

# Protestant, Russian Orthodox Meetings Benefit Kremlin

By FATHER PLACID JORDAN, O.S.B.  
(Correspondent, N.C.W.C. News Service)

Stuttgart, Germany, (NC)—Ultimately only the Kremlin is helped by the contacts various Protestant groups have recently established with the Russian Orthodox church.

This statement was made by the Rev. Dr. Hans Asmussen, distinguished Protestant theologian, in a new book, "Rome—Wittenberg—Moscow," published here.

Dr. Asmussen criticized his

co-religionists for their cooperation with Russian church leaders, whom he described as political tools of the anti-Christian Communist regime.

"Why," he asked, "are similar contacts not established with the Catholic Church, which is much closer to us than the Orthodox?"

ANTAGONISM TO the Catholic Church, he added, is the only bond existing between Protest-

ants and the Russian clergy. In matters of dogma the Orthodox church actually is very close to Rome and Protestants should object to Orthodox teachings at least as much as they object to Catholic doctrine, he wrote.

He added that the Orthodox churches on this side of the Iron Curtain are purposely ignored by the Protestant groups for reasons of political expediency not relating to faith or morals.

In discussing recent incidents in both Spain and South America which have provided ammunition for anti-Catholic propaganda in certain Protestant quarters, Dr. Asmussen pointed out that at the same time no protest has come from Protestant sources against the persecution of Catholics in Red-dominated territories.

NEITHER HAVE Protestants exercised any influence to correct the situation in Switzerland, where members of the Society of Jesus are restrained from all public and educational activities, nor the situation in Norway, where the same order is also banned under the constitution.

Compared to the noise made about Spain and Columbia, Dr. Asmussen concluded, it seems strange that the World Council of Churches (Protestant-Orthodox) has never had anything to say about the persecution of religion behind the Iron Curtain.

## Sons Serve Mass Of Burmese Priest

Rangoon, Burma—(NC)—When Father Francis Xaviermuthu celebrated his first Mass here, his two sons, Joseph and August, were his altar boys.

Father Xaviermuthu lost his wife in 1944. He made provision for the future of his three children and in 1946 was granted permission to enter a minor seminary. After ten years of study, he was ordained.



## Church Rites Held In Belgian Congo

Leopoldville, Belgian Congo—(NC)—A colorful procession and Te Deum attended by all the Bishops of the Belgian Congo, and neighboring Ruanda-Urundi, along with native Catholic lay people, marked Catholic observance of the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the city of Leopoldville, Belgian Congo's chief city. Special prayers of thanksgiving were offered during the festivities.

## Papal Envoy Forces Russian Diplomat To Recognize Status Of Vatican State

Rome—(NC)—The Apostolic Nuncio to Italy forced the Soviet embassy in Rome to give him official recognition before he would accept an official call from the embassy's charge d'affaires, it was revealed here.

The story came in an exclusive interview which the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Giuseppe Fieltta.

SOME TIME ago, Archbishop Fieltta said, he was asked to receive D. P. Pogodiev, charge d'affaires of the Soviet embassy in Rome, in a courtesy call. The Nuncio replied that he could not recognize the charge d'affaires because he had not been given the required notification of Ambassador Alexander Bogomolov's absence from the city.

The Russian Ambassador is presently absent on a visit to Moscow. The Soviet embassy in

Rome has, however, always ignored the existence of the Apostolic Nuncio, even though he is traditionally dean of the diplomatic corps here. No notice of the Soviet Ambassador's absence was given the Nuncio, just as no other official notice or recognition has ever been given him by the Soviet embassy.

THE DAY AFTER this reply Archbishop Fieltta received an official communication announcing the appointment of the charge d'affaires in the Ambassador's absence. Along with this communication there was a new request that the Nuncio receive the charge d'affaires in a courtesy call. A 15-minute appointment was then granted for August 21 at 11 a.m.

At the end of the courtesy call Mr. Pogodiev asked if he could deliver two documents. The Arch-

bishop replied that it was irregular to deliver documents while on a courtesy call, but that he would receive them anyhow.

ONE OF THE documents was the memorandum of the Supreme Soviet on disarmament, the other was a declaration of the Soviet government on the Suez Canal question.

Archbishop Fieltta said he did not accept the documents without also taking advantage of the occasion to point out to the Soviet diplomat the grave religious conditions existing in Russia and to stress the absolute necessity that religious freedom be granted.

# Faith Role Dooms Hinduism In India

Mangalore, India—(NC)—The progress of Christian ideals in India has installed a "fear complex" among Hindu leaders about the fate of their religion.

Bishop Leonard J. Raymond of Allahabad said this is a reason for what he called the hostility and harassment of Catholics which has become a feature of Hindu policy in recent years.

He declared that Hindu religious leaders are "seized" with a fear complex, because they see in the growth of Catholicism the "ultimate doom of the Hindu religion and with it their own downfall."

The Hindus in general, the Bishop pointed out, have not yet realized that India's independence, her constitution and the present drive towards a socialist pattern of society are all "literally based on the Christian ideal."

Even their Ramakrishna Missions copy Christian methods in administering their establishments, using such designations as rector and minister, the Bishop said.

But their "sannyasis" (monks) and top Hindu religious leaders, the Bishop added, do realize this and clearly read, in these changes for the better, the writing on the wall.

"THEY KNOW full well that this is the beginning of their ultimate downfall. They fully understand that the doom of the Hindu religion, which cannot compete with or survive the progress of the Christian ideal, is not far off," the prelate declared.

Bishop Raymond listed this as the most potent reason for the "anti-Catholic bias and repression" among sections of the Hindu population.

NOTING THE situation in the state of Madhya Pradesh, the prelate said that Catholics there are being repressed and harassed in various ways, so much so that in some instances their very existence is being threatened.

The Bishop warned, however, against attempts to settle individual situations through recourse to "police action."

"Firmness, tact, insurmountable patience and a lot of time" are the things required, he said.

## Cardinal Griffin Buried Alongside Wiseman, Manning

London—(NC)—His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Griffin who died August 20, was buried quietly in the crypt of Westminster Cathedral after a Requiem Mass attended by 6,000 representatives of the nation.

A small group of his clergy and personal friends—dwarfed by the massive silent cathedral—escorted his body slowly down from the high altar down to the chapel immediately below.

There they laid the Cardinal alongside two great predecessors, Cardinal Wiseman and Cardinal Manning. They placed him in a tomb facing the high altar above and the crypt's own altar, behind which the other two Cardinals are buried.

The climax of a week's mourning saw Archbishop John H. King, Bishop of Portsmouth, senior of the province, offer the Solemn Requiem Mass in a cathedral packed to the doors.

## Cardinal Ruffini Enroute To U.S.

Naples, Italy—(NC)—His Eminence Ernesto Cardinal Ruffini, Archbishop of Palermo, boarded here the Italian liner, Cristoforo Colombo, bound for the United States.

Cardinal Ruffini said he is taking the trip at the invitation of His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, a friend of long standing.



## Mission Prepares For Winter

St. Mary's Alaska—(NC)—The salmon canning season has opened at St. Mary's Mission, here, as Gladys Shungnak, a member of the first graduation class at this Alaska mission, places a can of salmon on the conveyor track that will take it to the cooling rack. Fr. Vivian Serveryn, O.S.B., of Linnecost, Linburg, Belgium, dries a coat that has just come out of the pressure cooker. Orphans at the mission catch, smoke and can about 2,000 salmon each season, in part through the Alaska

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