

Accuses Nigeria Of Genocide

Onitsha, Biafra—The leader of the breakaway republic of Biafra has accused the federation of Nigeria of waging a war of annihilation against Biafra, the former Eastern region of Nigeria.

"This is genocide. Gen. C. Odumegwu Ojukwu should impassioned again and again as he spoke of the massacres, the removal of children and loss of property suffered by his people.

Members of the Biafran consultative assembly responded to the bearded leader's oratory with cries of "Shame Shame!" They rose to their feet and cheered wildly when the Biafra its own currency and raised signed a decree giving Biafra its own currency and raised aloft some of the new pound notes that had been flown down from Europe the previous night. The introduction of new currency was Biafra's reply to the Nigerian federal government's attempt to undercut the Biafran economy by withdrawing its currency, which had remained Biafra's legal tender after its secession last May and throughout the succeeding war.

Ojukwu described this war as "a Moslem (holy war) directed toward the annihilation of Biafrans and the Islamization of Biafra."

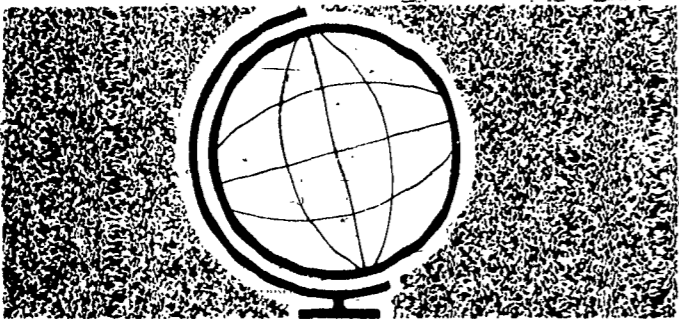
He accused the supreme commander of the federal military government, Maj. Gen. Yakubu Gowon, of leading this Islamic war of annihilation despite his Christian antecedents and his profession of the Christian religion.

Among the outrages Ojukwu cited here and elsewhere in his hour-and-a-half-long speech were the massacre of more than 30,000 in Northern Nigeria in the spring and autumn of 1966, the beating and maiming of thousands of others on the same periods, the subsequent flight of 2 million into Biafra (then the Eastern Region) and the poisoning of foodstuffs in Biafra.

Throughout, he identified the victims simply as Biafrans, although all but a small percentage of them were members of Biafra's largest ethnic group, the dynamic Ibo, who had spread throughout the Nigerian federation as politicians, administrators, professional men and traders. After last year's massacres they fled to their homeland in the East, which since has declared itself independent under the name of Biafra.

In fact, Ojukwu did not so much as pronounce the word "Ibo" except in a quotation from an article in the American magazine New Leader. He referred indirectly to the Ibo by pointing out that noncombatants of another ethnic group, or tribe, had also been killed by federal troops.

Ojukwu asserted that Biafra is determined to maintain the rule of law, and he deplored the burning of British property by mobs in Port Harcourt.



Around The World

Survey Shows Religion Instruction Wanted

London—(NC)—The vast majority of teachers in this country feel that religious education should be continued in secular state schools, according to a survey conducted by P. R. May, lecturer in education at Durham University.

Two-thirds of them think it should remain compulsory and only 3.7% are against Christianity being taught at all. Even if school worship were not compulsory, 78% would like it continued, according to the preliminary conclusions of the survey, which involved 2,615 teachers in 337 schools.

The survey also showed that most parents firmly favor religious instruction for their children. Some 96% want their children to understand Christianity—while 83% think it is the school's business to help their children find out.

'Christian Hinduism' Possible, Seminar Says

Bangalore, India—(NC)—A Catholic seminar here on Hinduism has declared that a "Christian Hinduism" could exist in India under favorable circumstances.

The official report of the three-day seminar—organized jointly by Father Fernand Madore and Brother Herve Morissette, both Holy Cross missionaries of the Canadian province—said that it is possible for a Hindu to embrace the Christian religion while continuing to observe Hindu social customs.

The seminar of priests, Brothers and laymen from many parts of the country declared, "A Hindu should accept the Vedas (Hinduism's bible)—this may mean acknowledgment in the broadest sense—which also would be possible for a Christian."

Masses in Italy to be in Italian

Rome—(NC)—The council of the presidency of the Italian Bishops' Conference has voted that all parish Masses in Italy will be celebrated completely in Italian as of March 24.

The council, headed by Giovanni Cardinal Urbani of Venice, is composed of 14 archbishops who are the heads of regional diocesan councils. The council ruled that Latin may be used by priests celebrating private Masses, but that it is compulsory to use Italian for parish Masses. Until now the Canon of the Mass in Italy has been in Latin, but the council has now approved a translation into Italian of the Canon.

Archbishop Lists Own Salary in Financial Report

Ottawa, Ont.—(RNS)—Roman Catholic Archbishop Aurele Plourde of Ottawa, who said he would open the financial books of the archdiocese to the Catholic lay, made good on his promise here. He started out by listing his salary—\$300 a month.

The archbishop's report noted, "Basic remuneration of the archbishop will be \$300 a month, and that of the auxiliary bishops, \$250. Trips outside the diocese for ministerial reasons are charged to the diocese.

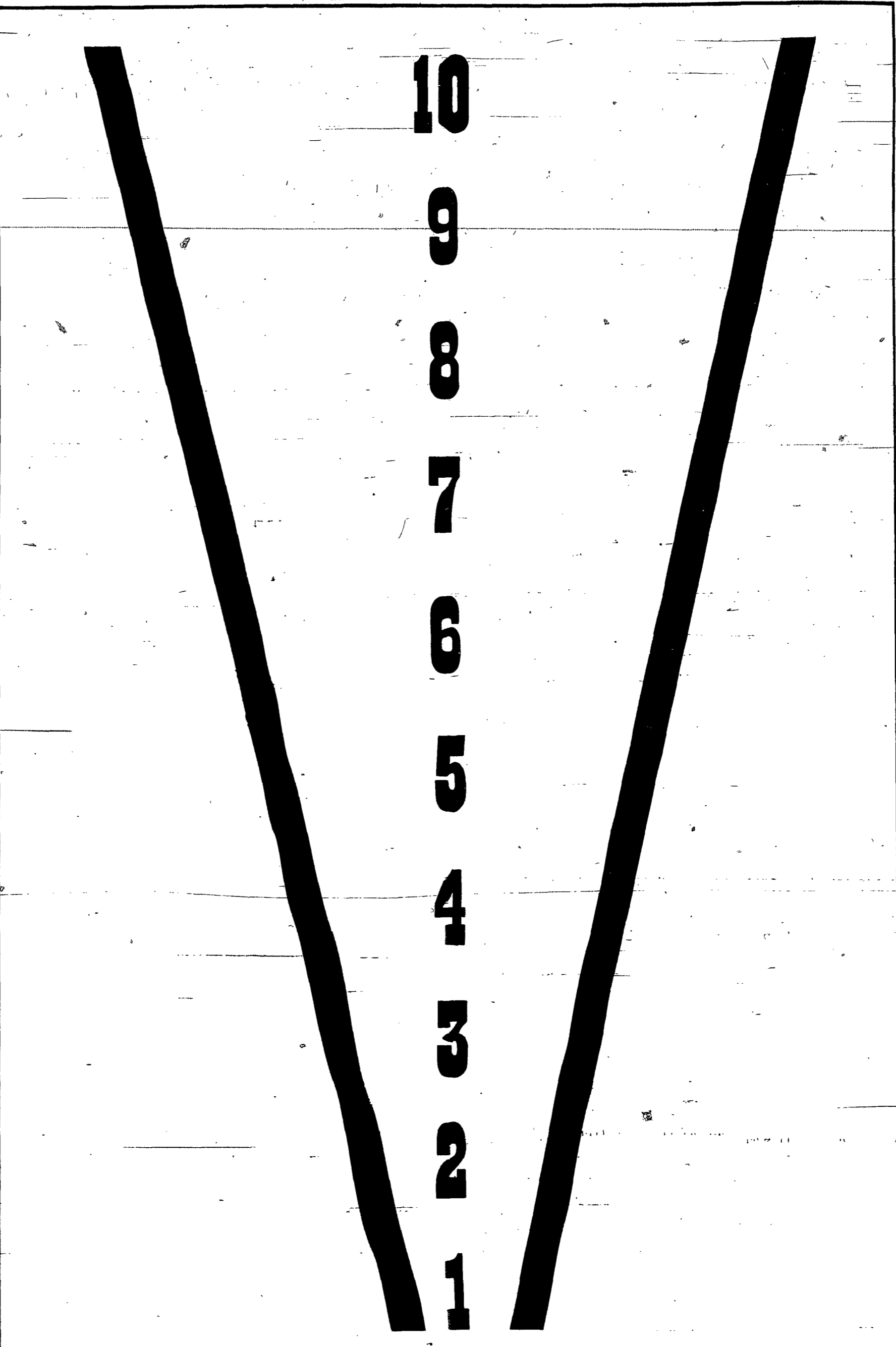
Fund Contribution Stopped for Investigation

Bonn, Germany—(NC)—Adveniat, the German Catholic fund for the Church in Latin America has called for an investigation of a group of Brazilian bishops swindled out of \$300,000. The organization will send no more money until the investigation is complete.

Of \$340,000 which Adveniat contributed to bishops in poverty-stricken northeast Brazil, only \$88,000 has been fully accounted for. Adveniat director of the Adveniat fund Dr. Paul Hoffacker, is of the opinion that no Adveniat funds had been lost in the swindle.

Bishop Supports Eye Bank Donations

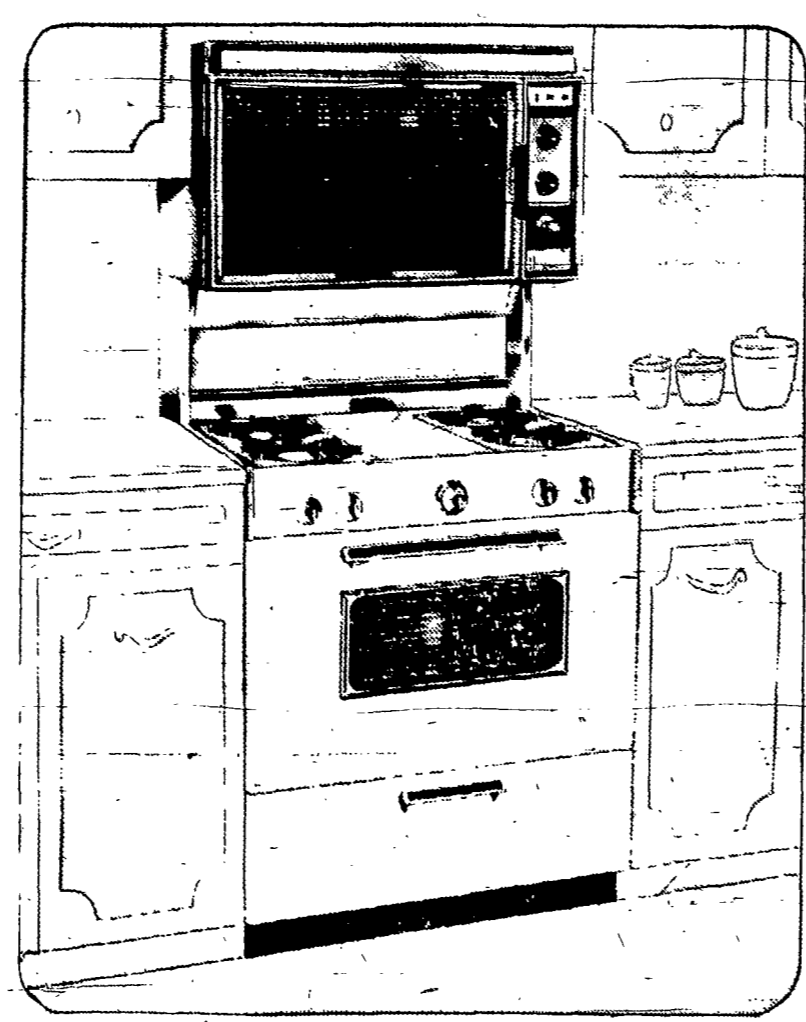
Barcelona, Spain—(NC)—The Barcelona Eye Bank, an adjunct of the International Eye Foundation, has received the support of Archbishop Gonzalez Martin of Barcelona. In the last few months, some 1,500 donations have been made for local patients and a growing number of foreigners who come to several of the new famous eye clinics here.



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Bishop Cha Farm Evict

La Vega, Dominican Republic—(NC)—The government has put a stop to the eviction of farm families by a rich landlord who, the local bishop says, should be in jail.

Bishop Juan Flores Santana of La Vega denounced the landlord in a letter to the Dominican daily newspapers, and said the evictions had been accomplished with the help of public authorities and military men. Those he singled out were fired or transferred.

The bishop's letter about Ramon Cordero, the landlord, said:

"For months we have tried to demand justice. Should this be a country where the law ruled impartially, this man would be in jail.

"These farmers testify that Cordero has set loose wild cows on their cultivated lands and their poor huts, bringing destruction and endangering their children."

Bishop Flores then banned Cordero and his men from Church functions and the sacraments.

President Joaquin Balaguer of the Dominican Republic ordered an investigation, promised that the farmers would be properly settled on government lands and transferred or fined the officials who helped Cordero.

The conservative daily El Caribe editorially protested the measures against Cordero, claiming that they were attacks on private property rights. Dr.

Happy Problem in Ecuador

The current shortage of vocations to the priesthood reported from various parts of the world is not felt in Ecuador, according to the Salesian Fathers.

A recruiting campaign has brought forth more "good, deserving, qualified boys" than the order can take care of, Father John Porter, S.D.B., wrote recently from Quito. Five dollars a month will enable the head donor to "adopt" a boy and will provide for his training at Don Bosco College in Quito, Father Porter said.

Interested persons can send contributions to Father Porter, c/o Salesian Mission Office, Box 30, New Rochelle, N.Y.

SIBLEY

Illustrations of furniture: a cabinet, a chair and table, and a bed.