athletes from many countries and Catholic personnel from some 30 warships visiting here during the Games.



Seoul, Korea — (NC) — Three generations of Catholics in Korea are represented in the above picture of the new Korean vice-president John Myun Chang, standing center, and his father, Leo Kibin Chang, 78, seated. At left is Mrs. Chang and at right, their youngest daughter.

## Korea Veep Hears Mass Before Inaugural Oath

Seoul, Korea — John M. Chang was sworn as Vice President of Korea on the feast of the Assumption after assisting at Mass offered in his home.

The former Korean ambassador to the United States took the oath of office privately, and then was on the platform for the inauguration of the third term of President Syngman Rhee, who had opposed his election. While the 81-year-old President and Vice President shook hands on Mr. Rhee's arrival for the ceremony, they did not speak.

MR. CHANG was congratulated on assuming the vice presidency by Bishop Thomas Quinlan, regent of the Apostolic Delegation here, and Bishop Paul M. Ro, Vicar Apostolic of Seoul.

In a statement issued after the inauguration, the potential successor to the presidency pledged "to give my all during the rest of my life" in the fight to redress the ills of the nation. He warned the millions of his supporters who defied intimidation to vote for him in the May election that the duties and responsibilities are "extremely limited."

Declaring that the Korean scene "is far from peaceful and tranquil," Mr. Chang noted that "a few miles to the north, we are faced with an enemy... ever seeking the opportunity to 'sub-



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## Reds Use Primate As Bargaining Pawn

London — (RNS) — The Polish Communist government has held out a promise to release Cardinal Wyszynski, Primate of Poland, if Catholic leaders muster greater support for the regime among their followers, especially in the rural areas, it was learned here.

Reports said the bid was made at a special conference in Warsaw attended by Franciszek Maur, supervisor of religious affairs for the government, and six pro-regime "progressive" Catholic leaders. These Catholics represent a comparatively small minority who insist that "coexistence" is possible between Catholicism and Communism.

LATEST INFORMATION on Cardinal Wyszynski, who was arrested and banished from his See of Gniezno and Warsaw in September, 1953, "is that he is now confined to a monastery in western part of the country. He is said to be kept under close watch and barred from receiving visits except from members of his family."

Among the six "progressive" Catholics at the Warsaw meeting were Count Konstanty Lublinski and Boleslaw Plaszcki, who was recently elected a member of the Communist-sponsored All-Poland National Front Committee.

Principal purpose of the meeting, according to the reports, was to discuss a project for new elections broached at recent Communist Party session. The proposed elections, it was hinted, would give a more democratic and representative character to the Polish parliament, up till now a mere rubber-stamp assembly.

Final decision, it was intimated, would be deferred until the government can "come to terms" with Catholic leaders.

THE MEETING between the "progressive" Catholics and the government official was in line with the apparent policy of the government to win over the Catholic rank-and-file through new

gestures of conciliation and appeasement. A striking demonstration of this policy was the action of the government in providing facilities for pilgrimages to the famous shrine of our lady of Czestochowa marking the feast of the Assumption.

Well over 50,000 pilgrims, men, women and children gathered at Jasna Gora from all parts of the country to venerate the famous "Black Madonna" preserved there. Some traveled 500 miles. For the first time in many years, the Polish railroads granted fare reductions for a number of poor and aged pilgrims.

Assumption Day was celebrated with marked solemnity also in other parts of Poland. In some areas, factories were closed to enable workers to join the Marian feastday.



Cardinal Wyszynski

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