

Moslems OK Fund For Bibles

Ende — (RNS) — A quarter million copies of the Bible have been ordered here by the Indonesian government for distribution among Catholic families in this predominantly Moslem country.

A communication from Djakarta to the Arnold Press, operated by the Society of the Divine Word, said it is the intention of the government to give a copy of the Bible to each Catholic family in Indonesia. Approximately \$1,390,000 has been allocated by the government for the order.

This will be the first printing by the Arnold Press of the complete Bible in Bahasa, the official language of the country. Previously, it has printed separate editions of the four Gospels and of the Acts of the Apostles.

Observers regarded the order as proof that the government is taking a genuine interest in religious minorities in the country, and does not, as is sometimes said, treat them as second class citizens.

There are some 1,300,000 Catholics among the nation's 86 million people, 90 per cent of whom are Moslems. Protestants total about 3,400,000.

It has been rumored that the government might take similar action in regard to supplying Bibles to Protestants, but no definite decision has been announced. One reason for this may be the lack of a Protestant-operated printing plant in the country which would be able to fulfill a comparable order.



Congo First Lady at Vatican

Castel Gandolfo — (RNS) — Mrs. Joseph Kasavubu (left) wife of the President of the Congo, leaves the papal summer residence at Castel Gandolfo, Italy, after an audience with Pope John XXIII. She was in Italy on a short, personal visit. Her interview with the Pope came when bitter fighting was reported in the Congo between United Nations and rebel Katanga forces, with heavy casualties suffered by both sides.

China Catholics Tragic Remnant

Vatican City — (RNS) — The "patriotic" Catholic Church set up by the Communist regime in China four years ago in an attempt to sever ties between the Chinese Catholics and the Vatican remains a "skeletal" group with only a minimal following.

This was reported by Fides, mission news service, which said the "patriotic" Church was set up by the Communist government to break with the Vatican and to become a "Chinese" Church. The "patriotic" Church is said to have been established in 1957, when a schismatic "patriotic" Church was set up under Communist control but failed in their objective.

It said the "patriotic" Church had 35 bishops — all illegally consecrated since they were not named by the Pope — but only a "very feeble" number of priests, "most of whom have been reduced to a state of total or without trial, for various periods. Others have been exiled to frontier regions. Many are subjected to 'reform' by the government's 'socialist program' and to 'safeguard world peace'." Actually this was a move to subjugate the Church in China and to separate it from the Holy See.

THE AGENCY said the Communist had hoped to set up a schismatic "patriotic" Church under their own close control but failed in their objective.

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Fides said the 35 bishops had been made pliant tools of the government "after months, and in many cases years, of moral torture, with their minds destroyed by indoctrination and probably with their free will alienated."

Of the "patriotic" priests it said: "Certain ones of these seem to be completely blinded and drawn by a false patriotism, but others are suffering and would turn back if they had the occasion or the courage."

Because the great mass of priests and faithful have rejected the "patriotic" Church, Fides said it is forced to depend on secular Communist authorities for support because it is "without influence."

In the meantime, the agency stressed, the loyal Catholics of China remain a truly suffering "Church of Silence."

Bishops, priests and other Catholics who did not choose to join the "patriotic" Church are said to be suffering persecution.

Protest Tests

Paris — (NC) — France's Young Christian Workers organization has issued a protest at its national convention here against the resumption of atomic bomb tests by the Soviet Union.

Church Keeps Good Records

Castel Gandolfo — (RNS) — Pope John XXIII, at an audience attended by delegates to the annual general assembly in Rome of the International Commission of Civil Registrars, recalled the Church's historic role in keeping records.

"From the remotest times," he said, "the Church has attributed, and continues to attribute, as her canonical legislation proves, the greatest importance to the compilation and preservation of acts of registration."

"It must be remembered that long before the birth of states as we know them, the Church preserved in her parish registers and in the libraries of the monasteries, those acts which are now drawn up by registrars and that these documents are invaluable to present-day historians."

Too Many Denominations Exported, Says Minister

St. Paul — (RNS) — American churches are exporting too wise in not pushing independent denominations abroad, a Lutheran pastor just returned noted, still have responsibility from 15 months overseas, said for Singapore's military and foreign policy.

Dr. Clifford Ansgar Nelson urged that Protestant churches unite their efforts to bring the Christian religion to foreign countries.

"I see no reason why we should bring all our denominational labels from America and confuse people," he commented.

Dr. Nelson, who started a multi-racial, multi-lingual congregation in Singapore for Augustana and United Lutheran Churches, said it was a "fascinating experience" to watch the former British colony "struggle for independence."

Christians make up only two per cent of Singapore's population, with Roman Catholics comprising the largest group.

TV Centralized

Cologne — (NC) — The Bishops of Germany ordered at their annual meeting in Fulda (Aug. 28-31) that Catholic television and radio activity in Germany be coordinated by a central directorate working directly under the German Bishops' Conference, it was announced here.

Too Many People?

Lots of Room on Earth

New York — (NC) — There is no absolute overpopulation in the world today, and "relative" overpopulation, that is, an economic imbalance, can be solved without birth-prevention programs.

Such is the opinion of a noted authority in the field of population study, Father Anthony Zimmerman, S.V.D., American priest currently teaching sociology at San Francisco State University, Nagasaki, Japan. His conclusions are presented in a new book, "Catholic Viewpoint on Overpopulation," (Doubleday & Co., New York).

"Absolute overpopulation, that is, sheer overabundance of man on planet earth, would obviously admit no solution short of halting further human increase," Father Zimmerman states.

"Should it ever occur, reason would demand the employment of a legitimate form of population control, and the Catholic Church would presumably interpret the natural law in active cooperation with this circumstance."

But absolute overpopulation is no threat in the foreseeable future, he states. Father Zimmerman marshals facts and figures from agricultural experts, sociologists and statisticians to show that abundant potential resources of food, clothing and housing exist. The chief problem to be solved is that of equitable distribution.

"Population growth normally stimulates, and fortifies economic progress when the growth labor force is used advantageously. A surge of qualified laborers is needed by a country which is attempting to make the difficult transition from primitive agrarianism to technological productivity," Father Zimmerman contends.

The current rate of population growth is unusually rapid,

he admits, but claims this is due mainly to the operation of "temporary demographic boosters." He concludes that "since the imbalances are spawned by social disorders and inequities, not directly by the size of the families, the proper solution is a speedy development of social order and productivity, not an obnoxious campaign to stragulate normal family size."

A missionary of the Society of the Divine Word, Father Zimmerman has lived in Japan for many years. He holds a doctorate from Catholic University of America.

PILGRIMAGE

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