

AROUND THE WORLD

# Catholic Agency Sends Food, Medicine to Biafra

**New York**—(RNS)—Catholic Relief Services, U.S. overseas aid agency, is sending more than 500 tons of food, clothing and medicine to Biafra in "anticipation" that it will get through to refugees in the besieged country's blockaded interior.

A CRS announcement said the shipment, valued at about \$250,000, would leave by ship before July 25, with the Nigerian-held port of Calabar as its destination, "in anticipation that federal officials will permit the supplies to be unloaded there and that Biafran officials will approve their distribution by international relief agencies in the affected areas."

At the same time, CRS announced the shipment of 6,000 cases of strained food and baby cereal and 1,100 tons of flour from New York to Lagos on July 17. These supplies will be used in the emergency program in the Western (federal) Region of Nigeria.

Biafra has been reluctant to allow a "mercy corridor" to transport food into the country, fearing Nigeria would use it to send tanks and troops into Biafra.

Warehouses in Lagos, Nigeria, were jammed with an estimated 1,500 tons of powdered milk and wheat sent from the U.S. A reported 3,000 people a day are said to be dying from starvation in Biafra.

Meanwhile, at the World Council of Churches meeting in Uppsala, the Rev. Inya Okata Agha Ude, a theological

school lecturer of the Presbyterian Church in Biafra, confirmed that the country has received food shipments sent by the WCC.

CRS is also participating in the emergency airlifts of supplies to Biafra being conducted under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, International Caritas, the World Council of Churches and other voluntary agencies.

During the past year, CRS has given 2,300 tons of food, 200 tons of clothing and \$10,000 worth of medicines in the Western Region. In May, 1,200 tons of surplus food were transported to Nigeria by the U.S. government for distribution through CRS. The value of the CRS program in West-

ern Nigeria during the past year has been \$1,296,402.

In Biafra, from the outbreak of hostilities a year ago until July 1, 1968, CRS has distributed 49.8 tons of food and 66.5 tons of clothing through church and local authorities. Approximately \$44,000 had been made available to these authorities for the purchase of food, medicine and seeds.

On July 3, the U.S. Bishops' Emergency Relief Committee made an additional \$50,000 available to CRS for aid to Biafra and \$20,000 was given to Caritas International for the purchase of food.

The total value of CRS aid to Biafra since the outbreak of hostilities has been \$564,000.

## Biafrans Fear Poisoning Of Food Supplies

**Rome**—(NC)—A missionary in Biafra has warned against dismissing the fears of the Biafrans that emergency food supplies passing through federal Nigerian territory might be poisoned.

"It would be a gross blunder to ignore these fears," declared the missionary, who was in Rome on his way back to Biafra. The missionary, who asked not to be identified, said there were "some indications" that food coming into Biafra from federal territory had been poisoned.

"The fear of poisoning is traditional among the Ibos (Biafra's predominant ethnic group). It is not something that has sprung up as a weed of the battlefield. Its roots sink down very deep into the history."

When an Ibo dies, he said, people are curious to know if

he had any serious disputes recently with any of his neighbors or family. Ibos believe that almost half of their deaths are caused by poisoning, he said, adding that that belief had been widespread even before the war of secession.

"People who doubt that Biafrans really fear poisoning by the Nigerians should just consult some competent anthropologists who know that part of West Africa," he said. "That would blow their doubts sky-high."

He asserted that the refusal of the Biafran leader, Lt. Col. C. Ojukwu, to agree to a land corridor for the importation of food through federal-held territory was "neither pique nor politics in the usual sense. He simply had no choice. If he agreed, he would have been thrown out of the leadership of the Ibos."

## Oldest Cardinal Dies

**Vatican City**—(NC)—Francesco Cardinal Morano, oldest member of the College of Cardinals, died July 12 in his Vatican City residence at the age of 96.

His death followed closely upon those of Cardinal Daniel of Toledo, Spain, 91, and Cardinal Brennan, Pennsylvania-born member of the Roman curia, 74, which occurred on July 5 and July 2, respectively.

Cardinal Morano, a scientist as well as a churchman, had

served at the Vatican since the beginning of this century. He was a student of physics and mathematics, and also earned degrees in philosophy, theology, and canon and civil law.

Since 1903 he had been a member of what is now called the Pontifical Academy of Sciences.

He served as a judge in the church's highest courts, and with various Vatican Bureaus and Pontifical commissions.

## U.S. Should Offer Cardinal a Home, Sen. Hartke Says

**Washington**—(NC)—Sen. Vance Hartke of Indiana said (July 14) the United States should offer a permanent home in this country to Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, primate of Hungary, who has been in refuge at the U.S. embassy in Budapest since 1956.

Sen. Hartke noted in an interview here that Cardinal Mindszenty is 76, his health is not good, and he has been reported to be deeply depressed. The senator, who returned recently from London, said he has taken some action within government circles toward extending an invitation to the cardinal to come here, but declined to discuss these details.

Sen. Hartke also said he did not know how the cardinal would respond to such an invitation. He declined to speculate on how Cardinal Mindszenty could be moved from the U.S. Embassy and brought to this country without interference by the Hungarian Communist government.

In the past, the cardinal has refused to leave Hungary, although the Vatican has expressed hope he would go to Rome if the Hungarian government would permit him to leave. He remains under a life sentence, imposed in 1949 on charges of espionage, black market operations and anti-state activities. He was freed from prison in the 1956 Hungarian uprising and since has resided at the U.S. embassy.

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Convent in Suez Damaged

A nun examines the damaged interior of the Bon Pasteur Convent in Suez after it was reportedly shelled July 8 in an exchange of fire between Israeli and Egyptian artillery across the Suez Canal. The statue of Christ dangles from the crucifix in the center. (RNS Photo)

## Uruguay Schools Seek Subsidy

**Montevideo, Uruguay**—(NC)—About 300 Catholic schools with a total of 75,000 students face extinction unless some kind of subsidy is provided, a national organization of private educators said here.

The National Coordinating Committee for Free Education has submitted to congress a bill to authorize state subsidies to parents of children in private schools. Closing of these schools, the organization said, would aggravate the public school crisis and nullify the freedom of choice in education that the constitution provides.

## School Solution 'Down Under'

**Brisbane, Australia**—(NC)—Well-to-do parishes in the Brisbane archdiocese will share Catholic school costs with poorer ones on the principle that education is a diocesan responsibility.

Any surpluses in parishes that have met their own school costs will go into a fund to help other parishes.

The new school plan covers all schools except those owned by religious orders. It has been estimated that the Brisbane archdiocese will have to expend \$7,250,000 in the next 10 years to keep up with elementary and secondary school needs.

## End Luxuries, Laymen to Tell Latin Prelates

**Lima, Peru**—(NC)—At their general assembly in Colombia in August, the Latin American bishops will be asked to renounce Church pomp and luxuries because of the poverty existing throughout the area.

A group of lay advisers who will participate in the bishops' assembly announced this at a meeting held here to prepare their observations for the bishops' consideration. Delegates came from Chile, Mexico, Peru, Argentina and Uruguay.

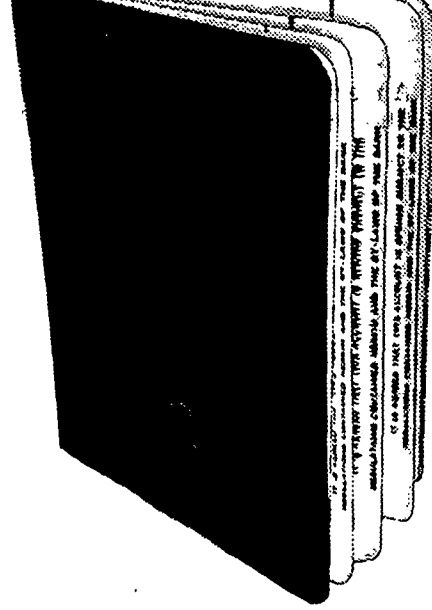
The lay leaders' recommendation will urge the Church to abandon lavish buildings, expensive vestments and all episcopal jewelry in order to eliminate any contrast with the surrounding poverty of most Latin Americans, so that it might truly become "the Church of the poor."

The lay leaders also will petition the bishops for the establishment of direct dialogue between bishops and the laity on Church renewal and will ask that such renewal be centered on family life and its needs.

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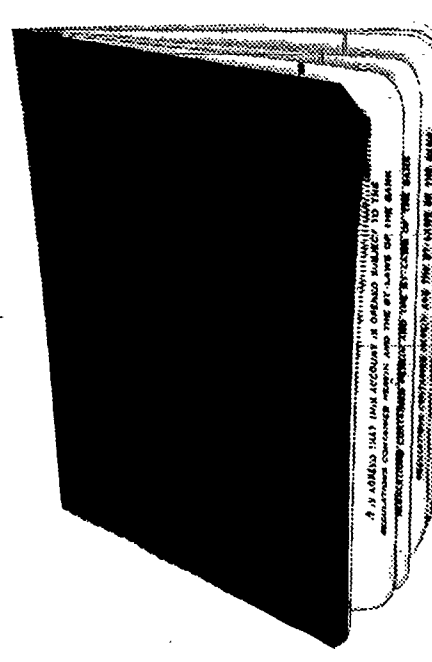
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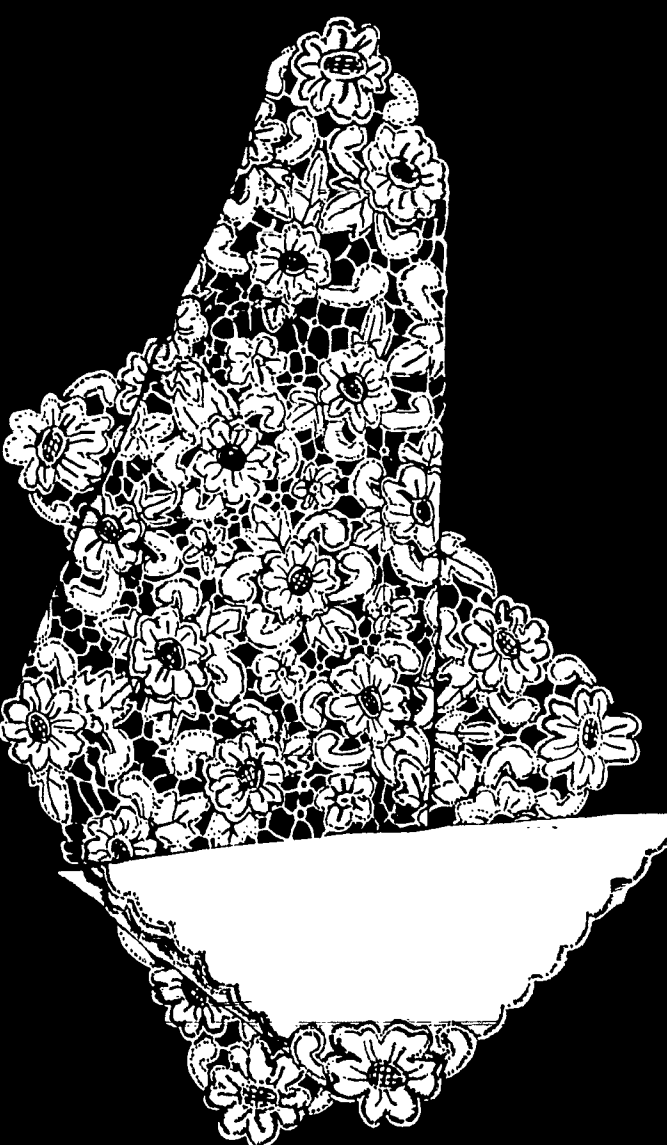
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AROUND THE WORLD

'On-Going'

Father Godfrey Diekmann, addresses the Archdiocese of San Francisco Seminary. The Benedictine speakers who participated in the "on-going" as part of an "on-going" Experts on pastoral theology, education, social justice and of Christian concern and (RNS Photo)

Protestant Episcopal To Latin Bishops

New York — (RNS) Conference of Latin American Protestant "delegate-observers" and "to participate with deliberations.

It was learned here Green, executive director of Department of the National will attend the next meeting hierarchy at Bogota, Colombia.

Pope Paul VI is scheduling, which will be devoted to Integral Development of Latin America.

Parents Blamed

Los Angeles — (RNS) getting an unfair share of in American life, Father coordinator of the National Radio and Television, told times here.

"Although it is true to say that violence," he said, "is conditioned to brutality by parents. Children hear the remarks about ethnic, religious and undisciplined comments for public office, among themselves."

Father Connolly said "should outgrow the idea of vision were devised to be . . ."

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