

Resignations Plague Italian Red Party

By FATHER JAMES I. TUCEK

Rome — (NC) — The Hungarian tragedy has been the cause for a real crisis of conscience among many writers, journalists and artists belonging to the Italian Communist party.

Writer Vasco Pratolini, often hailed by the Italian communist newspaper L'Unita as the most orthodox communist of all, recently returned from Poland where he witnessed the uprisings of last October.

IN A LETTER to L'Unita he criticized the errors committed in Poland by the Reds and condemned Russian interference.

The communist paper was careful not to publish the letter and its contents became known only because Pratolini had sent a duplicate letter to another newspaper.

Another well-known Italian novelist, Elio Vittorini of Sicily, quit the Communist party as a result of the events in Hungary.

Neapolitan novelist Domenico Rea resigned from the staff of the pro-communist newspaper Paese Sera because he could "no longer agree with the thesis of the Italian Communist party."

His conscience began bothering him a few months ago, he said, after a trip to Czechoslovakia. He was deeply disappointed because "after ten years of socialism, conditions prevailing in that country were miserable and not the slightest flame of freedom burned there."

MANY OTHER journalists working for the pro-communist newspapers Paese and Paese Sera have turned in their resignations. These resignations are all the more significant since the Red newsmen know they will be without work for a long time.

Even if these resignations were long in coming, the Vatican City weekly L'Osservatore della Domenica commented, "they still present a feeling of respect for the reason who had to make them."

Wrote FRANCESCO FORTINI, who expressed his disgust for "a socialism of tanks," journalist and dramatist Italo de Tullio and painter Giovanni Cimolli have all severed their ties with the Italian Communist party.

At the same time that it was being hit by resignations, the Communist party here was being severely criticized from within.

At the recent party convention here a communist member of Parliament, Antonio Ghilini, attacked the Red leader Palmiro Togliatti for continuing to follow a "Stalinist" line.

Boycott Asked On Red Rites

Berlin (RNS) — The bishop's office of the Berlin Roman Catholic diocese, in a statement here, warned Catholics that Communist youth dedication ceremonies are atheistic in character and must be boycotted "under all circumstances."

The statement was released as Communists throughout the Soviet Zone began an all-out campaign for next spring's rites. Addressed to both Catholic parents and children, the statement urged them to remain firm in their faith and resist Communist pressure upon them.

The Red ceremonies — an atheistic counterpart of Christian First Communion and Confirmation — were originated by German freethinkers decades ago. They were revived by the Communists to wean children from their religious loyalties.

The youth dedication ceremonies are held for young people who have completed primary school. Both Protestant and Catholic authorities have repeatedly forbidden their followers to participate in or encourage the Communist rites.

London Prelate Asks End Of Bitterness

London — (NC) — Archbishop William Godfrey, the Archbishop-designate of Westminster, told the nation in a radio interview that "all bitterness should be banished" in relations with non-Catholic religious bodies.

The prelate, who succeeds the late Cardinal Griffin in his new See and automatically becomes the chief spokesman for the Church in England and Wales, declared:

"It is possible to respect the beliefs of others without sharing them, but charity would not be charity if one were prepared to sacrifice principle in order to save face."



Congo Native Becomes Bishop

Firs, Belgian Congo-born priest to be raised to the hierarchy is Most Rev. Pierre Kimbondo, right, who is shown during consecration ceremonies. He has been named Auxiliary to Bishop Verwilt at Kisumu, Belgian Congo. The colorful ceremonies were attended by thousands of Catholics.

Time Alone Will Tell

Too Early Yet To Know Sincerity Of American Communists 'New Look'

(The writer of this article is the assistant director of the Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference and author of a number of works on the communist movement in the U. S. Here he examines the U. S. Communist party's announcement of a new draft constitution making the party independent of Moscow and renouncing violent revolution.)

By FATHER JOHN F. CRONIN

Washington — (NC) — It is too early to know how sincere the American communists are in announcing a new draft constitution making the party independent of Moscow and renouncing violent revolution.

Next February the party will meet to make its decision on the draft. It is expected that the result will be a "new look" which will give the group the appearance of a native American political party. This would be a sharp contrast to the obviously foreign tone which characterized most of its previous 38 years.

THERE ARE several important reasons behind the planned change. First, there is the attrition suffered as a result of the Smith Act. The essence of this law is its prohibition of conspiracy to overthrow our government by force and violence. The new communist constitution will outlaw violent revolution.

A second hazard faced by the communists is the Internal Security Act of 1950. The key point in this act is the effective control of the communist party here by the Communist party of the Soviet Union. Undoubtedly the new constitution will stress the autonomy of the American party.

Any real autonomy will meet a third difficulty which the party here has faced. Many communists have reacted adversely to the speech of the Russian Communist party leader, Nikita Khrushchev, on Stalin, the revelations of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union, and the freedom movements in Poland and Hungary. Rigid ties with the Soviet Union today might cause a disastrous split in the Communist party here.

THE REVIVED communist movement would then be able to resume penetration of mass movements, such as labor organizations, free from the stigma which have beset it since the onset of the cold war. It would also have effective legal weapons to challenge the many laws which now inhibit its activities.

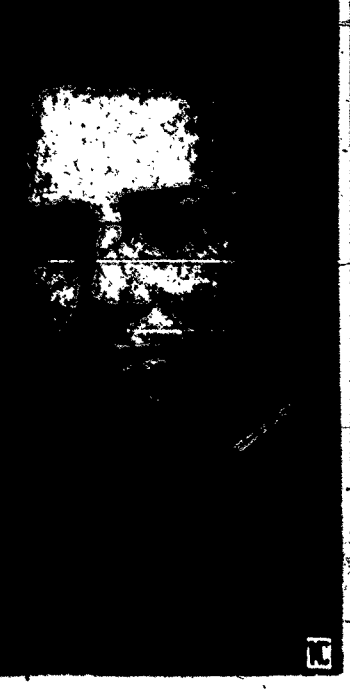
This apparently is the theory behind the drastic change, planned last spring but only now fully revealed to the public. In the meantime, however, the course of events outran earlier plans.

Changes which had been planned for face-saving or legal purposes suddenly were demanded in earnest by important communists. Many wanted real, rather than nominal, independence from Moscow. A few were disillusioned with revolutionary communism and wanted traditional socialism, rather than a few concessions to the Smith Act.

THE EVENTS outlined earlier started this revolt. Reactions to Khrushchev's speech on Stalin apparently got out of hand. The same was true in regard to the anti-Semitism of the Soviets. And the support for Poland and Hungary was far more extensive than would have been warranted by Moscow's actions, even when a somewhat liberal policy was being followed.

Regular readers of the Daily Worker were astonished by the influence of criticism directed toward the Soviet since last March. What may have been planned as moderate independence along the lines worked out by Tito and Khrushchev turned into almost outright revolt. If we are to judge by the party's paper in New York, the Daily Worker, the Communist party here has turned Titoist with a vengeance.

But the old stalwarts reared in Comintern traditions have not budged from their fanatical loyalty to the Soviet Union. They are prepared to fight for the original plan of surface changes only. It is not clear at this time which faction will prevail, or whether a compromise will be worked out.



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knowing the subtlety and discipline of the Communists, to visualize these struggles as mere play-acting, designed to give an authentic touch to the new constitution. The best answer to this theory is to note that the ferment within communism is world-wide. It has affected the movement inside the Iron Curtain as well as outside. And the march of events is hurrying communism too much to justify the bland assumption that it was all planned this way.

As the situation looks now, we can expect some real fireworks next February when the Communist party meets. It may come out stronger and more dangerous than ever. Or it may be splintered and torn. Time alone will tell.

U. S. Urged To Increase Refugee Quota

New York — (NC) — The U. S. should accept 20,000 additional Hungarian refugees, beyond the 21,500 maximum now set for this country, a Catholic prelate said here.

The suggestion was made by Msgr. Edward E. Swanstrom, executive director of Catholic Relief Services - National Catholic Welfare Conference, who recently returned from a trip to Austria to survey the refugee situation there.

HE REPORTED "deplorable conditions" in most refugee camps in Austria and suggested that "the United Nations lend more aid and direction in providing for the care and maintenance of the refugees in the camps."

"It's hard to believe such a situation exists," he said. "The buildings are dilapidated and have no heat. Some families coming into Vienna couldn't find a place to sleep and had to be given shelter on the floor of an abandoned hospital used by the refugee center."

HE ASSERTED that "the morale of the refugees is very high now," but this will not last if other countries do not lend more assistance.

He urged that more of the refugees be taken in by Australia, Canada and especially the U. S. Fifty per cent of the refugees went to come to the U. S., he added.

Cardinal To Visit GIs' In Greenland

Washington — (NC) — Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, will offer at least seven Masses for American troops when he visits U. S. Air Force bases in Newfoundland and Greenland.

The Cardinal's itinerary was announced here by Msgr. (Brig. Gen.) Terrence P. Finnegan, Deputy Chief of Chaplains of the U. S. Air Force. The Cardinal was scheduled to leave Maguire Air Force Base in Newark, N. J., today (Dec. 20) accompanied by Brig. Gen. James Knapp, commanding general of the Goose Bay Air Base in Labrador, and Msgr. Albert Steffens, chaplain at the base.

The Cardinal is Military Vicar for Catholics in the U. S. Armed Forces. He observed the past five Christmases with the American troops in Korea and the Far East.

THE CARDINAL'S itinerary follows: December 21: Mass at Harmon Air Force Base in Newfoundland; December 22: Mass at Narsarsuk, Greenland, and in Sondrestrom, Greenland; December 23: Mass at Frenshler Air Force Base on Buffin Island; December 24: The Cardinal will fly to the Thule Air Force Base, also in Greenland. He will cover outlying bases around Thule on December 23 and on the morning of the 24th.

December 25: Midnight Mass and afternoon Mass in Thule. Christmas Evening Mass at the Goose Bay Air Force Base in Labrador.

December 26: Mass at the Peppercell Air Force Base in Newfoundland, headquarters of the Northeast Air Command. In the evening the Cardinal will be the guest of honor at a reception given by Lt. Gen. Glenn L. Barcus, commanding general of the Northeast Air Command.

December 27: The Cardinal will fly from Peppercell to New York.

French Bishops' Relics Found

Paris — (RNS) — Workers restoring a chapel in Quimper, Brittany, discovered the preserved hearts of three 18th century French Roman Catholic bishops which archeologists had sought in vain for many years.

The scholars, relying upon a reference to the hearts contained in the will of one of the prelates, Breton Bishop de Farcy de Caille, who died in 1768, had probed for them in the south side of the altar.

The workmen came upon the hearts, all sheathed in lead, behind a wall blocking an old doorway. It is assumed they were hidden in the wall during the French Revolution to avoid profanation.

In his will, Bishop de Farcy de Caille had instructed that his heart be placed in the chapel of Quimper seminary alongside those of Bishop de Plouec of Quimper and Bishop de Kervervans of Treguier.

Vatican Acquires Dead Sea Scrolls

Vatican City — (NC) — The Prefect of the Apostolic Vatican Library, Father Anselmo Albareda, has announced the Holy See's acquisition of several important manuscripts found in caves near the Dead Sea.

When the discoveries of the manuscripts were made public in 1947 and the several years following, the Holy See made contacts with the owners through the Vatican Library. Upon the Pope's direction the manuscripts were bought.

After being cleaned, put in order and studied in Jerusalem, they were recently brought to Rome.

St. Louis Archbishop To Head Sodalties

St. Louis — (NC) — Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter of St. Louis has accepted the office of episcopal moderator for the National Federation of Sodalties of Our Lady. It was announced here.

The federation, commenced by Pope Pius XIII and approved by the U. S. Bishops at their annual meeting in Washington in November, will be effected at a convention of sodalties to be held here January 19 and 20.

WHO IS HE?

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On this Christmas, with hearts full of gratitude, we greet our benefactors for their many kindnesses throughout the year in our poor Near East missions—through Mass offerings, and their designated and "stringless" gifts. We have arranged with His Beatitude, Archbishop Cerei, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, to offer the Pontifical Midnight Mass at the Grotto in Bethlehem for our benefactors; also, ten of his priests will each offer a Mass there throughout Christmas morning for them. Thus, do they, and we, greet you from the Manger. May the Babe guard you in the New Year!

THERE WAS NO ROOM IN THE INN FOR THE CHILD. MAKE ROOM FOR HIM IN YOUR WILL.

We think of Father King as he visits his poor Arab refugees in Bethlehem on Christmas. He tries to fill their many needs. Have you a mile for him this Christmas or a FOOD PACKAGE (\$10)? We'll send for each pack a ROSARY FROM THE HOLY LAND.

EMMANUEL

MANUEL, or Emmanuel — however you write the name, it doesn't matter. But it does matter very much that we have two MANUELS — one in Beth Jala near Bethlehem and the other in India, both of whom need a friend to give the \$100 we need each year for the six years to train them as priests. Won't you help one?

GOD WITH US

Harra, an almost entirely Moslem town in the Syrian desert, has 500 Catholics who want to say, "God is with us." Now Mass is said in a room smaller than a modest living room. The Greek Orthodox there, with no church at all, would gladly join our people, if we had room. We need \$3,000 to build a small chapel.

We are hoping that many of our friends will remember our Holy Father with a "stringless gift" for Christmas. Such gifts enable him to do enormous good for the poor in the Holy Lands.

SU-S-P-E-N-S-I-O-N? Are you wondering who will remember your soul with Masses? You can arrange for them yourself now. Write and ask us about our "suspense card."

"GLORY TO GOD"

That's what SISTER MARY GLORY, a novice with the Christ Sisters in India, will say when she hears that we have found a kind year during her two years of training. Many times each day in years to come she will sing the "Gloria" in her heart for her sponsor.

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Movie Change

Albany, N. Y. — Bishops' Committee on Hollywood's code of film changed radically when revised.

Bishop William A. S. Albany declared that in soon after announcement new Motion Picture Code to comment fully new set of principles to making of movies.

But he stated that of the pressure put on mittee revising the change it radically and to see that this was not

THE BISHOP added those areas of interpretation the new code in which administrators must make the hopes they "will union and good judgment to accepted Christian standards of morality."

The Albany prelate is happy to see that code contains a paragraph against blasphemy on the Kenneth Clark, a vice of the Motion Picture A of America, of which administration office explained that MPAA had long thought the code "a streamlining" and first such comprehensive of the code since its 1928 — was begun a year

Mr. Clark indicated major effects of the "ing" are to simplify language, make its more precise and put it in a more logical order.

BUT THERE are c its provisions. Subjects which were bidden in the old code are permitted, with a specific qualifications, illicit narcotics practice prostitution — and — kind children.

To give an indication of the code says about abortion — "The subject of abortion is discouraged, shall more than suggested, referred to shall be c. It must never be treated or made the subject of Abortion shall never explicitly or by inference story must not indicate abortion has been performed "abortion" shall used."

In addition to a against blasphemy, the contains new bans against with "mercy killing of divine as well

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