

# Political Tensions Easing in Saigon

By FR. P. J. BURKE, S.S.C.  
(NC News Service)

Saigon — President Nguyen van Thieu's "national reconciliation" policy nearly backfired on him with the return of Lt. Gen. Duong van Minh (Big Minh) from almost four years political exile in Thailand.

President Thieu knew he was taking a calculated risk in bringing Minh back from exile. While the militant Buddhists enthusiastically welcomed him, Catholics viewed his return with suspicion. Minh was the leader of the coup that overthrew President Diem on Nov. 1, 1963, and was unable to prevent the murder of the President and his brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu.

Rumors were rife Catholics intended to organize street demonstrations in protest against his return. In turn the Buddhists were reported ready to take to the streets on his behalf. But neither side demonstrated. The government refused permission and both sides said there would be no demonstrations.

The Catholic reaction — over-reaction, some say — to Minh's return once again sent foreign correspondents looking for the specter of Catholic domination of Vietnamese politics. There is a temptation to read Catholic significance into everything that happens here. Catholics draw attention because they know what they don't want to happen here. This is especially true of the Catholic refugees who "voted with feet" in 1954 and 1955 when they fled the communist regime in the North.

They are regarded as hardline anti-communists who oppose any concessions that will give communism a foothold in South Vietnam. The present situation gives them no comfort with reports from Paris that the talks there may soon reach a settlement. They fear the settlement will concede too much to the communists, even to recognizing the National Liberation Front, the political apparatus of the Viet Cong.

Buddhists, especially Buddhist refugees from North Vietnam, take the same stand as the Catholics, but they do not get the same press recognition as the "militant Buddhists" centered around the Venerable Tri Quang, President Diem's opponent in the Buddhist crisis of 1963.

Many foreign observers tend to see Vietnamese politics polarized around "hardline Catholics" and "militant Buddhists." President Thieu's national reconciliation policy is an attempt to get away from this. He realizes he must have a wider political base than he now enjoys if he is to survive politically the end of the fighting.

This is a Catholic convert baptized after his marriage but he is no hero to the refugees from the North. Rather they have more trust in Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky, like themselves a refugee from the North. Ky is not a Catholic but he found extensive Catholic support in the national elections of September, 1967.

The fact is the Catholic Church is represented by no political bloc or party in South Vietnam. No political group speaks on behalf of the Church. The only ones who can do so are the bishops of South Vietnam. In elections Catholics compete against Catholics and in the National Assembly Catholics belong to different political groups in the Senate and House of Representatives.

The Catholic contribution to all departments of Vietnamese life—education, social welfare, medicine, civil administration and defense—is greater than their proportion in the general population. Today in South Vietnam, if Catholic educational facilities were closed, about one-fifth of all children in primary schools and one-third in all secondary schools would be left without education. Yet the number of Catholic children in these Catholic schools nationwide is less than one-third.

If Catholics closed their hospitals, clinics, orphanages, leprosariums, the Vietnamese Ministry of Social Welfare could hardly cope with the numbers.



## A Favorite Painting

Richard Cardinal Cushing of Boston displays a favorite painting, "The Peace Sowers," depicting John F. Kennedy and Pope John XXIII. The prelate will have it reproduced on Christmas cards.

## Diocesan Educators Probe National School Problems, Discuss Future Trends

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sanctioned by custom and Church law.

"In many instances these islands of power prevent the educational plan of the diocese from functioning effectively; in certain instances they prevent it from functioning at all.

"More than an educator, the superintendent acts as an ombudsman for his bishop, priests, religious, parents, critics and creditors. He is at the rubbing edge of the confluence of friend and foe. Frequently he finds himself struggling to develop consensus among factions who wish only that their own view prevail."

Listed as "pressing problems" in the attempt to provide quality education were: upgrading the quality of instruction by recruiting qualified teachers; reducing class size; providing auxiliary services; developing adequate finances as education costs spiral; introducing new and innovative concepts in education.

## Archbishop: Change Law On Celibacy

Durban — (RNS) — Archbishop Denis Hurley, Roman Catholic archbishop of Durban, has spoken out strongly in favor of a change in the Church's law of celibacy to allow priests to marry and continue serving as priests.

His statement followed a meeting in Durban of 70 bishops, priests, nuns and laymen which overwhelmingly voted in favor of abolishing compulsory celibacy for priests.

Archbishop Hurley said the views of the Durban meeting on celibacy would be put forward as a recommendation to the meeting of the South African Bishops' Conference in February.

Archbishop Hurley favors relaxation of celibacy rule in "stages," allowing the local bishops to make exceptions to celibacy laws without recourse to Rome as the final step.

He said the present situation allowed for an appeal to the Pope for relaxation of the celibacy laws to allow priests to marry, but instances of such appeals being accepted were virtually non-existent and there was no possibility of priests in such cases being allowed to continue their priestly duties.

The archbishop said relaxation of celibacy laws would have to be done with the utmost circumspection and delicacy. He added, "generally speaking, Catholics are unused to the idea of married priests. One cannot spring this sort of thing on people; they would need some sort of psychological preparation."

"I know African people," he continued, "would be more opposed to the idea than whites for they see priests as being married only to the Church. There would be needed a change in the education of the clergy to prepare them for the choice between celibacy and marriage."

## Kleiber--All-American?

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and a key play in the game came in the closing minutes of the last quarter when Doug knocked a pass to the ground intended for his brother Paul that may have turned about the final results of the game.

Doug, who keeps in trim condition throughout the year, has spent two summers working on construction for the J. M. Pettigrass Construction Company of Auburn. Last year, Doug worked on heavy construction work in Itasca.

The paper declared that Catholic schools have been "a fertile source of vocations," and that they "have proved and will continue to prove a testing ground for programs of religious education which can be used in limited school (OCD) and non-school (adult-education) settings."

Several convention delegates confessed concern about the future of Catholic schools particularly in the area of finance.

Monsignor William M. Roche, superintendent of schools for the Rochester Diocese and president of the NCEA's Department of School Superintendents, declared:

"All the citizens of our communities have got to take the problem of Catholic education seriously. For the good of the country, America cannot afford to neglect any of its educational resources.

"Before we ask for money from either state or federal governments, we owe an accountability."

Father C. Albert Koob, executive secretary of the NCEA, said "the future lies with getting support from all sectors, other than just Catholic — state funds, private industry and increased federal funds." He called for "a greater element of cooperation with the public schools," and an increased emphasis on the "inner city" problems.

Also in session at the convention were members of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education of the U.S. Catholic Conference.

Among panels was a description of "Sex Education: The Rochester Course," by Dr. Gerard T. Guerinot and Sister Ruth Agnes, S.S.J.

Featuring the industry presentations, with accompanying films, were Kodak's "Education for Survival in Today's Technological World," and Xerox's "The Human Side of Educational Change."

## World's Population Growing at Rate of 180,000 Per Day

United Nations, N.Y. — (NC) — Between mid-1966 and mid-1967 the world's population grew at a rate of 180,000 per day, according to the latest United Nations Demographic Yearbook, 1967, published Oct. 18.

This is the 19th in a series which began in 1948 and includes statistics received from almost 250 geographical entities around the world.

According to the yearbook, three fourths of the earth's inhabitants live in developing regions and more than half in Asia. The highest annual rate of population growth between 1963 and 1967 was reported from Central America, the next largest for the rest of Latin America, and the lowest for Europe.

The yearbook also discloses that 19 per cent of the world's population now lives in cities of 100,000 or over. Tokyo is the largest of the world's cities, with New York second.

In all but six countries girl babies can be expected to live longer than boy babies. Statistics indicate that the birth rate does not vary greatly from rural to urban areas, but the total death rate, including infants, is usually higher in rural localities.

Besides his deft ability in football, Big Doug is also an honor student far above Cayuga's waters. He is in the College of Arts and Sciences, majoring in psychology. He is planning a career in educational administration.

The rugged, powerfully built line-backer, who is as gentle and good natured as a kitten off the field, took great enjoyment last year during the off-season in speaking at banquets and sports dinners.

## Wedding Raises Issue of Religion

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Catholic spokesmen in many parts of Europe expressed regret that the marriage seemed destined to emphasize Catholic-Orthodox disagreement on the indissolubility of marriage. Divergent views on divorce are a barrier to Catholic-Orthodox union second in importance only to the Churches' disagreements on papal primacy and infallibility and clerical celibacy.

In New York, Father George J. Bacopulos, chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America, said that a divorced Greek Orthodox man would be free to marry a second time provided that he had secured a church divorce from an ecclesiastical court.

The Greek Chancery Office reported that Mr. Onassis' 1969 divorce from his first wife, the former Athina Mary Livanos, was approved by the Greek Orthodox ecclesiastical court on Apr. 18, 1961. The first Mrs. Onassis has remarried and is living in England.

The Greek Orthodox Church, according to Father Bacopulos, permits its members to remarry after divorce, but limits marriages to three whether



JACQUELINE ONASSIS

the previous unions have ended by death or divorce.

In February 1967, Pope Paul VI issued a decree which permitted Latin Rite bishops, when giving a dispensation for a mixed marriage, to dispense the Catholic party from the obligation of having the ceremony performed in the rite of the Catholic Church.

The decree recognized the validity of the Greek Orthodox rites as a marriage ceremony binding on the Catholic party, with or without the Catholic bishop's authorization. Without the bishop's permission, however, the marriage would be considered illicit (sinful) for the Catholic but the ceremony would be valid.

But in New York, archdiocesan spokesmen admitted that if Mrs. Kennedy had wanted church approval for her marriage in the Greek Orthodox rite her requests for a dispensation for the "mixed marriage" would have been handled by the New York Archdiocese because her home is in New York.

There was no indication offered that Mrs. Kennedy had made any contact with her parish in New York or with the Chancery Office. A request for validation of the marriage, now that the wedding has taken place, could be made to any chancery the couple chose.

Upon request, a church tribunal would then have to review the first Onassis marriage and the divorce granted by the Orthodox Church before stating whether Onassis is now free to contract a valid marriage with a Roman Catholic.

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The Democratic president of the Catholic Archbishop of Detroit is seen shaking hands with President John F. Kennedy. He is believed to be the first time.

## Detroit Survey of

## Many A

Detroit — (RNS) — Many Catholics in the Archdiocese of Detroit wish to share Communion with Eastern and other Christians on special occasions, a report from the diocesan Ecumenical Commission shows.

The report, sent to Archbishop John F. Dearden, was based on a computer-produced summary of thousands of suggestions made to the Archdiocesan Synod, in preparation for 18 months.

The Commission Ecumenical Affairs, headed by Msgr. Albert Matyn, is one of nine committees seeking to draw together proposals for synod action from more than 100,000 suggestions for renewal.

Msgr. Matyn reported that a majority of participants suggested Protestants be permitted to receive Communion on such occasions as weddings.

Others want attendance at

## Obedience Pope Paul

Vatican City — (RNS) — Obedience, although unpopular today, remains necessary to prevent Pope Paul VI said at his weekly general audience here.

"Even the term obedience is longer tolerated," he said, attributing this view to an "exaggerated and intolerable" reaction by youth to totalitarian oppression.

"The prevalent theme is personal conscience, autonomy, responsibility and conformity to what is considered the common good," he said. "Now is it all a matter of because a profound change in it is thus revealed."

## Dirksen Pr

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Dirksen Prayer Amendment bill, forgotten since its defeat in Senate in September 1967, was brought up for debate again this session.

## U.N. Emergency F Earmarked for Bia

United Nations — (NC) — A million dollars in emergency foodstuffs have been earmarked for Biafra by the International Committee of the Red Cross, according to the United Nations Food and Culture Organization (F.A.O.). The World Food Program (WFP) joint operation of the U.N. and I.C.R.C.

Shipment is awaiting assurance that the food will get to the most seriously affected areas.

Meanwhile, 300 tons of high protein dried fish, worth \$300,000, already being made available through the International Committee of the Red Cross, according to F.A.O. director, Gen. Adedeji Akinjide. The dried fish is part of Norway's pledge to the World Food Program.

"We have been trying for months to find some way to relieve the terrible suffering in Biafra, but technical obstacles as well as logistical problems, so far frustrated our efforts."

The "technical" obstacles refer to the fact that international organizations are constitutionally required to only with the member government in this case Nigeria.