

A Smirk in a Kremlin Grave?

A Year of Disappointment for the Pope

"No more war! War never again!"
That's what Pope Paul said at the United Nations just a year ago.
"In God's name . . . stop!"
That's what he said to the warring nations a week ago.
The intervening year has been a year of disappointment for the Pontiff.
His pleas and prayers have been answered by the escalation of the U.S. war in Vietnam.
He didn't let a whole year go by between his peace appeals, however.
His Christmas message was on world peace and it had an undercurrent of criticism of the United States failure to respond to peace feelers from Hanoi.

Again at New Year's he sent messages of peace to China's Chairman Mao, to the President of the Soviet Union, to President Ho Chi Minh of North Vietnam and to President Nguyen Thieu of South Vietnam. Then on his saint's day, June 24, feast of St. John the Baptist, he told prelates in Rome of his fruitless efforts at peace.
But his latest appeal is the most solemn, the most deeply moving of all—and he bolstered the urgency of his plea by asking all the Catholics of the world to set aside October 4, next Tuesday, as a day of prayer for peace, the anniversary of his historic visit to the United Nations.
He has also asked that the whole month of October be a month of prayer for peace, particularly because it is the month of the Rosary of the Blessed

Virgin Mary, to whom the Pope has a childlike devotion.
What impact will his pleas and prayers have on the worsening Vietnam situation?
The possibilities, as the Manchester Guardian commented, should not be underestimated.
The Pope, Stalin once remarked, has, of course, no regiments.
But some of those who listen to him do.
There is an influential Catholic element in South Vietnam and there is alleged to be a sizable segment of the Democratic Party in the United States that is also Catholic—but this latter fact may prove to be of little help to the Pope in his efforts at peace.
U.S. Catholics, according to the Gallup Poll, are

far more in favor of the Vietnam war than any other religious group in the nation—posing the anomaly that Americans who aren't Catholics seem to be more in sympathy with the Pope's position than are the members of the Church he heads.
The Gallup Poll listed 54 per cent of U.S. Catholics as approving the present conduct of the war as contrasted with 39 per cent of the Protestants and 41 per cent of the Jews.
The Pope's latest appeal came in an encyclical issued last week in Rome. Its text is printed in full on page four.
It will be interesting to observe whether Catholics give any better attention to him this year than they did last—otherwise Stalin in his Kremlin grave will be convinced he was right after all.
—Father Henry Atwell

'Fools Trap' Faced Pope in Peace Bid

By FATHER ROBERT A GRAHAM, S.J.
Special Correspondent

Rome—(RNS)—Vatican circles are gratified and also much relieved by the favorable world reaction to Pope Paul VI's peace appeal just before the UN General Assembly convened. For it could have gone otherwise.

Uninvited peacemongers are not necessarily welcome in power politics; the Pope, instead of bringing a settlement in Vietnam—a mile closer—could have called down upon himself the reproach of entertaining illusions of grandeur or of not minding his own business.

The risks the Pope took were many—and he was well aware of them.

First of all, there was the danger that a particular government might simply judge his move untimely and dangerous, while discounting in general the Church's qualifications to intervene in such a direct way. Secondly, there was the inevitable danger that his words might be misinterpreted, in good or bad faith, and twisted "to make a trap for fools."

In Italy, for instance, the correspondent for Il Tempo, Rome's daily newspaper supported by anti-Communist business interests, blandly stated that the Pope was pointing his finger at Hanoi and Peking; the Communist organs, on the other hand, found the same phrases as clearly aimed at the United States and South Vietnam.

Thirdly, the Pope's initiative was hitched to the United Nations' and its peace making work. In all likelihood his words were issued with the foreknowledge and encouragement of U Thant, outgoing UN Secretary General. But if you were President de Gaulle of France, who has no time for "that thing," what would be your comment?

These hazards the Pope is ready to take in the interests of world peace at a time of perilous unrest within and among nations, new and old. As for the touch of "triumphalism" that some may see in the papal gesture, Paul VI disclaimed any illusions as to the status of the Papacy today.

In his "after-thoughts" contained in remarks he made at the general audience two days after the encyclical, the Pope said there are, at least, two things he can do: he can speak and he can pray. He did both of these in the encyclical.

As the pontiff stated in the Marian document which con-

tains the peace appeal, the times and his own religious position have conspired to impose this peacemaking role upon him. "It seems to us, as it seemed to our more recent predecessors, that a very provident God has committed to us a special task, namely, that we labor, with patient and persevering effort, for the preservation and the strengthening of the peace."

Up to now Paul VI seems to be on the side of the angels, as far as the world press and world opinion is concerned. Is Paul luckier than his predecessors?

In the first World War, one of the chief concerns of the Allied diplomats at the Vatican was to keep Pope Benedict XV from talking about peace. To this day poor Benedict is blamed for having contributed to the disastrous Italian rout at Caporetto because he had shortly before described the war as "a useless slaughter."

In World War II it was Plus XII's turn to be put into his place when he ventured to voice doubts as to the Allies' policy of unconditional surrender. Whether the Allies or the Pope were right is not the point; the case illustrates that there are times when both people and their leaders want the war and the slaughter to go on.

Finally, with all this in the record, the Vatican may well be pondering whether there is not more to the universal applause than meets the eye. The situation was put in this way by an American living for a long time in Europe, where anti-Americanism is endemic: "They hail the Pope's message, not because they like the Pope but because his appeal is an excellent club with which they can belabor the Americans and smell like roses while doing so."

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UN Ponders Vietnam War

United Nations—(RNS)—Ambassador Abdul Rahman Paikwak of Afghanistan (right), new president of the United Nations' General Assembly, presides as the 21st session opens. With him is Secretary General U Thant, who has been urged by religious leaders to withdraw his resignation from the vital U. N. Post. A major item on the assembly's agenda was the Vietnam war. Meanwhile Pope Paul VI and many other Christian and Jewish leaders were calling for prayers and intensified efforts for peace.

Peace Mass At UN Chapel

New York—(RNS)—Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, will preside at a special Mass for Peace on Oct. 4 at 1:10 p.m. in Holy Family church here in accordance with Pope Paul's plea for world peace prayers on that day.

Msgr. Timothy Flynn, pastor of the church, which is the Catholic Chapel for the United Nations, said the Mass will highlight several religious and other events on that day.
He said the observance will give dramatic expression to the Pope's recent encyclical in which he made a new plea for the end of hostilities in Vietnam.

Bishop Calls Diocese To Prayers for Peace

Bishop Kearney has asked all Catholics of the Rochester Diocese to respond with faith and devotion to Pope Paul's appeal for prayers for peace during the month of October, the month of the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Text of the Bishop's letter, page four.

The Bishop will launch the prayer crusade by broadcasting the Rosary on the Family Rosary for Peace radio program Sunday evening at 7 p.m., the nightly program broadcast on a five station network.

He also directed that a Mass for Peace be offered in every parish church Tuesday evening, Oct. 4, anniversary of Pope Paul's visit to the United Nations to appeal to the world's leaders for peace.

Jews Join Pope In Prayers

New York—(NC)—Two leaders of American Reform Judaism appealed to their fellow Jews to join with other religious forces throughout the world, including Pope Paul VI, to "stop the war in Vietnam."

Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, issued a statement marking the observance of Yom Kippur, the most solemn day in the Jewish calendar.

Baptists Urged To Pray with Catholics

Nashville—(RNS)—Dr. H. Franklin Paschall, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, called here on the 10.7 million-member denomination to join Roman Catholics in praying for world peace.

The churchman noted that the Catholic Church has been urged by Pope Paul VI to set aside the month of October as a time for "praying for peace."

"I should like to see Christian groups and all concerned individuals join in this special prayer," Dr. Paschall said. "Together we may achieve amazing results."

Elected to the top SBC post last June, Dr. Paschall made the call for peace prayers in his first report to the convention.

He reported on an around-the-world mission tour this summer and described conditions both encouraging and discouraging.

The war in Vietnam, Dr. Paschall said, "is an increasing burden and grief to us all. To debate the question of whether we should be in Vietnam does not change the hard fact that we are there, and that the casualties on both sides of the conflict are mounting every day."

Starts This Week

Priests of the Future, Past or Prophets?—a series of articles on the Catholic priesthood in the turbulent modern world written by Father Louis J. Hohman, diocesan director of religious vocations. Page 2.

Episcopalian Dialog Oct. 10

Providence—(RNS)—The Ecumenical subcommittees of the Roman Catholic and Protestant Episcopal Churches will hold their third dialogue here, Oct. 10-12. Episcopal Bishop John Seville Higgins of Rhode Island announced.

A member of the Episcopal Church's Ecumenical Subcommittee on Relations with Roman Catholics, Bishop Higgins will be host to the gathering.

FERRY FLOWERS for all occasions. Ethel M. Perry assisted by Tom Zavanella, Mgr. Ron Weingartner, Asst. Mgr. 441 Chili Ave. FA 8-7723.—Adv.

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Candidate O'Connor 'Doesn't Know' about Textbook Law

More than 5000 young Americans have been killed in the Vietnam war.

Nobody asked them whether they attended public or parochial school before they went out to battle.

They could give their lives for their country—but their country couldn't give them a textbook or a test tube if they'd been in a Catholic classroom before enlisting for military service.

That's the paradox written into the New York State Constitution—in the 1894 Blaine amendment and in other articles of the document scheduled for possible revision next spring.

One of the men who will have a significant influence in which way the state constitution will be revised will be the state's chief executive, the Governor.

The Democratic candidate for

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that office, Frank M. O'Connor, however, admits that he's both uninformed about and opposed to the recently enacted law which authorizes tax-paid textbooks for pupils in Catholic schools in grades 7 through 12.

In a recent New York City

television interview, he was asked if he favored state aid to parochial school children such as textbooks.

"Well, I don't know anything about this textbook bill except that it's been held unconstitutional. And I don't believe in anything that's unconsti-

tutional," he replied.

Reminded that Governor Rockefeller had signed the bill into law, O'Connor was then asked if he would have signed it had he been Governor.

"I don't know. I haven't examined the bill that carefully,"

he said. "I would want an opinion, and a good opinion, as to its constitutionality."

Such an opinion was voiced this past week by Harvard Law School professor Arthur E. Sutherland and he was backed by H. Thomas James, dean of the School of Education at

Stanford University and William H. Mulligan, dean of the Fordham University Law School.

Sutherland made his statement at a New York State Board of Regents meeting in Albany and the State's Department of Education later termed the Blaine amendment "a failure" and urged that it be repealed to give the state freedom "to evolve a new public policy on the relationships of church and state in education."

At the grass-roots level, Citizens for Educational Freedom, an interdenominational organization, is asking candidates up for election this November to next spring's constitutional convention to state their stand on the controversial Blaine amendment.

Joining those already on record committed to revise it is Liberal Party candidate Howard J. Clark who, told the Courier this week, "I feel that standard textbooks should be furnished to all students whether they attend public or private schools. I also feel that the Regents scholarships should be used for any college or university in the state as is the present arrangement." He said he thinks the state constitution should be revised to spell out clearly "what is right and what is wrong" rather than leave it in its present confused condition.—Father Henry A. Atwell



Wary GI's in Vietnam pause for prayer.