

Faith Teaching Threatened

Warsaw — (RNS) — Sharp intensification of the Church-State conflict in Poland was foreseen here in the wake of a new government decree aimed at complete state control of religious instruction in this predominantly Roman Catholic country.

Trybun Ludu, official Communist organ, disclosed that the decree was issued secretly by the Ministry of Education on Aug. 19.

It noted that the schools had already been reopened Sept. 1, with all religious classes abolished. This means a repudiation of the 1956 agreement between the government and the Catholic Church which provided for religious instruction in all the state schools.

The next step, according to the Communist paper, will be control of catechetical and other religious instruction outside the schools.

It said the Aug. 19 decree provides that religious teaching may be given only by priests approved by the Ministry of Education. It also said lay teachers if priests are not available. The decree, the paper said, specifically bars monks from teaching because it might affect their duties to their orders.

According to informed sources, the hierarchy has already ordered parish priests to ignore the education ministry's order. Meanwhile, priests who had been inclined to argue that it is wiser to try to get along with the regime as best as possible are said to have been aroused by what they see as an attack on the right to teach Catholic children their religion. A right they regard as scarcely less fundamental than freedom to worship.

Catholic Chaplains Needed

Washington, D. C. — (RNS) — Only the Army is in urgent need of new chaplains at the present time, a survey of the armed forces here discloses.

Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Frank A. Tooley, Chief of Army Chaplains has issued an urgent call for volunteers, stating that with the big military buildup occasioned by the Berlin crisis, the Army is short of chaplains, particularly Catholic and Episcopal chaplains.

The Navy, facing only minor expansion, said that thus far it has filled its need through voluntary petitions from inactive reservists anxious to assist in meeting the emergency. The Navy needs an average of 80 new chaplains a year to meet its ordinary needs. It is short of Roman Catholic chaplains, as it has been for some time, but otherwise is experiencing no difficulty.

The Air Force said Air National Guard units being mobilized for the most part bring their own chaplains with them. These chaplains know they are subject to call-up and are usually prepared to leave their civilian ministry on short notice.



Jewish Teen-agers Visit Seminary

Oconomowoc, Wis. — (RNS) — Teen-aged Jewish students are shown a priest's vestment by a seminarian on their visit to the Redemptorist Seminary here. Frater Richard Quinn of Kansas City, Mo., displays the chasuble and defines its symbolism to David Penn, 17, and Joan Frankel, 16, of Chicago. A large group of Jewish campers from the Union Institute toured the seminary as priests and seminarians explained various phases of the Catholic religion. The two institutions for several years have followed a good neighbor policy in which campers visit the seminary.

German Elections

Adenauer Wins Backing

Berlin — (RNS) — West German counterpart, the Christian Social Union (CSU), the Church's political demands. A joint pastoral letter which bishops' admonition was stirred immediate controversy, promptly challenged by Dr. Erich Mende, chairman of the Free Democratic Party (FDP), parliamentary elections only who charged it violated the principles of Church-State separation in the past have been marked by adherence to Christian principles.

Dr. Mende, who took issue with the bishops even before the official publication date of their letter, argued that it classified as politicians with a good Christian attitude only.

Priests Attend World Council

Vatican City — (NC) — For the first time in history the Church will send official observers to a meeting of the Protestant and Orthodox Council of Churches.

Five Catholics have been named to attend the New Delhi, India, general assembly of the council November 18 to December 6. They were picked by the Vatican's Preparatory Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity. A U. S. priest and a Dutch layman are included.

Although Catholic priests and laymen have attended meetings of the World Council of Churches, the appointment of observers by a central Church office in Rome marks a departure from the former "private" representation of the Church at such Non-Catholic meetings.

THE OBSERVERS are: Father Edward J. Duff, S. J., of St. Louis, Mo.; Jan Groot of the Netherlands; Father M. J. Le Grillou, O. P., of France, and two priests from India whose names will be announced later. The latter were picked because of the assembly site at New Delhi.

A secretariat spokesman said the appointments were made because the results of the



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Labor Reporter

Pittsburgh — (RNS) — Bishop John J. Wright of Pittsburgh presents the annual Diocese of Pittsburgh Labor Award to Edwin A. Lahey, Washington bureau chief of the Knight Newspapers and a specialist in labor reporting. The award is presented annually by the diocese to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the cause of the working man. Father Charles Owen Rice, prominent in Pittsburgh labor affairs, assists Bishop Wright at the presentation.

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