

Reds Suppress Truth On War Prisoners, Says Vatican Paper

Vatican City — (NC) — L'Osservatore Romano, Vatican City daily, has accused the Soviet government of withholding the truth about the fate of Italian prisoners of war held in the Soviet Union.

L'Osservatore was commenting on reports brought back by Giuseppe Pollifonte, an Italian soldier who escaped from a Russian concentration camp. Pollifonte told of an estimated 5,000 Italian soldiers who are still held prisoner in the camp from which he escaped.

The Vatican City daily declared that if Pollifonte's statements are true, then the repeated denials with which the Soviet government has dismissed the many inquiries about prisoners of war are all the more barbaric.

ON THE OTHER HAND, L'Osservatore said, if Pollifonte's story is false, "the fact still remains to be explained why the Russian government should have remained silent about the existence of these prisoners, why he was held and compelled to flee in order to see his fatherland once more and to return to society."

"For, if there was no reason to fear that he would make accusing statements, there was by the same token no reason not to give him back his freedom many years ago."

POLLIFONTE was taken prisoner in Albania in 1943 and shipped to Siberia. Later he was transferred to Odessa. In March 1957, he was transferred to a concentration camp in Hungary, from which he escaped. While passing through Yugoslavia he was arrested and placed in a Yugoslav concentration camp. He remained there until his second escape and return to Italy.

Referring to the return of the Yugoslav government, L'Osservatore added that "the intervention of Yugoslavia to prevent the repatriation of these unfortunate men and the fact that they are arrested when they manage to escape, denotes a complicity that is all the more despicable since it is willful."

Pope Receives Rome Mayor

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Plus XII received newly elected Mayor Urbano Ciocchetti of Rome in a special audience here after the Mayor had expressed the wish to pay his respects to the Bishop of Rome.

Mr. Ciocchetti was appointed Mayor of Rome by the city council after former Mayor Umberto Tupini resigned because of the demands of his office as a member of the Italian Senate.

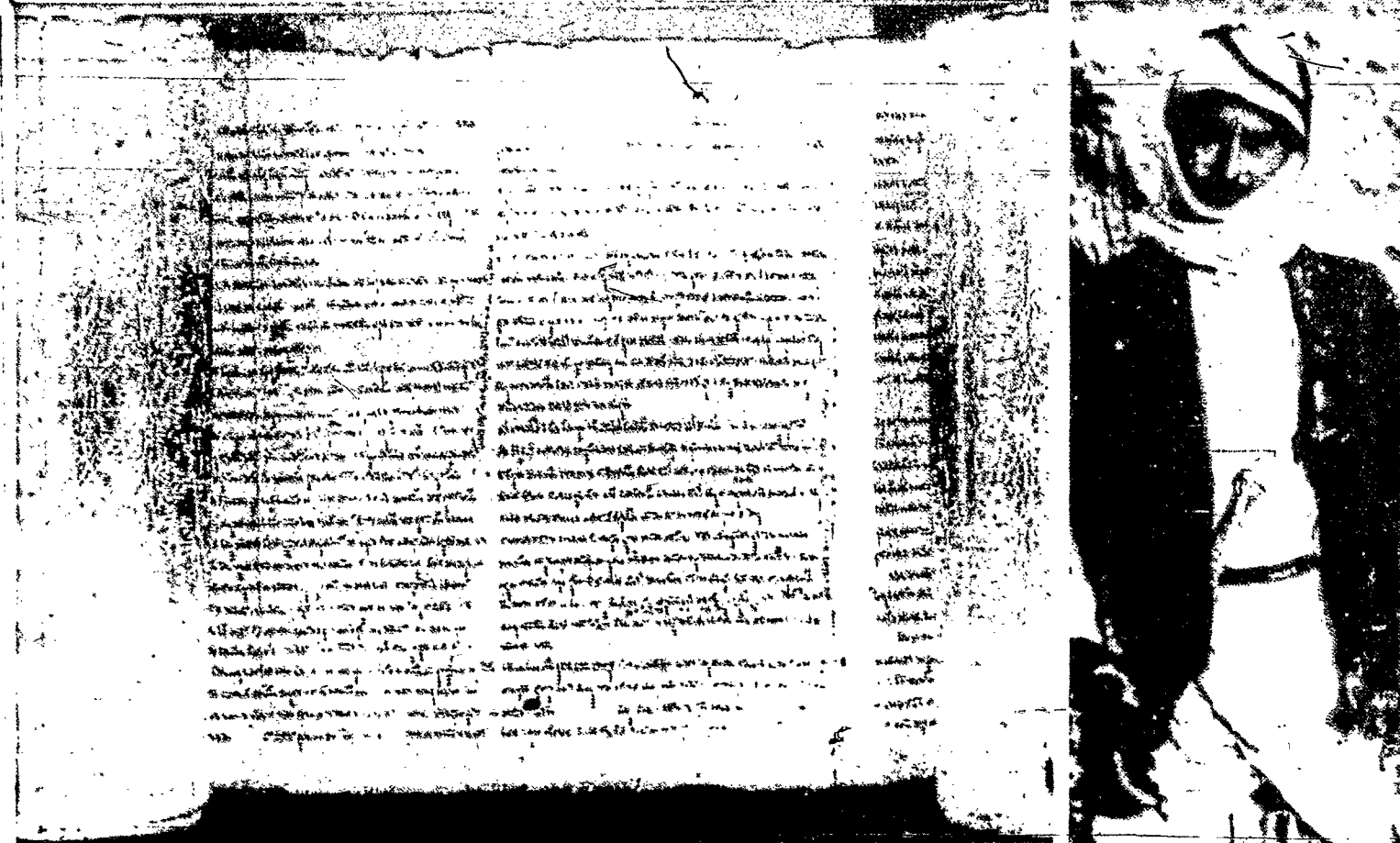
The new mayor is a leader of Italian Catholic Action and a prominent Catholic journalist.

Non-Catholic Teenagers Answer Mass In Latin

Hot Springs, Ark. — (NC) — The entire student body of St. Gabriel's school here, 90 percent non-Catholic, all raising their voices to God in the Latin liturgy of the Church, impressed Father James J. Harrington, C.S.P. There are only 15 Catholic children in the school.

Father Harrington, director of the Paulist Fathers' southern mission band, conducted a mission here in the Hot Springs area of the Little Rock diocese.

"All those non-Catholic children joining in with the small handful of Catholics to recite the prayers of the Proper and Canon during daily Mass, even answering the responses in Latin — well, it was indeed a wonderful sight," said Father Harrington.



Historical Silence Broken By Dead Sea Scrolls

An accidental discovery of a simple Arabian goat-herd, Muhammed adh-Dhib (pictured in right photo) made world history, in leading to the finding of "The Dead Sea Scrolls." In spring of 1947, the young Palestinian threw a stone into a cave, heard something break, and then found in earthen jugs, the first treasured documents. Scholars found that the scrolls broke the silence which shrouded the religious background of the time of

Christ. About the Old Testament, the scrolls illuminated early history of the Hebrew Bible; regarding the New Testament, they have in no way revolutionized New Testament theology, but have shed light on previously unknown background to the historical origins of Christianity. Part of the scrolls, pictured above, measure almost 11 inches high, and almost 24 feet long. Excerpt from the book of Isaiah, Chapters 30 and 40, is shown.

Cardinal Ottaviani

Condemns Catholics In Public Life Who Use Church To Better Own Position

Rome (NC) — Catholics in public life who use the Church to further their own ambitions were sharply criticized by an Italian Cardinal.

They were denounced by Cardinal Ottaviani, Pro-Secretary of the Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office in an article in Il Quotidiano, Rome's Catholic Action daily.

CARDINAL OTTAVIANI singled out for blame office holders in Catholic countries who betray their religious convictions. He said:

"Certain men, who have been entrusted by Catholics with the mandate to protect in public life the Christian principles proclaimed by their organizations, often show in practice that they have their own ambitions, political success or social position more at heart than the progress toward a better world in which the Church seeks to lead humanity."

Mentioning names, the Cardinal continued:

"There are even some Catholics, invested with political power who dare to take the side of those who not only offend the Church but plainly massacre her."

"They use priests as tools in their dealings with powerful men and thus create throughout the country a feeling of weariness toward the men of sterner who are turned into agents of temporal matters."



CARDINAL OTTAVIANI

Cardinal Ottaviani did not identify the countries to which he referred, saying only "they are large; they are entire continents."

THE COMMUNISTS here in response to the Cardinal's article as an attack on Senator Dino Del Bo, Christian Democrat who recently advocated a neutralist policy toward the Soviet Union.

Venezuela Prelate Hails Political Shift

Caracas, Venezuela — (NC) — The change in Venezuela's political situation brings great relief to the Church, said Archbishop Rafael Arias Blanco of Caracas in an interview following the overthrow of dictator Perez Jimenez.

"This is a time for a great work of moral reconstruction," the Archbishop said, "not for hatred and revenge. Liberty is necessary for the Church and for the souls of her faithful."

The Archbishop made his statement here as the Venezuelan capital was caught up in a frenzy of celebration, rioting and demonstration following the ouster of President Perez Jimenez, and the assumption of the country's government by a military junta.

Two days before Jimenez was overthrown, a general strike was called. The dictator's security police attacked with tear gas a congregation attending the regular noonday Mass at the Church of St. Teresa here in the resulting confusion. Father Hortensio Carrillo, the priest at the church, was wounded.

THE PEOPLE of the capital are overwhelmed by the overthrow of their dictatorial government and priests find it difficult to keep them from breaking into the towers of churches and ringing the bells celebrating the overthrow of the nine-year military dictatorship.

Caracas' Catholic daily, La Religion put out its first unsold edition since November, 1954 and proposed that a public monument be erected to the more than 300 persons killed in the uprising and called for a hasty restoration of peace and order in the country.

PRIOR TO THE Jimenez overthrow, Father Jesus Hernandez Chapellin, editor of La Religion, was jailed for refusing to publish a government condemnation of the abortive New Year's Day uprising by some of the country's military forces.

Imprisoned with him were Fathers Delfino Mondado, parish priest of Caracas; Jose Sarraute of the Caracas cathedral; Hortensio Carrillo of the Church of St. Teresa; Pedro Pablo Barnola, director of the Catholic University of Caracas; and Alfredo Ostia.

To date all jailed priests have been released except Father Al-

varez Flegel, parish priest of the Church of the Good Shepherd.

During his first radio and television broadcast Rear Admiral Wolfgang Larrazabal, 47, leader of the new "Patriotic Junta" governing the country, asked for the collaboration of Catholics in restoring order in the country.

He concluded his address by making the sign of the cross. Admiral Larrazabal is well-known as a Catholic and included the mention of the name of God in several of his dispatches declaring the rule of President Perez Jimenez at an end.

THE JUNTA, now composed of six military men and two civilians is composed of men known as Catholics.

One month before the uprising a number of priests were named to seats in the national congress by the Jimenez regime but all of them immediately renounced their appointments. The appointments followed the December 15 plebiscite in which the name of Perez Jimenez was the only one appearing on the ballots.

Columbans Number 940 In 39 Years

St. Columban, Neb. — (NC) — The Columban Fathers' foreign mission society has grown to a membership of 940 in the 39 years since it was founded, according to the 1958 Columban directory just issued.

Founded in 1918 by the late Bishop Edward J. Ginn for work in China, the society is devoted exclusively to foreign mission work. It has taken mission fields in Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Burma, Fiji, Iceland and South America.

THE CUSTOM OF THE POOR...

was followed by the Blessed Mother when she made her offering in the Temple "after the days of her purification were accomplished." (Feast of the Purification February 2). How close to the Mother of God are the poor converts of Perumprattai (South India) who have not even the land on which to raise a small chapel in which to worship Her Divine Son. Bishop Amann writes: "This is a mission that has a good future. I am sure many more will come into the Church if a chapel is provided for them. I have no site on which to raise even a shed. This is a necessary provision for the progress of this mission and to deepen the faith of those who have returned to the Church." \$3,500 will supply the land and the chapel so badly needed by this missionary bishop—will you help?

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GOD REWARDS THE CHEERFUL GIVER.

Near East Missions FRANCIS CARDINAL SPELLMAN, President Msgr. Peter P. Tuohy, Nat'l Soc'y Send all communications to: CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION 480 Lexington Ave. at 46th St. New York 17, N. Y.

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