

Foreign Aid - What It's Done, Why It's Needed

By FRED J. ECKERT

Quint Now A Novice

Baje St. Paul, Que. — (RNS) — Yvonne Dionne, one of the world famous Quintuplets and for the past six months a postulant at the Little Franciscan Sisters' convent here has taken another major step toward Roman Catholic sisterhood by becoming a novice.

She has chosen the name of Sister Marie-Tierry and will serve a two-year novitiate before taking final vows in the religious order which operates schools and hospitals in Quebec and New England.

The ceremony was attended by two of the other three living Dionne Quintuplets. They were Mrs. Philippe Langlois (Cecile), and Mrs. Germaine Alard (Annette), both of Montreal. The other survivor is Mrs. Florian Houle (Marie), who also lives in Montreal. Emilie, the fifth Dionne sister, died in 1954.

President Kennedy has asked Congress for \$4.7 billion for foreign aid for this year and an additional \$8.8 billion in five years. Pope John in his recent encyclical Mater et Magistra says rich nations should aid poor nations — "putting at their disposal the necessary capital to start and to speed up their economic development with the help of modern methods." Following is the first of two articles written for the Courier Journal which explains the background and present position of American foreign aid programs.

America's involvement in massive assistance to foreign nations may be traced back to Russia's imperialistic actions during the last years of the Second World War and the years immediately following the war.

Emerging from the war as the second most powerful nation in the world, Russia began occupying herself with expansion goals. In 1947, Russia, having already seized most of Eastern Europe, was turning her eyes in the direction of Greece and Turkey.

The Truman Doctrine

To thwart Russia's ambitions against Greece and Turkey, President Truman went before the Congress and sought the authority and money to assist Greece and Turkey in their struggle with Russia. In his special speech on this matter, President Truman said, "I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures." This principle came to be known as the Truman Doctrine.

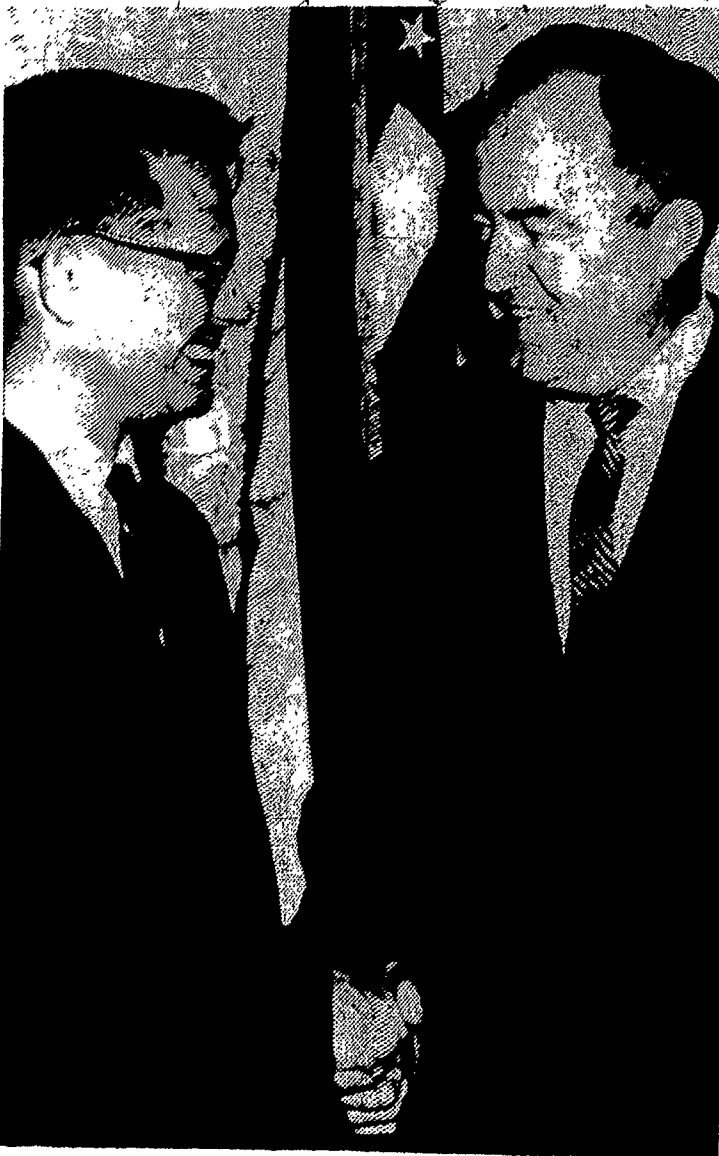
After a two month debate, Congress, on May 27, 1947, responded to President Truman's proposal by authorizing the granting of one hundred fifty million dollars military assistance and one hundred fifty million dollars economic assistance to Greece and one hundred million dollars military assistance to Turkey. Congress also gave the President the power to send experts, both military and civilian, to serve as advisors to the Greek and Turkish governments.

American weapons and money soon began stemming the Communist tide in those two nations. After a few months passed, it became obvious that the United States had dealt the Russians a decisive defeat in the struggle for Greece and Turkey. For their reaction to American action, the Communists protested verbally, but, constrained by the fresh memory of defeat, they backed away from any notions of risking war with the United States. Bold, strong, unilateral American action had sent the Communists cascading to the dark depths of defeat.

The Truman Doctrine was successful. It achieved its purpose; it saved Greece and Turkey from Communist conquest. The United States, which had been deceived, duped, bullied, and, most of all, bluffed by the Russians since the early days of the Second World War, was at long last beginning to stand up and fight back.

The Marshall Plan

Greece and Turkey had been saved, but danger still lurked in Europe. Having borne the burden of years of war on their own soil, the countries of Europe found themselves plagued with economic stagnation. Eco-



Disarmament Needed

Washington — (RNS) — Senator Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.), at right, chats with Dr. William J. Nagle, chairman of the Committee on Morality and Warfare of the Catholic Association for International Peace, after a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing in the nation's capital. Dr. Nagle told the Senate committee that the U.S. has a "crucial need" of a disarmament agency in the federal government with clear-cut authority to develop programs in that field.

conomic recovery was needed, not only to prevent Russian intrusion, but also to prevent Communist, or pro-Communist, coup d'etats.

On June 5, 1947, in a commencement speech at Harvard University, Secretary of State George Marshall presented a plan whereby the United States would aid European nations who, in rebuilding their economies, would specify their needs, develop a program of their own, and coordinate their efforts with their neighbor nations. This was the birth of the Marshall Plan, formally known as the European Recovery Program.

Though its purpose was to rebuild Europe's economy and prevent the spread of Communism in Europe, the Marshall Plan did one strange thing — it offered American aid to Russia and her recently acquired satellites. The Commun-

ists, however, decided that they could better foster their goals by endeavoring to block Marshall Plan aid to Western Europe than by accepting the aid themselves. (They could not very well denounce the program yet accept the aid. This would be a pinnacle of contradiction and illogic to which even the Communists would have immense difficulty ascending.)

Because of fear of a reconstructed Western Europe, the Communists decided to forego the luxury of being subsidized by their enemy. Accordingly, the Communists denounced the Marshall Plan as "American imperialism."

Russia warned the nations of Europe that acceptance of American aid would seriously threaten their sovereignty. The satellite nations fell in step with the Russian line. Finland and Czechoslovakia refused Marshall Plan aid, fearing that acceptance would bring Russian vengeance down upon them.

But most of the nations of Europe, despite Russian warnings about "American imperialism," responded enthusiastically to the Marshall Plan. A Committee of European Economic Cooperation was set up with all the nations of Western Europe participating, except Germany, which was yet without a government, and Spain, which, unfortunately, was not invited.

In September, 1947, the Committee of European Economic Cooperation reported that Europe could achieve a self-sufficient economy by 1951 at a cost to the United States of nineteen billion three hundred million dollars.

In December 1947, President Truman requested that Congress authorize the expenditure of six billion eight hundred million dollars to be used during the first fifteen months of the program and ten billion two hundred million dollars to be used during the following ten years.

In justifying his request for American aid to rebuild Europe, President Truman said, "... I am proposing that this nation contribute to world peace and to its own security by assisting in the recovery of sixteen countries which, like the United States, are devoted to the preservation of free institutions and enduring peace among nations."

Point Four

By strengthening Greece and Turkey, America had frustrated Russia's goal of seizing those two nations. By rebuilding Europe's economy, America had countervailed the danger of Communist penetration. Now it was becoming increasingly evident that America must act in order to prevent Communist seizure of the poverty-stricken underdeveloped nations of the world.

Realizing that the standard of living would have to be raised in many nations if they

secured the last major phase of the development of America's involvement in foreign aid.

In its first phase, foreign aid had only an immediate purpose — prevention of Communist conquest of Greece and Turkey. In its second phase, foreign aid had a short ranged dual purpose — reconstruction of Western Europe and prevention of Communist expansion in Europe. Now, in its third, and final phase, foreign aid has a long range dual purpose — development of the underdeveloped nations and defeat of Communism's efforts to penetrate the poverty-stricken areas of the world.

Foreign aid, a child of the Truman Administration, went through its formative years under that administration. It grew up under the Eisenhower Administration and it is still growing under the Kennedy Administration.

Foreign Aid has become part of American political life. America's foreign aid program is currently being lauded by some citizens and excoriated by others. It is a political issue of the highest magnitude and one with which every American should familiarize himself. It is a highly controversial issue, and both its praise and criticism is well worth serious study.

Next week: The Current Debate

U. S. Clergy, Nuns To Latin America

Notre Dame — (NC) — A representative of the Vatican Pontifical Commission for Latin America urged superiors of U.S. religious orders to send 10 per cent of their membership to serve the Church in Latin America within a decade.

Msgr. Augustino Casseroli asked nearly 1,500 major superiors attending the second National Congress of Religious at the University of Notre Dame to contribute to Latin America in the next ten years "a tithe of the present membership as of the current year."

If this "ideal" were realized, more than 20,000 American priests, brothers and sisters would be mobilized to assure that "not even a small part of that precious heritage of the Catholic religion which is Latin America should be lost," he said.



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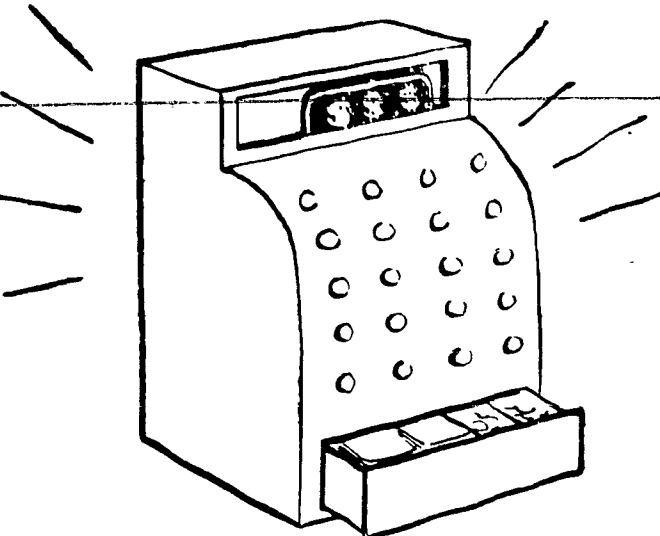
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