

Inside WASHINGTON

MARCH OF EVENTS

RED CHINA RELATIONS MAY SOON GET BETTER

By HENRY CATHCART
Central Press Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—A few months ago there were signs in Congress and elsewhere of a movement toward trying to thaw U.S. relations with Red China. Activities were suspended, however, as word seeped out of China about mounting internal disorders aimed at re-establishing the full authority of Mao Tse-tung, which apparently had gone into eclipse in 1966.

In recent weeks either the internal strife in China has subsided to a degree or the authorities have been doing a better job of suppressing news of the disorders. In any event, China does not seem on the verge of shaking itself apart as was the case four or five months ago.

If this estimate should prove correct, a revival of the detente effort can be expected. The form would be to find a way to accommodate Red Chinese representations in the United Nations, to renew U.S. efforts to encourage some exchanges of news correspondents, and to seek a meaningful dialogue on the positions of the two countries in the Vietnam war.

The short-term goal, of course, is to defuse the Vietnam fighting. The long-range effort would be to restore a semblance of rationality in relations between the two countries as a long step toward world peace.

Red China nurtures deep animosity toward the U.S., but historically the two nations have been allies with a broad base of common understanding, and U.S. sympathy and assistance to the Chinese.

Given the size of the stakes and the potential for improvement, there are indications that moves toward the detente will be resumed shortly.

INVESTIGATION PRONE

Mrs. Mildred B. Ross, a secretary in the office of Sen. Thomas Dodd, has the undesired distinction of being close to two major senatorial investigations.

Mrs. Ross was hired by Dodd only two weeks before the first charges concerning his misconduct were published. It wasn't until several weeks later that Dodd learned that Mrs. Ross was the married name of Bobby Baker's sister.

Dodd decided that her work was satisfactory and that she should remain on his staff since she had nothing whatsoever to do with the financial dealings of her brother.

CHANGE OF NAME

With President Johnson actively striving to establish more normal relations with the Soviet Union, the Pentagon still maintains a unit with the potentially embarrassing name of the "Cold War Division."

It is a section of the War Games Agency, and its task is to devise possible Cold War situations in which the U.S. and Russia confront each other and work out plans so that the United States comes up on top.

The operation is a necessary part of military planning and no one wants to clip its wings. But its name is uncomfortable to some officials, particularly to one, who has suggested a change to the "Crisis Management Division."

'Fish' Group Begun In Washington Area

Potomac, Md.—(NC)—When faced with a crisis, residents of this Washington, D.C., suburb can expect friendly aid from FISH, a newly organized project.

FISH defines itself as "a group of Christians living in the Potomac area who have banded together to provide neighborly help to each other as members of the community in meeting the minor emergencies all seem to face at one time or another."

The assistance might be simply providing a lift when the family automobile is broken down or supplying clothing for a family "burned out" of their home. A FISH volunteer stands by on a 24-hour alert to be available to respond to all requests.

In addition to this "neighbor to neighbor" program, FISH has also organized clothing and food depots to meet the needs of people in the lower economic

Lutherans Go to Rome

Geneva, Switzerland—(NC)—Three observer-consultants will represent the Lutheran World Federation at the Third World Congress of the Lay Apostolate scheduled in Rome Oct. 11-18.

Dr. Andre Appel, LWF general secretary, announced that the federation representatives will be the Rev. Gunnar Ostensund of Geneva, staff secretary for the LWF Commission of Stewardship and Evangelism, Mrs. Liselotte Nold of Nuremberg, Germany, director of the Mothers' Service of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria, and Charles Lutz, director of the Center for Urban Encounter in St. Paul, Minn.

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In the Soul of the People Crowds Throng Churches in Poland

This is the first of a two-part series on the Church in Poland.
By RUNE P. THURINGER

Warsaw — (NC) — Although understanding the problems of the Church in Poland is made difficult because many persons fear reprisals if they are too critical of the government, one thing is clearly evident: the vitality of the Church.

The churches that I visited were always filled with people. I arrived on a Saturday and in the evening visited Holy Cross church. It was crowded with Catholics going to Confession, groups of boys training to be altar boys, and nuns preparing the altars for Sunday Mass.

Most of the churches here have about 15 Masses each Sunday, I learned.

What I thought to be some type of political demonstrations on my first Sunday here turned out to be crowds of people going to and from church.

When I went to Mass one Sunday evening I had to stand because I had come late—five minutes before Mass started! The Mass was celebrated in Latin, but the Epistle, Gospel and sermon were in Polish.

The congregation sang a number of hymns, all of them from memory because there were no hymnbooks.

A large part of the congregation received Communion, and after the Mass there was Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Sundays are quiet, peaceful days in Poland. They are especially quiet because of the absence of any church bells, which are not allowed.

Another sign of the vitality of the Church in Poland is the attitude of the general public toward it. "The government guides that I had, for example, treated questions on the Church with reverence. They even made the sign of the Cross in the churches and said that they are Catholic."

I did meet one young man here, however, who declared himself to be an atheist, although he admitted that his parents are "active Catholics."

The young man, an agricultural student, said he was an atheist "because of that letter Cardinal Wyszynski and the other bishops sent to the German bishops." In the letter the Polish hierarchy appealed for a reconciliation between the two countries, expressed their willingness to forgive the Germans for acts committed during the war and asked the Germans to forgive the Poles for any wrongs they may have committed.

"It was against the will of the government," the young man said. "The bishops want us to be friends with the Germans, but we cannot."

Typical of the attitude of the government toward the Church is its efforts to de-Christianize the country by building large, new towns without any churches.

The Nowa Huta industrial town near Cracow that I visited

Silence Day Proposed

Sao Paulo — (NC) — A worldwide "day of silence" to focus interest on freedom and opposition to war is the goal of a campaign launched here in Brazil by a Dominican priest.

Father Francisco de Araujo, in a sermon at a Sunday Mass earlier in June, invited his congregation to rise if the worshippers favored a proposal he had made for "a worldwide strike of 24 hours of silence against war and for freedom. The whole congregation stood up."

A committee was organized to promote the idea into a campaign to obtain wide support for the "strike," set for Sept. 1. A representative was assigned to present the plan personally to Pope Paul VI. Thousands of letters have been sent to countries all over the world seeking support for the movement. The Sao Paulo state government has given its approval and active support.

Kolping Chief Dies in Cologne

Cologne—(RNS)—Msgr. Bernhard Ridder, 71, former president of the international Kolping Society, died at his home in Opladen near here after a long illness.

The Cologne priest, who had been prevented from preaching during the Hitler regime because of his opposition to Nazism, served as president of the organization from 1948 until his 60th birthday, June 30, 1961.

The Kolping Society, which originated in Germany and is still largely German in its membership, is an international organization of more than half a million members. Its chief purpose is the preparation of youth for a Christian life in family, work and society. Its membership is composed chiefly of working men who maintain youth residences similar to the YMCA.

American membership of the society is presently estimated at about 1300 divided into 13 branches. The society maintains seven houses in the U.S. in Manhattan, Brooklyn, St. Louis, Chicago, Philadelphia and Los Angeles.

Atlanta Prelate Says Parishes Need New Deacons

Atlanta — (RNS) — Missionary areas of the United States, including parts of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, need the services of permanent deacons, according to Archbishop Paul J. Hallinan.

He expressed a strong hope that the National Conference of Catholic Bishops would approve the permanent diaconate for the U.S.

"I sincerely hope that our episcopal conference will approve it so that hundreds of scattered Catholics will have the services of these devoted men," he said.

The Pope's regulations which recently re-established the diaconate in the Western Church stipulated that the national or territorial bishops must give their consent along with the pontiff.

The rules allow two types of deacons: men over 25 who will receive three years of training and who must remain celibate, men over 35 who may be already married and whose training will be more flexible.

Archbishop Hallinan reported that the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, in preliminary discussions of the permanent diaconate, thought only of missionary areas like Puerto Rico and Alaska "where the shortage of priests is critical."

"The bishops of the South and Southwest began to point out that large sections of the United States were just as mission-oriented as Latin America or Asia," he said.

As an example of this need, Archbishop Hallinan cited his own archdiocese. He said that in northern Georgia there are only 15 churches and chapels in a 23-county area.

In a 14-county area in that section, according to the archbishop, the Church "is unable to make her presence felt because there are just not enough Catholics in any one place to build a church and keep it going."

"The money can be secured," he said, "it's the shortage of priests and the widely scattered pockets of few Catholics which impedes the Church's growth. In this large area there are only nine priests."

is one example. There are 320,000 people living there, with only two small churches in the whole area. A new church had been planned, but a building permit was not granted.

To provide room for worship, an outdoor altar has been constructed in front of one of the churches.

In order to learn something about religious instruction in Poland, I visited a Warsaw family that has a 17-year-old daughter attending a Catholic secondary school.

"Our daughter first attended a state elementary school," the father said, "but because no religious instruction was given there she had to attend religion classes at our parish church twice a week before she was confirmed and now once a week."

The father said that the children attend the religion classes at church in the evenings.

"Do the young people really come to church for instructions after a long day at school?" I asked.

"Yes," the father said. "It is in the soul of the Polish people to be eager to know more about God."

The father told me that it was a great privilege for him and his wife to have their daughter in a Catholic school.

The Catholic schools here, he said, "have a good reputation, and their students always have a good chance to get a job or begin university studies."

The father said that the Catholic schools have the same curriculum as the state schools, plus religious instruction for about two hours a week.

There is rigorous control and inspection of Catholic schools by the state, he added.

A priest in Cracow explained to me that "before he starts to give religious instruction, each parish priest has to write the city authorities, reporting the number of the children and the number, kind and size of the

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