

How Reds Kill Church In China

Protestants, Catholics Persecution Victims

(An RNS Feature)

Reports reaching Hong Kong from Communist China in recent weeks reveal that both Catholics and Protestants there are experiencing a type of systematic persecution that many religious leaders regard as more oppressive than even bloody martyrdom.

Last week it was announced that Ho Chang-Hsiang, head of the Peiping government's department for religious affairs had arrived in East Germany after having already visited other Iron Curtain countries in Europe to study their methods of dealing with the Churches.

However, according to all available information, the Chinese Communists have little or nothing to learn from their European comrades in the strategy of anti-religious oppression.

On the other hand, religious observers say, the Chinese Reds have set a pattern of their own in the ruthless persistence with which they are seeking to undermine and eventually destroy the Churches, Protestant as well as Catholic.

THE CHINESE Communists have not hesitated to imprison and even torture "disloyal" elements among the Chinese Christians. But in the main their current policy is to avoid creating new "martyrs" and to concentrate instead on weeding out "reactionaries" from the ranks of religious leaders, meanwhile setting up national Churches that will be docile propagandists for the Party and active collaborators in the building of socialism. Socialism is their word for Communism and is described as "the way of prosperity, happiness and deliverance from poverty and exploitation."

Last week, newspapers reaching Hong Kong from the mainland disclosed that three more Catholic priests—one in Canton and two in Hsingchow—had been added to the long list of clergymen arrested as "rightists" and that 75 priests in Shanghai have been undergoing intensive Marxist indoctrination in Shanghai since last December.

At the same time it was revealed that Protestant pastors have been the victims of recent purges in Hsingchow, Kirin, Kwichow and Fukien provinces and in Darlin in Manchuria, designed to eliminate "reactionaries."

New chapters are constantly being added to this story of the relentless drive to force the Chinese Catholics into a schismatic Church completely independent of the Vatican.

The campaign has been high-lighted especially by the execution of so-called bishops at rallies sponsored by the pro-Communist Patriotic Association of Chinese Catholics founded in Peiping just about a year ago. It has been marked also by strong pressures on the Catholic clergy and faithful to condemn and repudiate alleged Vatican attempts to "interfere with the internal affairs of the country."

According to what are believed to be reliable reports from China, a score or more "bishops" have been consecrated by schismatic Catholics in defiance of Pope Pius XII who alone has the authority to nominate or approve a bishop.

The dioceses of the new "bishops" include Hankow, Wu-chang, Yungtien, Szechuan, Tschow, Sivarize and Yungling, some of which have legitimate bishops.

Meanwhile it was reported that candidates for consecration have been chosen for five additional sees. These include Nanking whose Ordinary, Archbishop Paul Yao is in exile in the United States; Szechow, where Massachusetts-born Bishop Philip Cole was jailed and then expelled; and Canton, where the Apostolic Administrator, Bishop Dominic Tang, was jailed last February.

The illicit consecrations took place despite a Vatican decree of 1951 which provides automatic excommunication for consecrator and consecrated when men are raised to the episcopacy without approval of the Holy See.

In some cases, the Communists have filmed the illicit consecrations from end to end. Almost invariably they have quoted the new "bishops" as insisting that the Church, while severing "economic and political" ties with the Vatican still maintain its spiritual loyalty to Rome.

THE CATHOLIC faithful meanwhile are being pressured into attending mass rallies in cities throughout the country at which priests accused of being "rightists" and trying to



CARDINAL TIEN exiled from Peiping



ARCHBISHOP YU PIN exiled from Nanking

sabotage the patriotic movement have been denounced.

Not all that is taking place in the Red war on the Catholic Church reaches the ears of the outside world. However, there seems no doubt that the Catholics faithful are experiencing a degree of exploitation and pressure greater perhaps than in any other Communist country.

Although reports speak of many defections, other information trickling into Hong Kong stress that nevertheless great numbers of the clergy and faithful are resolutely resisting attempts to alienate them from their loyalty to the Holy See.

Among Chinese Protestants a strong core of resistance also exists, as indicated by the large number of pastors and church workers who have been denounced at public meetings, especially in the past few weeks.

The denounced Protestant leaders have included Methodists, Baptists, Lutherans, Anglicans, and a number have been officials of the YMCA. Last month a representative of the Lutheran World Federation commented that the future of the Lutheran Church in Communist China is "up in the air."

He was the Rev. Arthur Olson, a member of the Lutheran Free Church in the United States, who said a complete "all of silence" has separated the Lutherans of China from their coreligionists since 1956.

What Mr. Olson said just about sums up the plight of all the Christians in Communist China. Behind the wall of silence and their enforced isolation from their coreligionists in the rest of the world, the Catholics and Protestants of China wage a hard battle for survival against the heaviest odds, and none can predict what the ultimate outcome will be.

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THE CATHOLIC Courier Journal

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God's Truth Nuns' Goal, Says Pope

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Pius XII, in a broadcast to cloistered nuns in 3,200 convents throughout the world, said each of them must seek God in different ways, according to her own background, culture and capacity.

At the same time he stressed that genuine contemplation of divine truth is essential for the contemplative nun and without it her life would be "of no avail."

The Pope's talk was the first in an unprecedented series of three "invisible audiences" to 100,000 cloistered nuns in all parts of the world. Communists everywhere had been instructed in advance by the Sacred Congregation of the Religious to procure radios so that the nuns could hear the Pontiff's address. Cloistered nuns may use radios only to listen to papal discourses.

Pope Pius spoke in French, but translations of his talk were later beamed by the Vatican Radio in other languages, including English and Spanish. A network of nine countries was hooked up with the Vatican station for the speech.

American stations were unable to carry the special papal broadcast.

THE PONTIFF told the nuns that for the contemplative life it is necessary for each to follow with the closest attention the instruction given. In this way, he said, all would achieve a degree of understanding and penetration in proportion to earlier formation and capacity.

He said it would be equally wrong to aim too high or too low, or to attempt to follow a way that is the same for all and demands of all exactly the same effort.

"Superiors responsible for the formation of their disciples," he said, "must be competent to follow a middle road, not asking too much from simple souls nor driving them to surpass the limits of their capacity."

"Nor can a young girl of good education and advanced in culture be kept satisfied with the sort of contemplation that is sufficient for those not trained in the same way. At the same time, do not force the Asiatic or the African, so late exactly the same religious attitude as Europeans."

Pope Pius urged that in the formation of contemplative nuns superiors should follow the writings of St. Teresa of Avila. He said "it is better to follow an experienced theologian rather than a mystic deprived of true theological wisdom."

St. Teresa of Avila was a 16th century Carmelite superior who wrote textbooks of mystical prayer that are regarded as masterpieces of Spanish literature. Canonized in 1622, she has been hailed as "one of the greatest, most attractive and widely appreciated women the world has ever known."

THE POPE noted that "not seldom are the involvements of St. Paul quoted against the wisdom of the world in order to oppose the legitimate desire of nuns to arrive at a degree of the contemplative life consistent with their own aptitudes."

"But that means," he added, "not understanding the intentions of St. Paul, who did not do anything else than denounce vain, pretentious human learning. The desire to possess an adequate spiritual formation has nothing reprehensible in it and is no way opposed to the spirit of humility and renunciation that sincere love of Christ's cross demands."

Pope Pius' second and third talks to his "invisible audience" will be given on July 26 and Aug. 2. Cloistered nuns are completely segregated from the world and may not leave their convents without special permission from their superior or bishop. They follow an austere, rigidly regulated life that is devoted chiefly to prayer and contemplation.



BISHOP KEARNEY studies picture of new X-ray unit given Mother Mary Martin, superior of Medical Missionaries of Mary. The Irish-born nun heads one of Church's newest religious orders which specializes in medical service to African natives. (Another photo, page 10)

Surprise X-Ray Gift

Nun Comes To Say 'Thank You'

Reverend Mother Mary Martin, Irish-born African missionary and nurse in World War I, came to Rochester this week to say "thank you" and received a surprise gift of a \$20,000 X-ray unit for her hospital in Ndareda, Tanganyika.

The grey clad nun, one of the living founders of a Catholic religious order, promised "prayers and eternal gratitude" for contributions given her Medical Missionaries of Mary from people of the Rochester Diocese.

She voiced her order's official thanks in a visit to Bishop Kearney at the Chancery Tuesday morning.

The surprise gift of the X-ray equipment came from Charles H. Renaud who presented it in memory of the late Mrs. Frances B. Renaud.

MOTHER MARY said her nuns can now launch a much needed tuberculosis case finding program in Tanganyika. The unit also permits X-ray pictures and viewing.

Highlighting the nun's week-long stay in Rochester were visits to St. Mary's Sixteen Memorial, and Northside hospitals and the Rochester Dental Dispensary to study hospital administration and nurse training. She also visited several Rochester industrial plants whose products make the city "world famous"—including Eastman Kodak Co., Bausch and Lomb Co., and Wilmet Castle Co.

She also met Rev. George S. Wood, diocesan director of the Propagation of the Faith Society, and was interviewed by TV and daily press reporters.

HER ORDER, established in 1937, counts nearly 400 nuns who are trained as doctors, nurses, technicians, or medical secretaries. Pope Pius XII blessed her order at its foundation calling it a work of "pure charity."

The Pope cautioned the nuns not to wear even a cross when at their mission posts. "Charity alone shall be your badge," the Pontiff told her.

The nuns wear a simple grey dress and veiled cap.

"We don't use medicine as a bribe to win converts," she explained. "We try to imitate our blessed Lord who cured the sick. We can't work miracles so that is why we use medicine—and that is why we are so grateful for all who contribute in any way to our program."

African natives who witness this Christ-like service of the sick often seek instruction in the faith behind it, she said. "Only after the native asks for it himself do we bring up the subject of religion," Mother Mary stated.

Arranging her visit to Rochester was Dr. Paul S. Lalonde, 277 Lakeview Park, who has spent three six-month periods working with the nuns in hospitals and dispensaries in Tanganyika. The Rochester dentist plans to return again this January to Africa.

He is currently collecting supplies and donations from Rochester friends for the African mission outposts.

Congress Told Low Rent Projects Create New Slums

Long Term Loans Said Tenants' Need

Washington — Monsignor John O'Grady, national Catholic Charities head, told Congressmen this week that government-run, low-rent housing projects throughout the nation actually "create new slums."

He specifically suggested that long term home loans, up to 40 years, be made available to city dwellers similar to funds currently offered farm families under the Bankhead-Jones Act.

N.C.W.C. News Service also reported that Monsignor O'Grady told the House of Representatives subcommittee on Banking and Currency:

... that the fullest use should be made of the tenants in the administration of housing projects... that a specific program for training housing managers needs to be set up.

... that a training program for community leaders should be set up.

... that sufficient funds be set aside in the budgets of local Housing Authorities to carry out the basic objectives in the training of community leaders, in giving tenants an equity in the projects that will enable them to purchase the units in a period of 40 years, with opportunity for accelerating payments.

MSGR. O'GRADY said there was no reason why an occupant could not use his rent payments to build up an ownership equity in the apartment he occupies, and "there is no reason why he can't use his equity as a means of purchasing a home in another part of the city."

Charging that "one of the factors that has brought public housing to its present low state is the lack of proper management," Msgr. O'Grady said "many of the families with good standards live in fear of the other families" in some projects, and that "law enforcement has been reduced to a minimum in many of the projects."

In this connection, he charged that "no effort has been made to build up proper leadership within the projects." He asked "why can't the same things be done there that are done through self-help organizations in other parts of the city?"

"We have in the housing projects a greater concentration of problems than we would find in other sections," Msgr. O'Grady continued. "The whole policy of removing families from the projects after their income has increased and their standard of living improved, tends to make for a greater concentration of problem families."

"If the families were permitted to remain for a longer period and given a chance of building up an equity, and if we had good management and the type of skills necessary for proper community leadership, we should be able to make over many of the housing projects during the next two or three years," he said.

"Why cannot we encourage our low income families to look ahead to the time when they will own their own homes?" he asked.

"What other alternative can we hold out to low income fam-



MONSIGNOR O'GRADY 40 year home loans

ilies at the present time? People who are being displaced by urban renewal are being pushed into new slum areas. It is no exaggeration to say that they are helping to create new slums and while we are clearing slums in certain areas of our cities, we are creating just as bad slums in other areas."

Bullet Holed Skull Warning To Priests

San Francisco — (RNS) — A Maryknoll missionary released after five years of Chinese Communist imprisonment, said here his captors kept a bullet-marked priest's skull on display as a reminder to clergymen of what might happen to them if they caused trouble.

Father Joseph P. McCormack of Maryknoll, N. Y., arrived here with a former fellow prisoner, Father Cyril Wagner, O.F.M., of Pittsburgh, Pa. Both were jailed in 1953 on charges of "espionage and sabotage."

Suffering from fatigue and asthma, Father Wagner, 51, said nothing to newsmen.



Paratroopers On Way To Lebanon Adna, Turkey—(NC)—In this radio photo U.S. paratroopers of the 24th Division's airborne task force are shown at Mass offered by their chaplain near a transport plane at Adna, Turkey, following their arrival from West Germany. Later they continued on to Beirut, Lebanon, to reinforce U.S. Marines there.

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Where Do We Stand?

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We're Back Home Again

After two weeks of printing the Courier Journal on the presses of the Geneva Times following breakdown of folding equipment at Rochester's Christopher Press, the diocesan paper was printed this week at its Seio Street home.

The ten day repair job required special tooling of parts to fix the damage done when the folding unit jammed and smashed during the press run for the July 11 issue of the Courier Journal.

Mr. George B. Williams, president and editor of the Geneva paper, and his staff generously agreed to print the Courier Journal during the time repairs were underway on the Rochester presses.

Nothing will bring more cheer to a shut-in than a lovely bouquet or long lasting plant. Call Blanchard Florist, Baker 5-4494. Let them take care of it or drop it at 68 Lake Ave. Free parking in rear.—Adv.