

The Pope's Trip to Bogota



Colombia Schedules 'Rally' to Highlight Papal Visit

Bogota, Colombia — (NC) — President Carlos Lleras Restrepo of Colombia has conveyed the nation's joy and pride to Pope Paul VI for his announced visit during the International Eucharistic Congress next August.

The congress organizers are now trying to mark the Pope's arrival with a "development rally" attended by workers and peasants as one of the highlights of the eucharistic celebrations here.

Archbishop Anibal Munoz Duque, apostolic administrator of Bogota, told Pope Paul that "your solemn visit fulfills the greatest wish of the bishops, clergy and faithful of Colombia."

A somewhat contrasting note was struck by Msgr. Mario Revollo, a member of the directing committee of the Eucharistic Congress, who said that the Pope will come to the country not to enhance the prestige of Colombian Church conservatives, but to press for social justice, "to reaffirm his dedication to the ideals of social equality in Latin America."

Other ceremonies include the ordination of several priests from all the Latin American countries, and of the first deacons to serve as permanent aides.

Thus far, their main problem is to expand accommodations from the pre-

viously expected 100,000 pilgrims to perhaps double that figure; thus far lodging and food have been secured for some 60,000 visitors in hotels, inns and private homes.

The Eucharistic Field, including the immediate access areas, can hold about 800,000. Pilgrims from all the Americas are sure to come in greater numbers now that a Pope is paying his first visit to the South American continent.

The Pope will stay during his two or three-day visit at the apostolic nunciature in midtown Bogota; and will travel to the field by helicopter.

Church Stand Urged In Farming Dispute

Fresno, Calif. — (RNS) — The Church cannot, and should not, be neutral in the long-standing and bitter dispute between the grape growers and farm workers, an editorial in the Central California Register declared here.

The weekly newspaper for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno took neither side despite strong pressures from both in the extended labor dispute centered at Delano, about 75 miles from here down the San Joaquin Valley.

"Justice must be granted both sides in the dispute," the Register declared.

"What is forgotten here is that the Church is supporting only its own teachings as applied to the Delano situation. The church is not anti-grower. Indeed, it is as much concerned for the welfare of the farmer and the grower as it is for the farm worker."

"The 32-month-old dispute can never be solved," the editorial said, "in the present poisonous atmosphere of hate and mistrust which is pitting family against family and which has split both the civic and Church communities."

The interviews presented by the Register were with Cesar Chavez, director of the United Farm Workers

Organizing Committee, and Martin J. Zimovich, president of the South Central Farmers Committee in Delano.

When asked about the role of the Church in the dispute, Zimovich replied:

"We would not deny the right of workers to join a union of their own choice, free of coercion or intimidation. If there is a moral issue here, we believe it rests upon those who condone and support the use of raw force to compel membership in any organization."

"Church leaders who support intimidatory tactics employed by the so-called union not only foster the breakdown of free democratic processes, they also foster fear and distrust among people."

Chavez insisted that the Church "cannot merely play the role of conciliator in the cause of social justice. It has to become an active partisan in the struggle for justice."

"Of course the growers need to be ministered to," he added. "They ought to have consideration from the Church. We just want the backing of the Church in the just demands for the application of its teaching in our cause and the cause of all those who suffer injustice and oppression."

State Approves Non-Sectarian College Aid Bill

Albany — (NC) — The New York State Legislature has approved Gov. Rockefeller's bill to give direct financial aid to private nonsectarian colleges and universities.

But a second Rockefeller bill which would have opened the way for inclusion of church-affiliated colleges in state aid was kept bottled up in committee.

The bills followed recommendations of the governor's special panel on higher education, headed by McGeorge Bundy, president of the Ford Foundation.

Aid to private colleges and universities is expected to total about \$35 million during the program's first year of operation, beginning July 1, 1969.

New York has 143 private institutions of higher learning of which 83 have religious affiliations and are thus barred by the state constitution from receiving state aid "directly or indirectly."

The vote on the bill was 93 to 40 in the Assembly and 39 to 18 in the Senate.

The bill provides that colleges and universities will receive \$400 for each bachelor's and master's degree awarded during the preceding year, and \$2,400 for each doctorate.

Boston College Plans 5-Day 'Think Meet'

Newton, Mass. — (RNS) — The theology department of Boston College, a Jesuit university, which attracted nationwide attention with its recent seminar on the "underground church," has planned a five-day "think institute" here, June 15-19, on "Christian Community 1968: Listening to the World."

Father William Connolly, S.J., director of the program, said the institute is designed to offer participants — some 500 clergymen, nuns and laity — an opportunity to develop individual "convictions" and offer implements for involvement in matters related to racism in the Christian community, authority and communication in the Church, the peace issue, the "experimental church" and the changing sexual norms.

A discussion of "Communication and Change in the Church" will consider the effect of modern media on the Church, especially how religious newspapers shape the mentality of their readers. Panelists will be Robert Hoyt, editor of the National Catholic Reporter and Father Francis X. Shea, S.J., professor of theology and literature at Boston College, and a member of the Boston Archdiocesan Human Rights Commission.

A "Theology of Involvement" panel will be headed by Rosemary Haughton, British lay theologian; the Rev. John Harmon, director of Paxbury, Mass., Ecumenical Center, Roxbury, Mass.; and Michel Novak, Stanford University professor, author, and associate editor of Commonweal magazine.

Other panels attracting famed speakers will be "The Experimental Church," "The Peace Issue and the Churches," "Changing Sexual Norms," "Spiritual and Material Dimensions of Poverty," "The Negro Self-Image in a Christian Society," "Dynamics of Change in Religious Communities," and the "Spiritual Theology of Obedience."

Italian Coalition Wins But Future in Doubt

By PATRICK RILEY
(NC News Service)

Rome — The Italian voters kept the country's center-left coalition government in power in the first national election in five years, but at the same time may have sown the seeds of that coalition's dissolution.

By handing a severe reverse to the Socialists, the voters probably gave Socialist leaders cause to wonder whether their participation in the coalition serves their interests. If the Socialists walk out of the government, that means the end of the center-left coalition, which was built on the plea that it is the only workable government this side of a popular front.

Communists chalked up substantial gains by building a common platform with the Proletarian Socialists, a far-left group that broke away from the Socialist party four years ago on the issue of Socialist participation in the government.

The combined vote of the two parties amounted to a gain of about 5% for the Communists. The actual number of votes gained by the Communist-Proletarian Socialist alliance roughly approximated the number of votes lost by the Socialists.

The Christian Democrats, the backbone of the center-left coalition, edged up by about 1% in the vote, but obtained 2% more seats in the legislature.

The Christian Democrats got 12.4

million votes in the election for the Chamber of Deputies, an increase of .8 of 1 per cent. This brought them six more seats in the chamber, raising their strength there to 286.

In the senate election they got 10.9 million votes, an increase of 1.2%. This brought the number of Christian Democratic senators up to 135, an increase of two.

The Communists gained 11 seats in the chamber, bringing their strength and that of their Proletarian Socialist allies to 200 seats altogether. In the senate the total number of seats held by the Communists and Proletarian Socialists was 101, up 16.

The Socialists lost 12 of their 58 seats in the senate and 28 of their 120 seats in the chamber.

The tiny Republican party, the other member of the coalition government, gained three seats in the chamber for a total of nine, and two seats in the senate, where it was previously unrepresented.

The coalition itself thus obtained 55.6% majority in the chamber and a 55.8% majority in the senate. This represented a slight increase.

The fate of the center-left coalition, popularly known as "the opening to the left," may well be decided at this autumn's convention of the Socialist party. This is the first Socialist congress since the Social Democrats and the Italian Socialist party joined forces last year.

Crisis, Year 2,000 to Be Topic

Washington — (NC) — The world crisis created by civil, social and economic inequality and injustice round the globe will be explored in depth by internationally recognized authorities at a week-long seminar for Catholic religious leaders in June.

The seminar — "The Year 2000, If . . ." — will be June 17-21 at St. Louis University at the Jesuit Retreat House, Fordyce, Mo. It is being co-sponsored by the university and the Committee for World Justice and Peace, National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Faculty and staff members will include some 18 religious, political and economic experts on the international scene who will examine and evaluate current and possible programs to meet world problems.

Among them will be Msgr. Joseph B. Grenillion, secretary of the Pontifical Commission for World Justice and Peace at the Vatican; Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, general secretary of the World Council of Churches in Geneva; and Barbara Ward, English economist and author, whose column appears in the Courier-Journal.

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