



Around The World

Archbishop Sees End of Apartheid

Cologne, Germany — (NC) — Archbishop Denis Hurley, O.M.I., of Durban, South Africa, predicted in an interview published in *Marianhall* magazine here that South African racial policies are doomed to failure by the slow process of economic development.

Commenting that he had been wrong in his earlier estimates of when apartheid, or racial segregation, would collapse, the archbishop said he had overestimated the power of reason and underestimated the strength of prejudice.

However, he emphasized, South Africa must choose between increased economic development and continued racial separation. Because the country must continue its economic growth or fall as an independent nation, Archbishop Hurley pointed out, apartheid will have to be weakened and ultimately abandoned.

Spanish Author Acquitted

Madrid — (NC) — An author indicted on a charge of insulting the Catholic Church has been acquitted by the provincial court here.

Vicente Sillio Belena was indicted when his three-volume study, "A Man Faces History," was denounced by *Informaciones*, a rightist daily of Madrid, and termed "unacceptable."

Insulting the Catholic Church is a crime under the current civil code of Spain.

The book had the approval of the information ministry before it was published five months ago. Critics in general praised its thoroughness and what they regarded as a fair presentation of the life of Christ and the Church.

Several theologians testified on Sillio's behalf at the trial. The prosecution asked for a three-month jail sentence and disbarment of the author for 11 years as a professor.

Priest Sentenced in Spain

Madrid — (NC) — Father Domingo Gonzalez Martinez of Bilbao was sentenced to three months in jail for failing to give prior notice of his book "Is God on Strike?" to the ministry of information.

His book on the celibacy of priests went on sale at some Bilbao bookstores a day before copies were filed with the government agency. Prior notice is a regulation of the Spanish law on press and publishing.

The Court of Public Order for political crimes against state security branded the book "clandestine" and handed down the sentence. Prior consent for a civil trial was given by the Basque priest's ecclesiastical superiors, in compliance with the regulations of the concordat between Spain and the Holy See.

Bishop Blames Dismissal on Authorities

Buenos Aires — (NC) — Bishop Jeronimo Podesta of Avellaneda, whose forced resignation created a storm of protests here, has blamed his dismissal on "false reports circulated by high Church officials."

Speaking at a press conference what he said would be his last words on the subject, the bishop insisted that he had tried to live his life in accord with the decrees of the Second Vatican Council.

"Neither honor nor glory has interested me," Bishop Podesta emphasized, "I have sought simply to identify myself with the people, confided to my care, making real to them the reign of the Lord; not in an abstract way, but in relation to the world in which they live."

Bishop Podesta, known as the "workers' bishop," had long been an advocate of labor organizations and social reform in Argentina. He had been bishop of Avellaneda since 1962.

In Leningrad

Catholic-Orthodox Dialog 'Useful'

Rome — (NC) — All participants in formal conversations between Roman Catholics and Russian Orthodox in Leningrad are convinced that these first contacts between experts of the two churches were extremely useful, according to a joint communique of the two delegations.

The communique, issued in Moscow and Rome two days after the end of the recent five-day meeting, indicated that these first contacts would not be the last.

"Both groups were unanimous in feeling that similar meetings for discussing problems of mutual interest will be useful in the future," said the communique, which was signed by Bishop Jan Willebrands, secretary of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, and Bishop Juvenaly, Catholic and Orthodox co-chairmen of the meetings.

The conversations dealt with the social thought of the Roman Catholic Church both in its historical context since the end of the 19th century and especially in its most recent expression in the encyclicals of Pope John XXIII and Pope Paul VI and in the decisions of the Second Vatican Council, the communique specified.

Both during and after the meeting, Catholic and Orthodox delegates attended each other's religious services. Sources in Rome expressed the opinion that this form of ecumenical activity was just as important as the doctrinal conversations themselves.

Besides Bishop Willebrands and Father John Long, S.J., of New York, an official of the unity secretariat, the Catholic delegation was comprised of three internationally known experts in Catholic social doctrine: Msgr. Pietro Pavan of Rome's Pontifical Lateran University (who is generally credited with outlining Pope John XXIII's social encyclical, *Mater et Magis*),

Father Jean Calvez, S.J., provincial superior of the French Jesuits and an expert on Marxist doctrine, and Msgr. George G. Higgins, director of the Social Action Department of the United States Catholic Conference.

Bishop Willebrands had proposed the meetings. He acted on the basis of a report by Metropolitan Nikodim of Leningrad and Novgorod on "Dialogue with Roman Catholics Concerning Contemporary Christian Social Thought."

The Russian Orthodox team was headed by Bishop Juvenaly, who is vice-president of the Moscow patriarchate's department of external church affairs. Other members were Archbishop Livery Voronov of the Leningrad Theological Academy, Prof. Nikolas Zabolotsky of the Leningrad Academy, Prof. Dimitry Ogitsky of the Moscow Theological Academy, and Alexei Bouevsky, secretary of the Moscow patriarchate's department of external church affairs.

The meetings were held with the approval of the higher authorities of the Roman Catholic Church and of the patriarchate of Moscow, the communique specified.

The discussions were based on papers delivered by the participants. Prof. Ogitsky and Father Calvez gave papers on social thought of Pope Leo XIII to Pope John XXIII; Prof. Voronov and Msgr. Higgins on the social thought of the Second Vatican Council; and Msgr. Pavan, Prof. Zabolotsky and Bouevsky on the social encyclicals of Pope John XXIII (including *Pacem in Terris*) and Pope Paul VI.

The "cordial and frank exchange of opinions" that followed each exposition, the communique said, touched on the Church's competence in the social field, the relationship between the individual and society, the development of Catholic doctrine concerning property, and on various other points.

The participants prayed together daily and assisted at various liturgical services of each other's Church. The communique stated all of them "felt the close spiritual bonds existing among them."

No Conclusion Reached On Dutch Catechism

The Hague — (NC) — Utrecht's Bernard Cardinal Alfrink, returning to the Netherlands from Rome where he had discussed the controversial Dutch catechism with a commission of six cardinals, told newsmen here that the cardinals had reached no decision regarding the future of the book.

Cardinal Alfrink emphasized, however, that he was "generally satisfied with the results of the meeting" although he indicated that it was too early to discuss publication of translations of the book.

KNP, the Dutch Catholic news service, reported from Rome that the six cardinals appointed to examine the doctrinal orthodoxy of the catechism are evenly divided in their opinions. Three, Joseph Cardinal Frings, of Cologne, Germany; Lorenz Cardinal Jaeger of Paderborn, Germany; and Joseph Cardinal Lefebvre of Bourges, France, are reported to consider the catechism "as splendid piece of work" worth revising and circulating.

But the other three commission members, including Michael Cardinal Browne, O.P., of the Vatican's Doctrinal Congregation, Erenegildo Cardinal Florit of Florence, Italy, and Swiss theologian Charles Cardinal Journet, have supported charges that the book contains formal heresy, according to KNP.

The discussions were based on papers delivered by the participants.

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