



Around The World

Bishops Seek State Backing

Madrid—(RNS)—While it guarantees religious freedom for all citizens, the Spanish state must continue to "pay particular regard" to the Roman Catholic Church, particularly in education, the bishops of Spain said in a joint statement.

The bishops endorsed the idea of exempting non-Catholic students from Catholic instruction.

Divorce Clause Drafted

Rome—(RNS)—The Commission on Justice of the Italian Parliament has approved a clause in the draft divorce bill which lists the grounds for the dissolution of marriage: legal separation for five years when one party is at fault; legal separation for eight years by mutual consent; non-consumation of the marriage, and a prison sentence of more than 12 years.

Catholic organizations in Italy are conducting a nationwide campaign against the legalization of divorce.

Converts May Remain Masons

Oslo, Norway—(NC)—The Catholic bishops of five Northern European countries have voted to authorize individual bishops to allow converts to Catholicism to retain their membership in the Masons.

The decision was made by bishops from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland and Finland under the presidency of American-born Bishop John Taylor, O.M.I., of Stockholm.

Ecumenical Chapel Opens

Tournai, Belgium—(NC)—Anglican Archbishop Michael Ramsey of Canterbury and Leo Cardinal Suenens of Malines-Brussels will join with church officials here to dedicate Belgium's first ecumenical chapel, a new building for the use of military personnel at the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Powers in Europe.

The chapel is under the direction of chaplains assigned to military forces working with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Mission Asks India Welcome

Bombay—(RNS)—The international leader of the Salvation Army has appealed to the Indian government to continue to admit Army workers.

General Frederick Coutts made the appeal here against a background of reports that the government will no longer allow new foreign missionaries to come to the country.

He said at a press conference that the Army has 250,000 members in India and runs hospitals, orphanages, and houses for rehabilitation.

Games To Promote Peace

Mexico City—(NC)—Archbishop Miguel Miranda y Gomez of Mexico City has said that the Olympic Games to be held in this country in October are a reminder for all Mexican Catholics to "work for world peace."

The cause of peace, he said "is the responsibility of all mankind. It is not just the duty of governments but, above all, that of all the people of the world." The archbishop went on to say that the Olympic Games "will convert Mexico into a world host, and it is the duty of all Mexicans to offer our visitors a warm welcome inspired by a spirit of true brotherhood."

NATO Students Visit Pope

Vatican City—(RNS)—Pope Paul VI told staff members and students of the NATO Defense College that they must work for world peace in their own nations and in the positions they will occupy.

At an audience for the NATO group, the Pope stressed the need for sincerity, justice and live in relations between states and within each nation.

"There is need for a new spirit and a new mentality to animate community life in his view of man, his duties and his destinies," the Pope said.

Houses Built For Quake Victims

Koynanagar, India—(NC)—Nearly 600 victims of an earthquake here have been rehoused in shelters built on the initiative of a Jesuit priest.

Father V. Deleury, S.J., worked with 50 volunteers and built shelters for 124 families. Thousands lost their homes in the earthquake of Dec. 11.

Vietnam -- Where 'GIVE' Is More than a Slogan

Salmon — The inscription on the plaque reads, "Presented to Barbara Baden in appreciation of your support of MILPHAP activities and the Vietnamese people, 190th Medical Detachment, 25th December 1967."

Dr. (Capt.) Charles H. Voncanon, graduate of the University of Tennessee Medical School and leader of the 190th Medical Detachment, presented the plaque on Christmas Day. Present were members of the 190th detachment whose area of responsibility is in eight districts of Gia Dinh province in the immediate vicinity of Saigon.

Miss Baden, a trained nurse working with the public health division of the United States Aid Mission in Vietnam, gives all her free time to working with the MILPHAP (Military Provincial Hospital Assistance Program). (e a m s especially among orphans and with physically handicapped children.

One of a family of eight children she was born in Minneapolis, Minn., and educated at St. Catherine's College, St. Paul, Minn. She trained as a nurse in St. Mary's Hospital, Minneapolis. She spent two years with the Peace Corps in East Pakistan (1962-64) and came to Vietnam in 1966. She now works in the big public hospital, Cho Ray, in Cholon in an advisory capacity to the Viet-

name public health service. Her weekends and free days are spent with the underprivileged.

Soon after arriving in Vietnam Barbara visited the GO Vap orphanage of the Vietnamese congregation, Lovers of the Cross, where about 700 children are cared for. Her immediate reaction was to write home to family and friends asking for prayers and material help. She got both at Christmas, 1966.

Not satisfied with occasional help, Barbara decided she needed some sort of organization back home to keep help coming regularly. Family and friends back in Minneapolis, organized GIVE (Go Into Vietnam Effectively) locally. Soon it had spread to the Dakotas as well as Minnesota. GIVE collection boxes were placed in supermarkets and the group opened a bank account.

By March, 1967 GIVE had collected one and a half tons of clothes, diapers and school items. Packed in drums and flown to Vietnam by the Minnesota Air National Guard, the shipment was very welcome to the Sisters at Go Vap. A second shipment with sewing machines is still on the way but a third arrived in time for distribution last Christmas. From Minneapolis to San Diego, Calif.,

where the United States Navy look them to their big operating base at Danang and then to Saigon, the shipment was distributed to several orphanages. By now Barbara has widened her field of operations to include as well as Go Vap, the Phu My orphanage, Santa Maria orphanage and the Theosophical orphanage in Buddhist care.

Enlisting the willing help of the MILPHAP doctors and medics, Barbara started a physical examination of each child in the Go Vap orphanage, with a medical record for each and brought the children to the U.S. Army 3rd Field Hospital in Saigon for X-ray. The medics now have a record and are able to give follow-up treatment where needed.

On Sundays, with Lt. Shenek along as driver and coordinator, the general Minnesotan goes to Lai Thieu—about 15 miles from Saigon. There they visit the deaf and dumb orphanage-school in charge of St. Paul of Chartres Sisters. About 50 Vietnamese boys and girls from 10 to 17 years old are receiving education and training to overcome their physical handicaps. One project already well underway is having the brighter and more intelligent youngsters tested three times to decide what can be done to improve their hearing. Again the medical experts at the U.S. Army's 24th Evacuation Hospital are giving their time and their talents to help them. With money from the state bank account Barbara has already bought Japanese-made hearing aids for some.

Witnesses Persecuted In New African Nation

Brooklyn, N.Y. — (RNS) — Two international publications of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania have charged persecution of Jehovah's Witnesses in Malawi.

The Watchtower, one of the publications, gave the following reports of the alleged persecution:

"At Lilongwe in central Malawi, 170 home of these Christians (the Witnesses) were burned down in three nights . . . At Mbalame on Oct. 27 the Christians of two congregations all had their homes burned down while they, including the women, were stripped of their clothes and brutally beaten . . . On Oct. 25, a 15-year-old girl at Mkuwila Village, because of refusing to compromise her religious convictions, was tied to a tree and burned."

"Hundreds of the Witnesses, Watchtower claimed, have fled into the wilderness for safety, while literally thousands of others" have sought refuge in nearby Mozambique.

Jehovah's Witnesses have been banned in Malawi (formerly Nyasaland) since late October as "dangerous to the good government of Malawi." European and American missionaries for the sect have been deported.

Watchtower said that in a radio speech last year, President H. Kamuzu Banda of Malawi charged that the Witnesses refuse to pay taxes, "try to stop others from paying taxes," and not only refuse to buy member-

ship cards in the ruling Malawi Congress Party, but prevent party members from renewing their cards.

"The government will protect every law-abiding citizen from molestation by anyone and everyone," President Banda was quoted, "but . . . Jehovah's Witnesses must stop provoking others, provoking people . . . If they do not stop and they continue doing that, then they must not complain if and when they are beaten up."

Watchtower countered that the Witnesses do pay their taxes as part of their "Scriptural obligation." "If any Christian witness deliberately refused to pay taxes or interfered with others' paying their taxes," the magazine said, "he would be disfellowshipped or excommunicated from his congregation."

"It is because of this Christian neutrality that they are being persecuted."

Besides her work with orphans, Barbara is deeply conscious of the material needs of the Vietnamese public health system. Working with members of the MILPHAP teams, she has used some of the money to buy simple laboratory equipment for local clinics and dispensaries. The army medical technicians teach the Vietnamese how to use the equipment such as X-ray machines, blood test, 70mm TB films. Mobile medical trucks visit the remoter hamlets and villages in the province cooperating with the public health authorities to bring at least the rudiments of modern medicine to the people. With so much eye disease in Vietnam one of the best "buys" for the program is a surgical instrument for corneal transplants.

GIVE workers — both state-side and in Vietnam have organized a cooperative effort, sparked by the compassion of one individual for her fellowman, to ease some of the misery and the burden of poverty that is all too common in Vietnam.



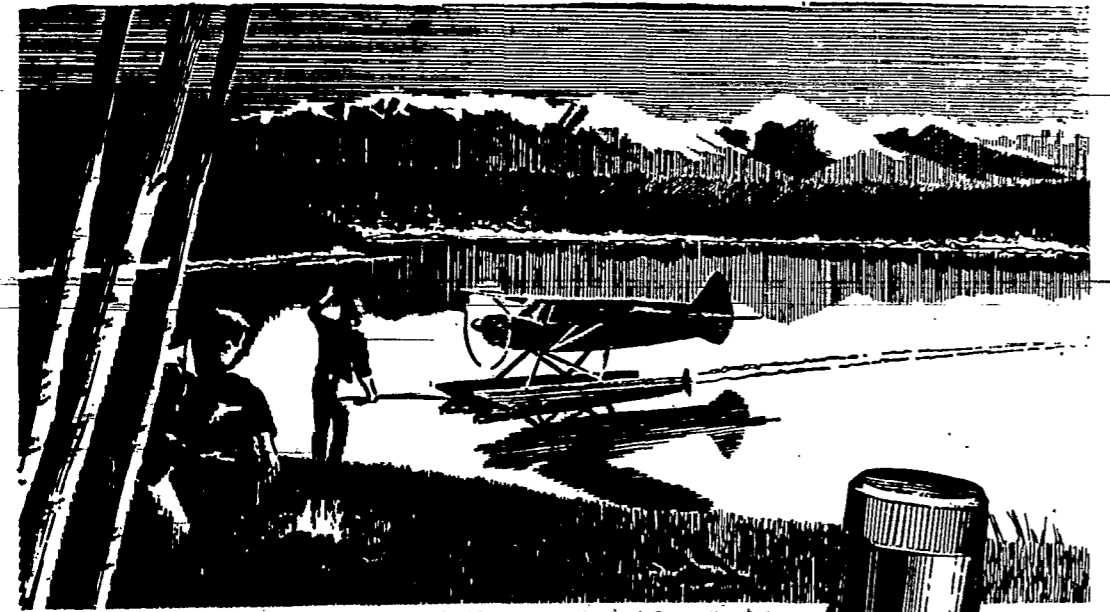
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