

Caribbean Cauldron

Church Survives In Slavery

Classical Trujillo — (RNS) — is the Dominican Republic, 90 per cent Roman Catholic, to become another Cuba?

Generalissimo has rejected, in typically aggressive fashion, demands for a halt to repressive measures against his political opponents and the denial of human rights in this key Caribbean nation.

These priest-agents, Trujillo alleged, were careful not to speak at first of bombs and bloodbaths. But in less than five months, he asserted, they were responsible for the manufacture of some 500 bombs. He said they had planned to destroy an entire city, had actually set fire to a dozen public buildings, and been implicated in an assassination plot.

claiming him as the Benefactor of the Catholic Church in the Dominican Republic. Many among the peasant and working classes—swear by Trujillo—and revered him almost as they would God. The dictator has assiduously cultivated the working man, putting up thousands of neat, small homes for him. An intensive education program has reduced illiteracy to about 30 per cent.

More than 200 of the invaders were reported killed and six captured. Meanwhile Trujillo lashed out against "typhoid Marys garbed in priestly robes, who, he said, had infiltrated the Church from Cuba and sparked the abortive 'revolution'."

The 66-year-old strongman also claimed that the "Church in Puerto Rico sided and abetted the movement against him. But his prime charges were leveled against the Venezuelan consulate in San Juan, Puerto Rico, which, he said, was the fountainhead of subversive activities. Venezuelan diplomatic activities, Trujillo claimed, have long included open and all-out support of political aggression against the Dominican Republic.

After the June revolution hit in the republic returned to a superficial calm. But while children played baseball in the streets by day, fatal "accidents" took place by night. Under the surface calm tension mounted until last January, when Trujillo crushed a conspiracy to assassinate him at a cattle fair.

However, Church-State relations have deteriorated sharply since the time in 1956 when President Hector Trujillo proclaimed that "it is my wish that this Dominican land — proud of its Catholic tradition and firm in its battle against anti-Christian attitudes — will raise its potent voice of Catholicism, pointing to the roads of well-being, justice, culture and peace."

Elements within the Church have recently become openly critical of dictator Trujillo, who maintains his 34-year-old iron rule although the office of President is now held by his brother, Hector. The

The dictator specifically accused priests of stirring up sentiment against his regime among mountaineers, students and young professionals. The

It has been estimated that from 1,500 to 2,000 persons were arrested following the disclosure of the assassination plot. Many were released after interrogation, but a substantial number remain in jail. Among the prisoners are university students, young lawyers, doctors, engineers and other professional men. Some have been sentenced to 30 years at hard labor.

Last August, Bishop Francisco Paul Ramirez of La Vega bluntly accused the government of interfering in the affairs of the Church. He said that he himself had been a target of "threats and insults" from government officials. This was some months after Minister of Justice Mario Abreu Penzo had urged the expulsion from the country of the Cardinal, Archbishop Lino Zanetti, whom he accused of having been responsible for the hierarchy's pastoral letters condemning the excesses of the regime.

Berlin — (RNS) — Archbishop Corrado Baffie, Papal Nuncio to Germany (second from right) takes part in the Berlin diocese's annual Catholic Day ceremonies held in West Berlin's Olympic Stadium with some 30,000 faithful present. The day before, the prelate was barred by Soviet Zone authorities from entering

East Berlin, where he had planned to officiate at religious rites in Holy Family church. There was some speculation whether the action against Archbishop Baffie was motivated by hostility toward the Vatican or was part of the present East German "snuffing" policy in connection with the Berlin situation.

Dictators Woo Neutral Nations

The skyscrapers of New York saw a parade this week like they never saw before. Dictators who decide the destiny of nearly 500 million people made their spectacular pilgrimage to the United Nations to woo the new and the neutral nations of the world.

Their wooing was also a warning. The Communist leaders are not content with an empire big as half the world. They want it all and their coming this week was a blunt challenge to the free nations they are out to get it.

The fifteen dictators had a quorum of their club but some key members were conspicuously absent — Mao Tse-tung, ruler of 700 million Chinese, and Otto Grotewohl, head of the East German Communist regime.

Under Grotewohl's control are more than 2 million Catholics who keep their faith despite pressure and propaganda against them.

The East German dictator, perhaps irked by the fact he had to stay home, decided to make his own headlines and he picked on an easy victim, the Church. He refused the Vatican delegate at Berlin, Archbishop Corrado Baffie, entry to the Soviet controlled section of the city to preside at religious rites in Holy Family Church.

It was the first time a foreign diplomat was banned from the Soviet sector. Compared with conditions in other Kremlin controlled areas, the ban was a pincipr but it revealed the relentless drive of the Communists to hobble the Church's freedom.

A look at the record of the dictators in New York this week shows:

NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV of the Soviet Union, 193 million population, only four Catholic churches believed to be in operation, only one Catholic priest in Moscow and severely restricted.

JANOS KADAR of Hungary, director of the purge which took a toll of 30,000 Hungarians and restored Russian control in 1956. 8 million population; 63 per cent Catholic. Church run schools were nationalized in 1948. Cardinal Mindszenty arrested in 1949, lives as an exile in U.S. embassy in Budapest.

ANTONIN NOVOTNY of Czechoslovakia, 12 million population; 75 per cent Catholic. Clergy harassed; schools nationalized; religious press non-existent.

WLADYSLAW GOMULKA, Kremlin boss in Poland, 26 million population; 95 per cent Catholic. He advised Moscow to run Poland gently after 1956 revolt cracked Iron Curtain and touched off Hungary's revolt. Church enjoys precarious freedom, even teaches religion to Catholic pupils in state run schools.

JOSIP TITO, reputed independent dictator of Yugoslavia (always votes according to Kremlin line at U.N.). 17 million population; 36 per cent Catholic. Cardinal Stepinac, nation's top Catholic prelate, was Tito's "dry martyr" who died a year ago after a decade of jail and restraint. Churches are open for "strictly religious" functions; all schools state controlled.

FIDEL CASTRO of Cuba, 5 million population; over 90 per cent Catholic. Bearded gun toter with reputation of killing one nun and two priests (no record of the number of lay people who became his victims). Accclaimed by U.S. press and government as the Robin Hood of the Caribbean in 1957, he now plucks chickens in New York hotels and embraces Nikita Khrushchev at the United Nations. Cuba Catholic officials welcomed him as liberator but later spoke out strongly against the Communist takeover of the country.

The other dictators — some "neutral" like Gamal Nasser of Egypt or Sukarno of Indonesia, others mere puppets of Moscow like Nikolai Podgorny of the Ukraine or Todor Zhivkov of Bulgaria — also play their role, in the fateful decisions which push the world day by day on its course toward peace or war.

One obvious purpose of this display of power is to dazzle the 15 new members of the United Nations — 14 of them "non-white" nations from Africa and Asia. By 1962, the non-white nations will outnumber the white nations at the U.N. 55 to 53. The count now is 53 white (including the Soviet satellites) and 44 non-white, mostly neutral.

Berlin's courageous Cardinal Julius Döpfner in a 1959 talk honoring the memory of martyred Dr. Erich Klausener, head of Germany's Catholic Action program murdered by the Nazis in 1934, said "those who die for justice and humanity . . . show the right direction to guide our steps, light a lamp to brighten our journey."

He told his Soviet-tinged flock not to forget the victims of tyranny lest they surrender the heritage prepared for them at the price of so many tears, so much blood.

The new and the neutral nations, we are confident, will not forget the throng of victims whose memories trudge behind Khrushchev and his dictator throng on parade in New York.

Minister, Cardinal At Nuptial

Toronto — (NC) — A Protestant minister escorted his daughter to the altar in St. Michael's cathedral here where a Cardinal officiated at her marriage ceremony and offered the Nuptial Mass.

Eva Pokoly, 21, exchanged marriage vows with Paul Payer, a Catholic engineering student at the University of Toronto who fled to Canada from Hungary following the unsuccessful 1956 anti-Communist revolution there. Cardinal McGuigan of Toronto presided at the marriage.

The bride's father, the Rev. Mr. Leslie Pokoly of the Hungarian United Church of Canada, had asked Cardinal McGuigan to officiate. The Rev. Mr. Pokoly's ancestors have been Protestant ministers for 150 years. He was a government employee in Hungary when he was married to a Catholic under provisions of the Hungarian Marriage Act of 1894, which provides that sons of such a marriage be raised in the father's religious faith and daughters in their mother's faith.

The two daughters of the Pokoly were baptized and reared in the Catholic faith. Their mother died in 1947 in Germany and the father with his two daughters came to Canada in 1951. He remarried, but continued to encourage his daughters in the Catholic faith.

The Rev. Mr. Pokoly worked as a painter and decorator in Toronto while preparing for the United Church ministry. He is minister of the Hungarian United Church in Winnipeg.

Lawyer: "Now, sir, did you or did you not, on the date in question, or at any time, previously or subsequently, say or even intimate to the defendant or anyone else, alone or with anyone, whether a friend or a mere acquaintance, or, in fact, a stranger, that the statement imputed to you, whether just or unjust, and denied by the plaintiff, was a matter of no moment, or otherwise? Answer me 'yes' or 'no.'"

Witness: "Yes or no, what?"

Christian Faith In Arab City

By FATHER PATRICK O'CONNOR, Society of St. Columban

Cairo — (NC) — This cloudless, crowded city on the Nile is far from being exclusively Moslem.

Like Egypt and Syria — the two religions of the United Arab Republic — Cairo, the capital, has a large and historic Christian minority.

It is estimated that one in every six persons in Egypt's 24 million population is a Christian. In Syria's four million or so the Christian proportion may be less, but it is still considerable.

THE NUMBER of Christians in Cairo is hard to estimate. But any visitor can see that its Christian citizens and institutions are an important element in the civic community.

In the Catholic churches of the city, including Heliopolis, its suburb, 128 public Masses are listed for every Sunday. The Orthodox churches of Cairo are numerous. Add to these the Protestant churches, chiefly Anglican and Evangelical.

The Christian tradition goes deep in Egypt and Syria.

In Our Lord's infancy the Holy Family found refuge in Egypt. There were Christians in Damascus, capital of Syria, even before St. Paul's conversion, and some after Our Lord's Ascension.

Today the oldest religious bodies of any kind in Egypt and Syria are the Christians.

In Egypt the Coptic Christians trace their lineage back to the apostolate of St. Mark the Evangelist in Alexandria. They have their distinctive Coptic or Alexandrian liturgy. Since the fifth century most of the Copts have been separated from the See of Peter, but there is a large body of Copts — close to 100,000 — united with the Holy See, under their own patriarch.

The Catholics in Egypt represent the Church's variety and completeness in the East. In Cairo alone there are churches of seven Catholic rites — the Coptic, Ar-

"Green Hell" For God

New York — The story of "the kid next door," a typical American youth whose life began on the streets of Philadelphia and ended in the jungle missions of Bolivia, is told in a new biography, "Something For God," published this month.

Written by Father Francis X. Lyons, M.M., also of Philadelphia, and a veteran of the Bolivian apostolate, "Something For God" is the story of the unusual life of Maryknoll's Brother Gonzaga Chittil, published by P.J. Kennedy & Sons, New York.

The book translates Brother Gonzaga's foreign mission vocation into quiet, inconspicuous heroism. Whether teaching catechism to destitute Indian youngsters, piloting the mission power, mending a stream, or urging a tractor across the pampa, the constant incentive for Brother Gonzaga's zeal was "to do something for God."

It was this inclination that took him to the "Green Hell" jungle area of Bolivia several years ago to devote his life to a primitive, forgotten people; and it was this inclination that also brought him to a tragic, premature death along with the treacherous Beni River.

Prison and others reported eyewitness evidence of martyr left by beatings in the prison. Not even women were spared, they charged. One woman prisoner, a doctor, was reported to have been stripped and thrown into cells, first with men prisoners and later with soldiers, who inflicted harsh treatment.

When the Church issued pastoral letters urging the release of the "political prisoners" and the safeguarding of human rights, Trujillo retaliated by having thousands of persons sign statements ac-

claiming that the Catholic Church in the Dominican Republic was a "superficial calm. But while children played baseball in the streets by day, fatal "accidents" took place by night. Under the surface calm tension mounted until last January, when Trujillo crushed a conspiracy to assassinate him at a cattle fair.

What appears mostly to concern the government is Archbishop Zanini's apparent attempts to unite the bishops and clergy in a generally firmer stand against it. Observers have remarked on what has seemed to be a balance among the clergy to break silence even when the government-controlled press, capitalizing on Trujillo's strong stand against Communism, actually accuses some of them of working with Communists and of trying to spread confusion and lies among the people.

If the attitude of the Catholic clergy in general seems somewhat disoriented, the explanation may be the real fear that a Dominican Republic liberated from the Trujillo dictatorship may turn into a no other Cuba. The Church must endure whatever regime comes to power, but the most feared would be one threatening not only its freedom but its very existence.

Billy's aunt was coming to the country for a visit. She was a pleasant woman, weighing close to 200 pounds. On the night of her arrival, Billy wanted to stay up later than usual.

"Why, Billy," his aunt said, "I'm ever so much older than you, and I go to bed every night with the chickens."

Billy studied her for a moment in silence and then said: "I don't see how you ever get up on the roof."



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Reapings At Random

The gang's all here. Khrushchev, Kadar, Gomulka, Castro, Tito and a host of other Reds and fellow travelers have congregated the general assembly meeting of the United Nations at its east shore headquarters.

Soon to arrive will be Nasser, Sukarno and Nehru. All in all it promises to be the greatest show on earth, with the Reds wooing the neutrals, and those of the Western World merely being the co-stars in the Red play.

Some might disagree. But it is obvious that Khrushchev has the initiative and is taking advantage of the situation to alternately appease and threaten members of the United Nations under the guise of peace.

When Mr. K. arrived on Monday, he said U.S.-Soviet relations will be improved — they have to be because of world peace. Mr. K. got away with this even in our own newspapers without too much trouble. The fact that he has created the situation of the stepped-up cold war does not seem to bother him one iota. Strange but true, his words will be taken as gospel by many members of the United Nations. They will go along with him as he turns the cold war tap, off and on, to suit his tastes.

Time For Patience As Reds Stage New Act

National leaders as well as citizens of the world want to forget the excesses of Mr. Khrushchev. They excused it on the grounds that he is a sincere man who is over-suspicious of the Western World. Hardly ever do we find the neutrals in the U.N. excusing the United States or its leaders. Any mistakes we make are played up and then we are told, "no wonder the Russians get mad at you." Hardly anyone bothers to understand the problems of the United States and other Western nations in face of the abusive language and threats of Mr. K.

And then there is the "gentleman," Kadar of Hungary. No one, apart from Khrushchev, is more responsible for the murder of the Hungarian freedom fighters than Kadar. Yet he has come to the U.N. all squared up, giving off sweetness and light as if he were a angel with folded wings. Strangely enough, not too many people have gotten excited over Kadar being on these shores.

Each of these Red bosses attending the United Nations Assembly Meeting as a criminal record, far longer and far more dreadful than any one of those penned up in our prisons. Yet we want to take them for granted.

There are some, however, who are innocent. Increased to the extent of political and national minorities. They blame it all on the U.N. or the United States Government. There are cries of "apprehension" and the like. Yet surely this is the time for patience.

Patience, first of all, with the United Nations, still a young organization but one which has already made a great contribution to the stability of the world. We are fortunate in having the United Nations headquarters in the United States, even if it does lead to undesirable characters coming to these shores to attend these meetings. Allowing their in does not mean that the U.S. is "soft" on communism or that it forgets the crimes against peoples committed by these Communist representatives.

We signed an agreement allowing all member nations and their representatives free access to the U.N. The matter is, therefore, out of our hands. There is no use in condemning the government. Indeed, one might be thankful that we have a government that honors its commitments.

There might also be a question of patience with our government. It is easy to criticize and easier to talk of insulting the communist. But it is surely to be understood now that people like Khrushchev and Kadar thrive in