

Vatican Radio Cautions On Africa Race Riots

Vatican City — (RNS) — In its first extensive comment on the situation in South Africa, the Vatican Radio said the South African hierarchy has always condemned the policy of racial segregation and demanded respect for the right of all citizens.

At the same time, the station cautioned that "we must always beware of oversimplifying serious and complex problems" and "this problem of racial co-existence is one of the complex kind."

Describing South Africa as a rich country, with two autonomies for each white taxpayer and with a white standard of living exceeded only in the United States, the Vatican Radio said the whites "defend their positions but, unfortunately, not wisely."

"Everywhere," it said, "there are notices, 'For Europeans Only,' or 'For Negroes Only.' Since the former Calvinist Pastor D. F. Malan, who retired as Prime Minister in 1954, made racial discrimination a basic policy, this problem has now become one of the world's gravest."

The station said that although "the champions of discrimination are the Calvinists of Dutch origin — the Boers — the whites, on the other hand, cannot be regarded simply as invaders."

"When the Boers came from the South," it stated, "the country was empty. Missionaries who know the situation well say that today, without the whites, South Africa would be a wild and uncultivated land and that immediate racial integration would lead to serious consequences."

It must be acknowledged, the Vatican Radio said, that "without a minimum of preparation, it is impossible to take over a country and there would be the danger of falling prey to the Communist slave drivers."

Pointing out that the Boers have no other home, it said their racial hostility "may be explained, though not approved by the struggle for their own existence."

The station noted that in the areas set aside for Negroes, whites may live, with the exception of a few employers, traders and missionaries. Today the white hold 87 per cent of

the territory and 13 per cent is left to the Negroes, who have been allotted the poorest part of the country."

The result, the Vatican Radio commented, is "terrible over-theology. Dr. Karl Barth (noted Calvinist theologian), although he with all its grave consequences."

IT IS INTERESTING, it said, to note that this state of affairs is due originally to the religious conception of the white majority descending from the Boers, who belong to the Dutch Reformed Church.

"The Boers feel that they are like Israel, a chosen people, to whom God gave South Africa as the Promised Land and that the Negroes are the descendants of Ham, cursed by God."

"The Calvinist doctrine of predestination is applied in the rights of the Negroes and are political and racial field and prepared to accept the consequences of their attitude. They equally of all races is regarded as a blasphemy against God. The difficult case to solve, but these Calvinist pastors believe themselves to be envoys of God, like all men have equal dignity and equal rights."

Blind Children's School A Dream Fulfilled

Egoli, Kenya — (NC) — When Father Valentine Ghilardi, I.M.C., arrived in Kenya 30 years ago as a newly ordained priest, he was shocked by the numbers of blind children who wandered about like animals, unkempt and unwanted.

Two years ago Father Ghilardi felt the time had arrived. He gathered a score of blind youngsters and installed them in a school which he placed under the protection of St. Lucy, patroness of the blind. Many of the children were rebellious and resentful, and the school threatened to turn into bedlam.

Within weeks the children were keeping their khaki uniforms tidy, following the school routine like veteran pupils, and hard at work learning to read in Braille. (The language of the Wamuru Tribe, Kikuyu, adapts itself easily to Braille since it is written with letters of the English alphabet.)

THE SCHOOL now has 40 pupils, and its physical plant is expanding. But Father Ghilardi thinks the most gratifying addition to the school is a path between it and the mission church, beaten by the feet of children seeking light before the Blessed Sacrament.

For more than 20 years he labored at the establishment of a mission, always with the hope of one day giving specialized care to the blind children.



Pre-season Game For Charity

St. Louis — (RNS) — The first game to be played by the Chicago Cardinals professional football team in their new home in St. Louis will be a pre-season match Sept. 8 against the Philadelphia Eagles, with the proceeds going to the Cardinal Glennon Hospital for Children here. Discussing plans for the game are Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter of St. Louis; W. J. Duke, coach of the former St. Louis University grid team (holding football); and Joseph Griesedieck, brewery president who was instrumental in transferring the team to St. Louis.

Lay Mission Group Founded In Louisiana

Lafayette, La. — (NC) — Emphasis on lay missionary activity has led to establishment here of a clearing agency for lay persons wishing to serve in Church mission fields.

Catholic Southmission of Louisiana, the newest of ten Southwestern Louisiana Institute, Lafayette. The U.S., was organized by the bishops of Louisiana to answer the Italy's growing interest in missionary life. It is sponsored jointly by Archbishop Joseph F. Rummel of New Orleans, Bishop Charles P. Greco of Alexandria, and Bishop Maurice Schemmeyer of Lafayette.

WITH ITS primary mission field including the southern United States and South America, the new group is headed by Father Alexander O. Stur,

South Africa

White Power Said Doomed

Capetown — (RNS) — A Catholic priest disclosed here he was the author of a book attacking the South African government's apartheid (racial segregation) policy which was published in New York last fall under his pen name of Eugene O'Donnell. The book is entitled, "The Night Cometh."

Father Laurence James McCauley, who was born in South Africa in 1915, and studied philosophy at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., for a year, said his friends were sure "I'll be put in prison." But he added, "I'm not worried tremendously."

"The Night Cometh," a first novel, is the story of a colored doctor in a Capetown district where Father McCauley worked for two years. It tells of his bitter resentment of apartheid which leads him to hate all whites. He is in love with a near-white ballet dancer, but refuses to marry her because he does not want to help perpetuate a race which he believes has no future.

In his book, Father McCauley, who stressed that it voiced "my purely private views," had the colored doctor proclaiming that in South Africa "the white man is near the end of the road." The priest emphasized this opinion by saying that "the white man will be swamped. I used to think it would happen in 50 years. Now I think only ten."

"It's too late to do anything," he added. "We've missed the bus. I predict the situation will worsen. The police have now blocked every avenue of contact between the races."

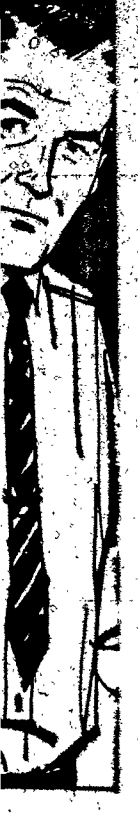
Father McCauley said the government "has set things up for a white, but there's bound to be another outbreak. All the Bantus have to do is provoke the police. The police will react with brutal retaliation — they react brutally because they're scared."

Theology Study Urged On Mother Of God

New York — (RNS) — Protestant scholars were urged here by a Jesuit editor to join with Catholic experts in examining the Sacred Scriptures for the purpose of developing a valid Biblical theology concerning the Mother of Christ.

In the last of a series of four talks on "The Biblical Bonds of Christianity" over the ABC network program, "Christian in Action," Father Walter B. Abbott, associate editor of America, national Catholic weekly, stressed that Mariology is for many Protestants a stumbling block to Christian unity.

"These Protestants," he said, "sincerely argue that they love God and Our Lord so much that they shrink from elevating His Mother to a position anywhere near Him. Devotion to our Lady has been presented to the Protestants so long as an insult to Our Lord that they find it difficult even to consider whether devotion to Our Lady is a legitimate part of the question."



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