

Khrushchev Seen Continuing Atheist War On Religion

(N.C.W.C. News Service)
Nikita S. Khrushchev's take over of complete power in the Soviet Union in name as well as in fact spells no let up in the drive of atheistic materialism to wipe out even the memory of God from the minds of its enslaved peoples.

Now Premier as well as head of the massive, hardworking machine which is the Soviet Communist party, Khrushchev has consolidated his power to a point comparable to that held by Stalin during his years of dictatorship.

The belief that has gained currency in the West that Khrushchev looks more favorable on religion than the old line Reds is a myth. It grew up because in November, 1954, Khrushchev, the master propagandist, called for a new strategy in the Soviet's approach to religion.

But his declaration that the stepped-up anti-religious campaign had been a failure was misinterpreted. He actually was initiating a new "soft" policy of seeming tolerance toward believers, but at the same time stepping up anti-religious propaganda on the "scientific" level.

It is believed that one major bone Khrushchev has had to pick with Wladyslaw Gornulka, Polish communist party chieftain who came to power over Khrushchev's bitter opposition in October, 1956, has been over the question of religion.

The Gornulka regime in Poland has not only released the bishops and priests from jail, but restored religion classes to the schools. This, according to informed circles, is outright heresy in the eyes of Premier Khrushchev.

ORTHODOX COMMUNIST dogma spells out high in its creed that "religious superstitions" must be eliminated—and

that means all religious belief. Khrushchev is outspoken in upholding this article of the Red creed.

According to three American correspondents who interviewed him last fall—William Randolph Hearst Jr., Bob Considine, and Frank Conniff—the mere mention of God set the party boss off on a tirade. He was reported to have summed it up by saying that belief in God makes for a situation which is "incompatible" with communism.

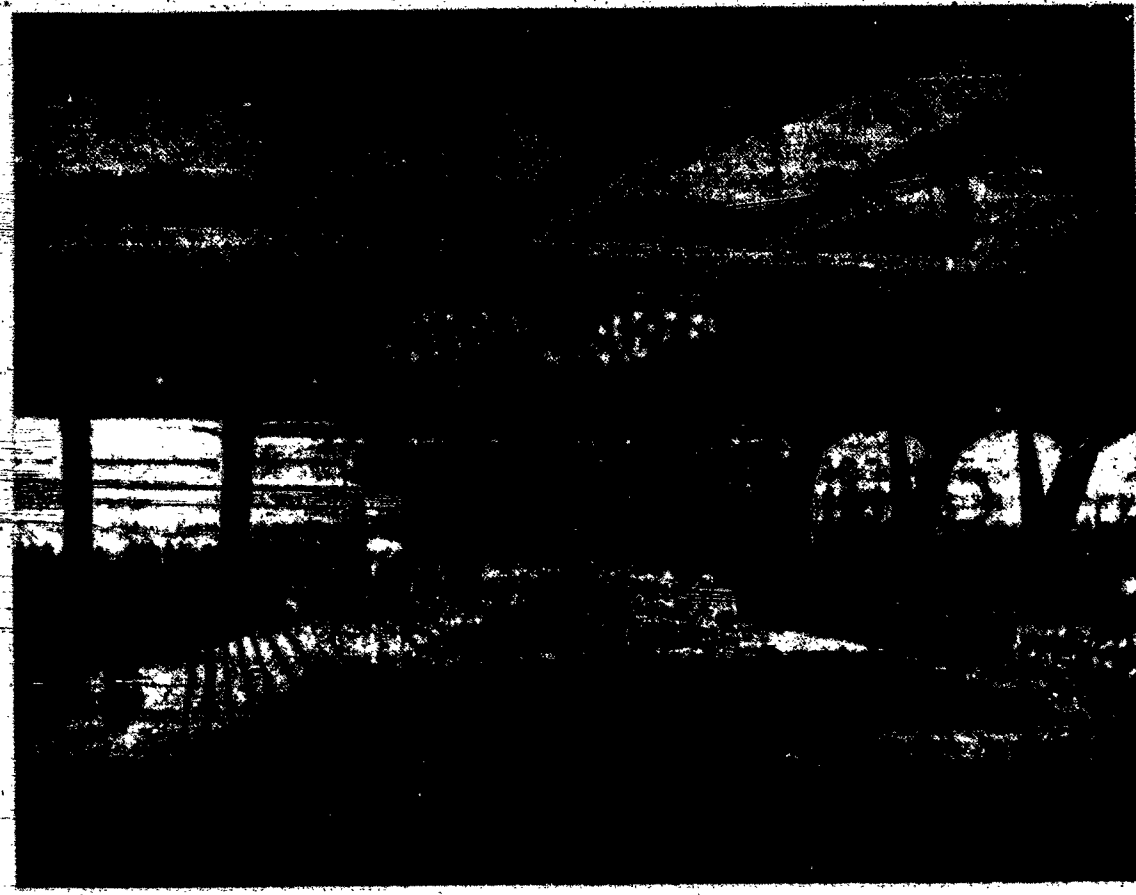
PREMIER KHRUSHCHEV is considered a brilliant strategist who has won his way to overlordship in the communist world by the divide-and-conquer technique. Those who stood in his way are gone. First it was Beria, ousted and executed not long after Stalin's death five years ago. Then Malenkov, Molotov, Kaganovich and Zhukov were sent on the road to oblivion.

But the drive against religious belief was not one of the issues at stake. It was first and always power. Now that Nikita Khrushchev has it all, his "scientific" demolition of faith may be given greater emphasis.

Religion Worries Iron Curtain Reds

Berlin — (NC) — The main communist newspaper in the Ukraine has said that religion still remains a problem in that Soviet republic and must be stamped out.

"All the forces of ideological influence must be mobilized in a struggle against religion—the church, radio, television, and class and individual discussions," said Pravda Ukraine.



Lourdes Underground Basilica

Lourdes, France — (NC) — Ceremonies here dedicated the world's second largest church, the underground Basilica of St. Pius X at Lourdes. Photo shows the flat square altar, where Mass was offered, presided over by Cardinal Roncalli, Patriarch of Venice, and Papal Legate to the Lourdes Centenary celebration. In front of the altar, is a table holding six ciboria from which Communion was distributed to 20,000 faithful.

'all lower case'

Reds Ban Capitals For Religious Terms

Vienna — (RNS) — New regulations governing the press and schools in Czechoslovakia order that names of churches, religious groups, religious holidays and the Bible are no longer to have capital initial letters.

However, a volume dealing with religious terms in the Czech language, used in Bohemia and Moravia, states that such words as God, Jehovah, Savior and Holy Ghost may be capitalized "for the sake of expressing religious respect toward the being of supernatural nature."

Names of religious organizations are now to be printed and written with lower case letters, for example: moravian church, roman catholic church. Names of other organizations are capitalized, however, and Communist Party and Academy of Arts and Sciences are specifically cited.

Religious groups are no longer proper nouns, and are written: hussites, jesuits, brethren. Religious holidays will appear as: christmas, easter, pentecost. It will be "Bible" from now on, but names of other books may have initial capitals.

No Rings For These Brides!

Sorokte, Korea — "Only two rings?" whispered Columban Father Michael Morrissey to his catechist during a marriage ceremony for ten young couples here.

"The others don't need any rings," replied the catechist. "They have no fingers."

One of the bridegrooms was kneeling all during the ceremony... he had no feet.

All the young couples were victims of leprosy.

Vatican Broadcasts Plea To Laity

Vatican City — (RNS) — The Vatican Radio broadcast a special plea to all Catholics to participate actively in the life and work of the Church. It said that "unless Catholics fully play their important role, they impede the Church in carrying out her mission."

The 10:30 hour was chosen, so that wives and mothers could see their husbands off to work and their children off to school after a family breakfast, receive Communion at Mass and return home in time to prepare lunch.

Poland Bans Catholic Club, Atheist OK

Poznan, Poland — (NC) — Polish Catholic students continue to be refused government permission to form a students' organization despite the fact that such permission has been granted to atheist groups now active in academic circles here.

After the change of government in 1956, the Polish Youth League dissolved and university students in Poland started to organize their own associations. The present Union of Polish Students, a non-political organization, is the result of the new movement.

BEFORE THE union was created, however, Catholic students here attempted to organize themselves into the Association of Catholic Students. When they applied for government permission to operate as a group, the permission was denied on the grounds that "matters of faith are private matters, and should not be made public business."

On the other hand, when a group formed of "academic workers, non-believers, who are alarmed by the offensive of 'fidelity' applied for government recognition, they were granted the permission and are now legally constituted.

Housewives Attend 'Blue Monday' Mass

Leaksville, N.C. — (NC) — The mission parish of St. Joseph of the Hills has inaugurated a Housewives' Mass at 10:30 each Monday morning, with attendance amounting regularly to more than one-third of the Sunday Mass attendance.

"We picked Monday," said Father Cramer F. Graves, pastor of the parish, "because Monday is the housewife's hardest workday. We thought that if each family could be represented by its mother, and her work offered up to God at Mass, then Monday would be more blessed than blue."

The 10:30 hour was chosen, so that wives and mothers could see their husbands off to work and their children off to school after a family breakfast, receive Communion at Mass and return home in time to prepare lunch.

Church Protects Worker, Says Pope

Vatican City — (NC) — The Church has always protected the worker, Pope Pius XII reminded 400 shoe industry workmen from an area where communist influence is strong.

He added that "particularly now is she desirous that an increase in the national revenue be achieved so that prices may be stabilized and the earnings of each individual increased."

The 400 workers came to Rome from Vigevano near Milan to give the Pope special pairs of shoes for himself and many pairs for the Italian poor.

THE POPE CALLED on the workers to take the initiative and "lead toward what is good those who still hesitate" and are "waiting for some one to indicate the goal toward which they should strive and the right road to be followed."

He noted that many have been drawn away by the "insinuations and instigations" of those who "spread discord and incite to rebellion." He said that the "weed of error and hatred has been sown easily and abundantly" in industrial establishments like those of Vigevano, and urged the workers to "strive... to establish once again the light of truth and the flame of love."

THE POPE URGED the workmen to assure their fellow workers that they will find "peace of mind only in Jesus" and that there is no need to "fear for their... material welfare."

"There is absolutely no need," he continued, "to surrender to... those people who disavow God in order to reach just aims by legitimate means. In fact he who rejects God rejects justice and love."

AFTER DECLARING that the Church has always protected the worker, the Pope concluded:

"To him who seeks heaven, earthly possessions will be given in just measure. Life on earth will never become paradise, but it will cease—at least We hope—

to be that place of torment which fires one so much and fills one with discomfort.

"Thus your people while advancing along the road of material well being will also know how to move without faltering along the road of the spirit in a way that is appropriate to human beings and particularly appropriate to conscientious and faithful Christians."

Laymen Seen Best Convert Maker

Toronto, Ontario — (NC) — The best convert maker is the exemplary Catholic layman, a convert-making group was told here.

Addressing the Conference for Conversions and Lay Apostolate, Jesuit Father E. J. Sherry told his listeners: "Communists and Jehovah Witnesses spread their doctrine. Why should Catholic laymen be hesitant to spread the divine truths?"

Father Sherry declared that the Catholic laity had the most opportunities to contact those outside the Church. He said that if laymen are timid, apathetic, or ignorant of their position, the opportunities pass without fruit.

Paulist Father F. Stone, director of the Catholic Information Center in Toronto, said there are too many of the Catholic laity who sit back and wait for "the other fellow's" job attitude. There is an enormous amount of good will toward the Church by non-Catholics, who just are waiting to be invited by Catholic laymen to learn about the Church.

Argentine University Buenos Aires — (NC) — The bishops of Argentina have formally established the Catholic University of Argentina here to be known as the University of St. Mary of Buenos Aires.

LOVE LIFE DEATH GLORY

The challenge of the Mass is at once a glorious symbol of the love of Christ for each of us and a vibrant means of our sanctification. The night before He died, the Son of Man raised the chalice of His Blood and thus began the Mass days in which His love for us would lead Him to the death of the Cross. The raising of the Chalice in the Upper Room is continued in the sacrifice of the Mass. It is through this offering of Christ that we have His life today and the pledge of His glory on the morrow of eternity. At the Holy Eucharist, early on Easter morn, His Beatitude, the Latin Patriarch will offer a Pontifical Mass for you, your loved ones, and for your special intentions. Immediately following the Patriarch, ten of your missionaries will each offer a Mass for the same intention. In this way the Patriarch and your missionaries will be the Risen Savior, He bless all of you who have made their work possible by your generous support of the appeals of the Holy Father for the welfare of the Oriental Church.

YOUR MISSIONARIES TELL THE WORLD OF THE RISEN SAVIOUR... SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR NEEDS... DO IT TODAY.

"TWO HUNDRED FAMILIES have been received into the Church, and fifty more families are under instruction," Archbishop Mar Gregorio reported to us in a recent letter. "The Church is making great progress in this important city of Kulathupuzha (South India)," he continues, "but this creates a serious problem. For some years we have been able to use an abandoned shed for a Church—but the great number of converts are literally crowding us out of the House of God." An adequate Church will cost \$2,000. Can you share your joy of Easter with these poor people—will you help them build a proper Church for the Risen Christ to live among them?

WHAT YOU GIVE TO THE HOLY FATHER YOU PLACE IN THE HANDS OF CHRIST.

Jacob and Paul are burning at this moment to tell the world of the Risen Christ and His love for all men—BUT—they cannot begin their missionary studies (at Alway, India) until a generous benefactor will pledge \$500 for each to pay the necessary expenses during the six year course. On Easter morn, Sister Lillane and Sister Denise prayed for a benefactor who would make it possible for them to bring the Risen Christ to the poor of Lebanon. Each has need of \$250 a year for two years to pay the expenses of novitiate training. You may pay the total amount in installments while your "Easter child" is preparing by prayer and study to bring Christ to the world.

A \$16 FOOD PACKAGE WILL FEED A REFUGEE FAMILY FOR A WEEK... CAN YOU HELP?

WHERE MAY WE SEE THE RISEN CHRIST? In the eyes of an innocent child who has received Him for the first time in the Sacrament of His Love. Many children in the Near East need a new suit or a dress for First Communion Day. Their parents are penniless and cannot help them—will you share your Easter joy with them? Ten dollars will buy a complete outfit for one child.

GIVE TO WIN THE WORLD FOR CHRIST.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK... EVERY LITTLE HELPS... this is the thought behind our DOLLAR-A-MONTH MISSION CLUBS. The dues are only a dollar each month, BUT, with many generous souls contributing we are able to do a great deal for the missions and for the poor people of the Near East. Chapels are furnished (Chrysostom), nuns are prepared for the missions (Mary's Bunk), old folks protected (Palace of God). Would you care to share your Easter joy in this "patristic fashion"?

Near East Missions
FRANCIS CARDINAL SPELLMAN, President
Margaret P. Tuohy, Nat'l Secy
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