

Around The World

Archbishop Could Govern Country

Madrid, Spain — (NC) — If Generalissimo Francisco Franco were hindered from fulfilling his duties as Spanish ruler, the archbishop of Madrid, along with two others, a representative of parliament and one from the army, would govern the country.

Archbishop Casimiro Morcillo Gonzalez, who is also vice president of the Spanish Bishops' Conference, recently became a member of the Council of the Kingdom, the highest advisory group in Spain's government.

As such, he also belongs to the Regency Council that will rule Spain if, according to the law on succession, Franco fails to appoint a successor when he is unable to govern.

CRS Begins Phase-Out in Spain

Madrid — (NC) — U.S. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has begun phasing out its operations in Spain after 12 years of assistance in this country.

To date, some \$300 million in food, medicine and clothing has been distributed. CRS work in Spain was a factor in the development of Spanish Caritas, Catholic charities organization which will take over aid and social development work using local sources when CRS terminates its activities here.

The CRS work in Spain was begun in 1955 and continued with an average of 90,000 tons of aid a year. This year's shipments have amounted to 20,000 tons.

Spanish Caritas was established by the Spanish bishops as the distributing agency for this aid. By 1960 Caritas was also involved in housing, cooperatives and educational facilities.

Canadian Delegate Denies Statements

Montreal — (NC) — Archbishop Emanuele Clarizio, apostolic delegate in Canada, denied making any public statements about the religious situation in Cuba.

Passing through Montreal, Archbishop Clarizio learned that newspapers citing Agence France Presse (AFP), French news agency, had published certain declarations attributed to him.

The Paris daily, Le Monde, citing AFP, said that Archbishop Clarizio had said in Mexico that freedom of religion was completely respected in Cuba and that there was no restriction on the Church's activities. The paper also attributed to the archbishop the statement that he was satisfied with his stay in Havana and that the Cuban authorities had not hindered his mission. The archbishop had added, Le Monde said, that the mission given him by the Vatican did not mean that there were any difficulties between the Cuban government and the Church.

In Montreal, Archbishop Clarizio affirmed categorically that he gave no interview to anyone anywhere and that he did not speak about Cuba to any journalist.

Peace Appeal Issued in France

Paris — (RNS) — Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox representatives here issued an ecumenical message on world peace, addressed to President Charles de Gaulle of France.

The statement was believed to be the first joint appeal for peace ever made by France's religious leaders to the country's Chief of State.

Signing the message were Pastor Charles Westphal, president of the French Protestant Federation; Joseph Cardinal Martin, Archbishop of Rouen, who supervises ecumenical relations for the French bishops; and Orthodox Bishop Meletios, representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul.

Return to South Africa Scheduled

London — (RNS) — The Rt. Rev. Philip William Wheelton, Assistant Bishop of Worcester, has accepted an invitation to return to South Africa as Anglican Bishop of Kimberley and Kuruman to succeed Bishop Edward Crowther, deported by South Africa last June because of his opposition to apartheid.

Bishop Crowther said he would continue to administer the diocese as a bishop-in-exile, but in October announced he was resigning the interests of the diocese. "I think that the four-month period as Bishop of Kimberley in exile has shown to the world that the South African government does not make or unmake bishops of the Church," he said.

Special interest in Bishop Wheelton's decision to return to South Africa lies in the fact that he was Bishop of Kimberley and Kuruman from 1961 to 1965. He then resigned for health reasons and was succeeded by Bishop Crowther, who was then Dean of Kimberley Cathedral.

The invitation asking his return was extended by the elective assembly of the Diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman. His election is considered significant here because, under the latest South African government regulations, Bishop Wheelton, like any other priest or lay worker from outside South Africa who goes there to serve the church, will be subject to an entry visa good only for one year, a permit subject to renewal at the discretion of the authorities.

Cardinal Leger Greatest Witness, Anglicans Say

Toronto, Ont. — (RNS) — Paul-Emile Cardinal Leger, who reigned as Archbishop of Montreal to minister to African lepers, may be signing "his own death warrant" and knows it, the Canadian Churchman, national publication of the Anglican Church of Canada, said.

"A Prince of the Roman Catholic Church has decided to become a simple priest to African lepers and in doing so has presented to the 20th Century the greatest witness the Church of Christ has seen in many years," the Churchman said.

"Alling Cardinal Leger knows he may be signing his own death warrant. He looks chronically exhausted—indeed he has worked himself almost to exhaustion in an archdiocese once stifled by conservatism and reaction.

"Known as the cardinal of the poor, he has let in 'the winds of change' and made his archdiocese a vigorous and progressive area."

The Anglican journal said Cardinal Leger's departure was "a loss to the entire Canadian Christian community, but a magnificent gain for the worldwide church.

"In expressing at once, our regret and our gratitude, we hope Anglicans will join with other Christians in expressing their admiration for Cardinal Leger's courageous decision and pray for his mission to those who live in constant misery."

Arab Refugees Fate Debated

United Nations, N.Y. — (RNS) — Methods and means of repatriating Palestine refugees remain at issue after bitter debate in the U.N. General Assembly's special political committee.

An Arab resolution, supported by the Communist bloc, called for the appointment of a U.N. custodian for refugee property in Israel.

The U.S. said that it was firmly opposed to the proposal and that it feared such a step would prove a "very substantial obstacle" to current mediating efforts of the special U.N. envoy in the Middle East.

Israel asked whether the Arab states would like to have a custodian take over the confiscated Jewish property in their countries. It said that some half a million Jews from Arab lands had been resettled in Israel, leaving behind homes, property and bank accounts. On the other hand, Israel has released \$11 million in foreign currency to Arab refugees in its country, its delegate held.

The Communist countries maintained that withdrawal of Israeli troops from Arab lands would enable repatriation of Arab refugees to their homes.

The Soviet Union said it was necessary to "compel" Israel to permit the return of some 1.5 million Arab refugees, but it did not say how or by whom.

Poland claimed "brutal" Israeli treatment of the Arabs, saying there was "cruel and tragic irony" in the fact that a people persecuted by the Nazis

Bishop Forsees No New Church

Hull, Que. — (RNS) — The Roman Catholic Diocese of Hull will build no new churches in the foreseeable future, Bishop Paul-Emile Charbonneau said here. Instead, "community center halls" will be planned.

"We can't afford huge buildings that are providing service six or seven hours a week," the bishop said.

He added that withdrawal from expensive buildings and real estate holdings has already been handled by teams of priests and religious. They are setting up their homes in rented apartments or houses among the people they serve.

Bishop Charbonneau said 14 high school chaplains have already moved into leased premises.

The "community center hall" would be emphasized as the base and meeting place of each parish.

25 years ago "should now be using the same methods against the Arabs."

But representatives of two Palestine "liberation" groups blamed East and West together for the fate of the "Palestine nation" and vowed that with the help of 650 million Moslems around the world, they would never waver in their claim to Palestine in general and Jerusalem in particular.

These invited Palestine Arab spokesmen claimed they would never talk, either directly or indirectly, with Israel regarding the refugee problem or any other Arab-Israeli issue. They spoke of "liberating" their former land.

At the end of the debate, the Arab countries rejected in various degrees the Israeli proposal for a five-year plan on solving the refugee problem, through a regional effort supported and financed internationally.

Kuwait said the right of the Palestine people to their homeland was not subject to negotiations, consultations or compromise. Charging that the Israeli plan was designed to "bury the Arab people of Palestine," the Kuwaiti delegate said, "We are not undertakers."

Polish Church Plans Okayed

Bonn — (NC) — Plans for a new Catholic church to be built in Nowa Huta, Poland's pioneer socialist town, have been approved by the nation's government following discussions between Church and civil authorities.

Although no site has been announced for the new church, the fact that construction has begun for authorized and building materials promised is noteworthy since the original plans for the city specifically excluded any houses of worship.

Catholics Observe Christian Meeting

Vienna — (NC) — Some 50 delegates representing Christian communities in Eastern Europe, Africa, America and India met in Belgrade to discuss the problems of aid to the countries and the churches of the third world, the vast underdeveloped areas of the earth.

Organized by the World Council of Churches, the conference included two Catholic observers from the Holy See as well as Belgrade's Archbishop Gabriel Bukatko.

Catholic Paper Raps Hong Kong Governing

Hong Kong — (RNS) — The Sunday Examiner, official Catholic newspaper, lashed out in a surprise attack on the government of the British Crown Colony.

A hard-hitting editorial accused the government of "running Hong Kong as though its residents were a primitive tribe."

"We retain the paternalistic administration and outdated, cumbersome procedures of the 19th century," it said. "No wonder the community has begun to complain."

Holding that there is need for public relations, communication, and greater representation, the editorial accused the government of failing to take the public into its confidence and to seek guidance from local specialists.

Most disturbances here since May have, however, not been the result of discontent among the Chinese population as a whole but from an overflow of the "cultural revolution" in Red China. The government, by

strictly enforcing law and order, has managed to contain Communist terrorists and the Communists attempt to create disorder is slowing down.

Reforms of labor laws are being studied but it is impossible for Britain to grant any popular representation in the Colony since Red China is opposed to this on the grounds that it would be a step towards creating "a third China."

The attack of the Catholic paper, which is thought to reflect the views of the hierarchy, thus came as a surprise.

Mexican Bishop Named

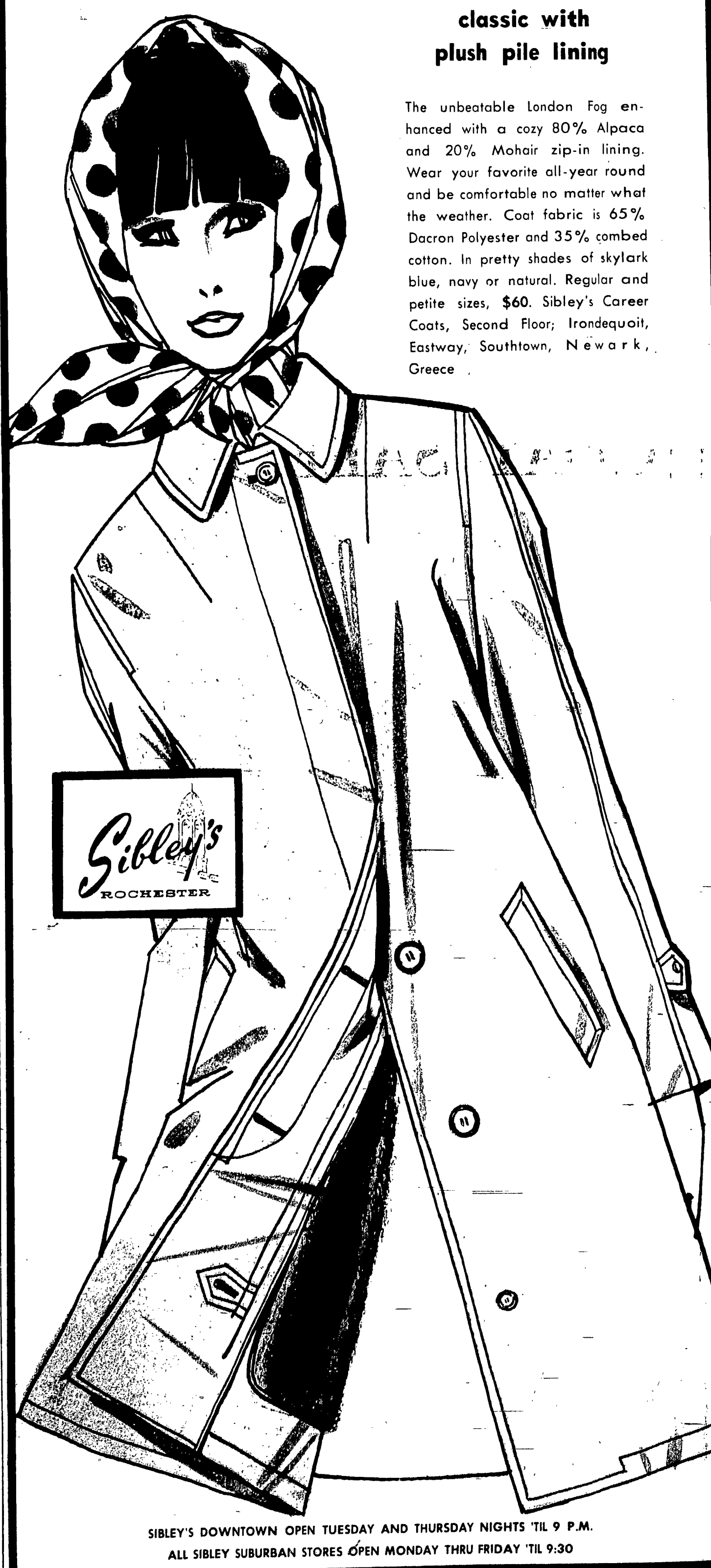
Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul VI has named Father Jose Lopez Lara bishop of Huahapán de Leon, Mexico.

Bishop-elect Lopez, who at the time of his appointment was spiritual director of the Morelia archdiocesan seminary, succeeds Bishop Celestino Fernandez y Fernandez, 77, who has been transferred to the titular diocese of Maximiana in Byzacena.



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