

Haiti Regime Said Totalitarian

Port-au-Prince — (NC) — Five priests here have accused the Haitian government of using "totalitarian" tactics in its continuing campaign against the Church.

The five charged that the regime of President Francois Duvalier is trying to force the Church to pledge "absolute obedience" to it.

Writing in the Catholic daily paper, La Phalange, the nation's largest newspaper, the priests declared they refused to accept government accusations that some priests and Archbishop Francois Portier of Port-au-Prince were involved in anti-government activities.

THE CHURCH-STATE conflict came to a head here in late August with the expulsion from the country of two French priests and the issuing of a warrant—since suspended—of the arrest of the Archbishop.

Meanwhile, a government source here said that the controversy can be ended through mediation and that the Duvalier regime will not carry out its threat to demand that the Holy See remove Archbishop Portier from his post for "sedition."

The source added that the government wants the Archbishop to issue a statement saying that his recent pastoral letter, which criticized the regime for expelling the two priests, was "misinterpreted" as an effort to overthrow President Duvalier.

The government radio station, however, has continued to attack the clergy and the Archbishop, and sought to persuade the people that the regime is "not against priests, only bad priests" and that it is protecting the "sovereignty of the state."

(In New York, Mayor Antonio M. M. Heard of Port-au-Prince claimed that the root of the present conflict lies in the alleged "totalitarian" attitude of the large number of French priests serving in Haiti.

(He charged that French priests "refuse to accept the fact that the country is no longer a French colony. They want to maintain the people in a sort of 'spiritual colonialism.'")

(He also alleged that the French clergy "have always taken a stand against government that they would establish democracy and work for the lower classes.")

The Church-state controversy reached a climax in July when Church authorities learned in August that the government was planning to expel two French priests, Father Etienne Grienberger, C.S.S., rector of St. Martial College and superior of the Holy Ghost Fathers in Haiti, and Joseph Marc, pastor of the parish of St. Marc, 45 miles from here.

ARCHBISHOP PORTIER and the Apostolic Nunciature here then asked the government for a list of grievances against the two priests, as they are entitled to do by the provisions of the 1860 concordat between this country and the Holy See.

The government, however, refused to reveal the charges against the priests either to the Archbishop or the French ambassador, who was interested in the case since the priests are French citizens.

On August 17 the official government newspaper, the Monitor, published the order for the expulsion of the priests in order, it said, "to maintain the safety of the state and the peace of the continent."

The following morning Archbishop Portier issued a pastoral letter read in all churches of the Port-au-Prince archdiocese asking prayers for the two priests and saying their expulsion was unjust.

He also asked prayers for all priests remaining in Haiti, saying that in the future they could no longer count on the

peace and security they are entitled to in carrying out their sacred ministry.

The same day, August 18, at the request of leaders of Catholic lay groups, some 4,000 of the faithful gathered in the cathedral here to pray for the priests.

At that point police broke into the cathedral and began to beat some of the people praying there, while the building was surrounded by a cordon of armed troops.

The people were dispersed. Some took refuge in the Archbishop's residence across the street from the cathedral and others in nearby St. Martial's College, whose gates were guarded by soldiers. About 60 persons were arrested, including a woman of 83.

On August 20 the two priests went to the airport to leave the country. They were accompanied by many high-ranking clergymen who were stopped by

police half a mile from the airport.

The same day a warrant was issued for the arrest of the Archbishop, who had earlier been summoned to appear before District Attorney Max Duplessy because of his protest against the expulsions in the Catholic daily.

At 10 a.m. police came to the Archbishop's residence with the warrant and orders to take the Archbishop in their police car to court to explain his "crimes" against the state. The Archbishop told police he could not obey such an order without consulting the nunciature and the police left.

THEY LATER returned and were told by the charge d'affaires of the nunciature—the Nuncio was absent—that he could not permit the Archbishop to answer the summons and that the Archbishop had committed no "crimes." A guard

was then thrown around the residence and for a time the Archbishop was a prisoner there.

Later in the day, through the intervention of a number of Haitian priests, the warrant was suspended. The government paper of August 21 said it had been suspended so that the government could "consult Rome about the rights of the temporal power."

Later a meeting was held between Haiti's other bishops and the Minister of Religion at which the prelates refused to accept the government's charges and protested against police brutality at the cathedral.

Then President Duvalier's secretary, Clement Barbot, announced that the government was seeking evidence that the Archbishop had plotted against the regime and would ask the Holy See to remove him. At that time he intimated that if the prelate was not removed, the suspended warrant would be carried out.

BOOK SHELF

Thinking Bones

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA
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Thoughts in Solitude, by Thomas Merton, Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 124 pp. \$3.00.

Thomas Merton is to quote, "Prayer is for the sake of being heard . . . The life of prayer is founded on prayer of petition . . . Far from ruining the purity of solitary prayer, petition guards and preserves that purity."

Not at all because his sayings scintillate or astonish, but because they are clean, bare bones of thought, rounded at the ends and full of sweet marrow.

YOU TAKE your bones off to a safe spot and really work on it. Marrow is not easily come at. The reward, though, is renewed strength and health of soul, because truth is the soul's perfect natural food and truth about God is its perfect supernatural food.

Some selected bones: "Those who are not grateful begin to complain of everything. Those who do not love, hate . . . Gratitude of itself makes us sincere . . . To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything . . ."

"The proud man loves himself because he thinks he is worthy of love and respect and veneration . . . The humble man also loves himself and seeks to be loved and honored, not because love and honor are his due but because they are not his due. He seeks to be loved by the mercy of God. He begs to be loved and helped by the liberality of his fellow men. . . . He knows that he needs everything."

"The confident desires to love God in spite of our abject misery is the sign of His presence . . ."

"My life is a listening. His is a speaking. My salvation is to hear and respond. . . . Life is not attained by reasoning and analysis, but first of all by living. For until we have begun to live, our prudence has no material to work on. And until we have begun to fall, we have no way of working out our success."

"As soon as man is fully disposed to be alone with God, he is alone with God . . ."

"Landscape is a good liberator . . . for it calms and pacifies the imagination and the emotions and leaves the will free to seek God in faith."

"We do not pray for the sake

AOH Board To Meet

Newark — (NC) — A Pontifical Mass, a luncheon, banquet, dance and business meeting will feature a two-day meeting of the national board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians at the Robert Treat Hotel here September 11 and 12.

Archbishop Thomas A. Boland of Newark, AOH national chaplain, will offer the Mass at St. Patrick's pro-cathedral here on September 12. Father John T. Lavelle of Coopersville, N. J., deputy national chaplain, will

Young Farmers To Hold Congress

London — (NC) — Some 50,000 youths from 50 countries are expected to attend the first world congress of the Young Catholic Farmers movement to be held here from May 27 to June 29, 1960.

30,000 At Pan-American Mass

Chicago — (NC) — With Chicago's skyline silhouetted in the setting sun, more than 30,000 persons bowed their heads in prayer on the lake front here as Archbishop Albert Gregory Meyer of Chicago, offered a Solemn Pontifical Field

Mass in the Grant Park bandshell, transformed into an outdoor cathedral.

The center of attention of the worshipful throngs, who came in hundreds of chartered buses from Chicago and suburban

parishes, was a large crucifix with a silver figure of Christ, the nations draped the upper portion of the bandshell's rotunda.

As a worshipper was Chicago's Mayor Richard Daley, held in connection with the Pan-American games. Athletes from Chicago and suburban were hundreds of nuns and members of religious communities participated.

British Worker Paper Closes

London — (RNS) — The Catholic Worker, monthly English labor paper founded 24 years ago and patterned after its American counterpart, ended publication with its September issue here because of sales losses.

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