



Around The World

Belgian Party Opposes Louvain Split

Brussels—(NC)—The French-speaking wing of Belgium's Social Christian party has expressed its opposition to the creation of a separate French-speaking university and to making the Catholic University of Louvain an exclusively Flemish-speaking institution.

In a press conference, Albert Parisis, president of the Walloon or French-speaking wing of the Social Christian party (PSC), said:

"As Christians, we believe that the maintenance of a Catholic university in Belgium is indispensable. This position is fundamental. To create a separate French-speaking Catholic university would constitute an undeniable weakening of the dissemination of Louvain's Christian thought in the world, a dissemination that showed itself particularly fruitful on the occasion of the [Second Vatican] Council. We must all insure the maintenance of the conditions of this dissemination."

Bishop Praises Strides Made by Castro

Crateus, Brazil—(NC)—In calling for basic land and educational reforms in Brazil, Bishop Antonio Batista Frago of Crateus has claimed that Cuba under Fidel Castro has made great strides that are "in line with the Gospel." At the same time pointing out that Cuba has a dictatorship whose tactics he disagrees with.

The bishop cited Castro's move to correct the 80 per cent illiteracy rate in Cuba "by closing the university and all secondary schools and concentrating resources on adult education and literacy campaigns," and his land reform measures to back up the claim.

Polish Bishops Warn Against 'Pax' Leader

Bonn—(NC)—The Polish bishops have issued a statement accusing parliament member Boleslaw Piatecki, president of the pro-government Catholic organization, Pax, of "devoting himself to machinations against legitimate ecclesiastical authority" and for questioning the attitudes "of the most responsible members of the hierarchy with regard to the socialist state."

French Cardinal Suffering from Cancer

Paris—(RNS)—The condition of Pierre Cardinal Veullot, Archbishop of Paris, suffering from cancer, has deteriorated alarmingly, archdiocesan officials said here. Cardinal Veullot is "extremely weak and hardly able to talk," the announcement said. He was being given blood transfusions.

German Cardinal Calls for World Hunger Campaign

Munich—(NC)—Julius Cardinal Doepfner of Munich, president of the German Bishops' Conference, has called on Catholics to contribute to the new Brotherly Sharing campaign to bring relief to the world's hungry people. In his appeal Cardinal Doepfner recalled Pope Paul VI's emphasis on the necessity for the development of backward countries as a means of preserving peace. The scientific and technical means to remove hunger from the world are available, the cardinal said.

Vatican Paper Condemns Divorce Proposal

Vatican City—(RNS)—L'Osservatore Romano, Vatican City newspaper, has condemned the action of an Italian Parliament commission which endorsed proposed legislation which would legalize divorce in Italy.

The commission, by a majority of six votes, acted only on the first article of a bill which would authorize divorce in a Roman Catholic country which bans divorce. Under its terms it would permit divorce not only for those who had contracted civil marriages but couples of Catholic and "other religious" marriages. It recognized that such a law would be contrary to the provisions of the Concordat between the Italian government and the Vatican.

Dutch Pastoral Council Asks for Married Clergy

Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands—(NC)—The assembly of the Dutch National Pastoral Council here unanimously approved a resolution asking that married men be allowed to be ordained priests in this country and that priests who have married be allowed to do pastoral work in the Church.

Munich to Follow Rochester's Lead: Regional Vicars

Munich, Germany—(NC)—Julius Cardinal Doepfner of Munich, head of the German Bishops' Conference, announced here that the Munich archdiocese will be split into three regions, each administered by an episcopal vicar working under the direction of the cardinal.

Based on predictions that the population of Munich will increase 50 per cent in the next 25 years and on the area's shortage of priests, the reorganization will also give laymen a wider role in the Church's activities.

Cardinal Seper

Doctrinal Head Shone in Council

Vatican City—A Yugoslavian Cardinal described by his associates as humble, simple and honest to a rare degree has been named by Pope Paul VI as Prefect of the Doctrinal Congregation.

Franjo Cardinal Seper, 61, of Zagreb succeeds Alfredo Cardinal Ottaviani, 77, who led the organization through nearly two decades.

(Cardinal Seper visited the United States in 1966, received an honorary degree from Villanova University and dedicated a church in St. Augustine, Fla.)

The pro-prefecture of the Doctrinal Congregation is regarded as the most important office in the Church's central administration, after the papacy itself. In appointing a cardinal from a communist-ruled country, the Pope achieved two of the goals he set himself in reforming the Curia. He gave a key curial post to a non-Italian (he had promised to internationalize the Curia's membership) who is a diocesan bishop (he had promised to bring diocesan ordinaries into the Church's central administration).

He also brought into the Church's most important doctrinal post a man whose frankness and levelheadedness had won him admirers among both conservatives and liberals. During the Second Vatican Council the cardinal spoke forthrightly on atheism, religious liberty and justice for the Jews. During the subsequent synod of bishops he got the largest number of votes in the election for the synod's doctrinal commission, and was named its chairman by Pope Paul.

Cardinal Ottaviani Praised The Pope paid tribute to Car-

dinal Ottaviani in a letter in his own hand to the retiring prefect.

The Pope's letter gave every indication that Cardinal Ottaviani's resignation had been voluntary, noting that the cardinal's decision was prompted "especially by a growing weakness of eyesight."

"The Pope said that he was certain that your experienced wisdom and your fervid zeal will continue to spend themselves without reserve and with great fruit for holy Church, and for your beloved activity in the apostolate and in charity." Cardinal Ottaviani is the patron of a youth club and of a girls' orphanage, and takes an active interest in both.

Cardinal Ottaviani had been top man in the Doctrinal Congregation (more precisely, its predecessor, the "Holy Office") since 1959.

New Prefect a Linguist

Cardinal Seper, who studied in Rome from 1924 to 1931, speaks Italian fluently and French with precision. His English is less perfect.

He was born in the Slovenian city of Osijek Oct. 2, 1905. His parents both were in the tailoring trade.

He did his ecclesiastical studies at Rome's Gregorian University, and was ordained in 1930. He holds doctorates in philosophy and theology. Back in Zagreb he taught religion until his classmates, Father (later Cardinal) Aloysius Stepinac was named coadjutor of the archdiocese in 1934. The Archbishop Stepinac confided several jobs in the diocesan curia to him. In 1941 he be-

came rector of the major seminary of Zagreb.

It is known that Cardinal Seper's resignation from the post of rector in 1952 was prompted by the suggestion of ecclesiastical authorities, who felt it would be better to yield to political pressure.

Brush With the Law

He then became pastor of the working-class parish of Christ the King in Zagreb and once was arrested by communist authorities on charges of violating the country's religious laws. He served a short term repairing streets in a work gang, but the Zagreb cathedral, above the laughs this off as an "administrative error."

In 1954, while his former classmate Cardinal Stepinac was still serving a sentence imposed on him by a Yugoslav court, Father Seper became coadjutor. Upon Cardinal Stepinac's death in 1960 he succeeded him as archbishop, and in 1965 he became a cardinal.

Cardinal Seper, who was rector of the seminary at the time of Cardinal Stepinac's arrest, obtained counsel for Cardinal Stepinac and put himself forward as a witness for the defense. He since has placed Cardinal Stepinac's death mark in the streets in a work gang, but the Zagreb cathedral, above the laughs this off as an "administrative error."

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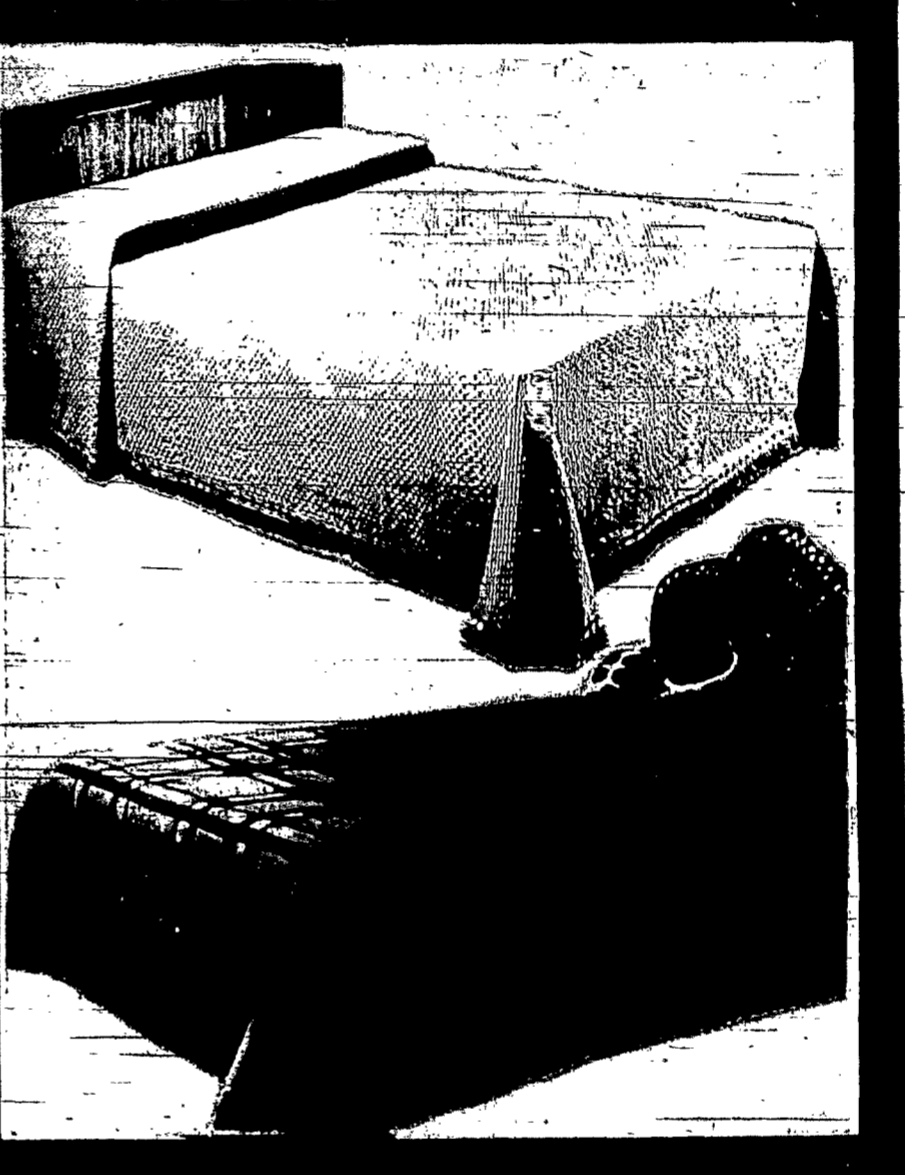
Church Sets Up New Blood Bank

Valetta, Malta—(NC)—The Catholic Church will establish Malta's first blood bank. The Church will establish and maintain the bank at an estimated cost of \$9,600 to Government health authorities here have been unable to set up the center and an annual provide a blood bank because cost of \$7,200 to maintain it.

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NEW PRO-PREFECT of the Doctrinal Congregation is Yugoslavian Cardinal Seper, left. He succeeds Cardinal Ottaviani, right. (RNS Photo)



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