

AROUND THE WORLD



Chapel Serves Olympics

An ecumenical chapel serves Protestant and Catholic athletes at Olympic Village in Mexico City. Here the Rev. Tom Herbanson preaches before a Protestant group. (RNS)

Villagers Fight to Keep Franciscans

Berlin — (NC) — A decision to replace Franciscan pastors with diocesan clergy has caused a violent eruption among Catholics in Yugoslavia's Herzegovina region.

The Yugoslavian Catholic paper Glas Conclia reported that the protests of the parishioners against the plan of Bishop Petar Cule of Mostar to replace the Franciscans have reached "alarming proportions."

It said that in the village of Grandine two bombing attempts had been made against the parish house. In Rude, farmers bricked up the church door, and in many places parishioners have prevented the diocesan priests from taking over. The parishes have been served by the Franciscans since 1750, and during the Turkish regimes of terror. The people say that "every spot of this earth is soaked with the martyr blood of the Franciscans." Some claim that they plan to close all the churches and send the keys to Pope Paul VI.

German Bishops Set Up News Weekly

Frankfurt-on-Main — (RNS) — Publik, a new national weekly newspaper for West German Catholics, made its debut here Sept. 27.

The 36-page paper was established by the bishops. They provided about \$4 million for working capital and merged the new publication with three other national Catholic weeklies. The bishops will continue to operate their own diocesan papers. Publik's first issue had a press run of 120,000 copies.

Scots Focus on 'Progress of Peoples'

Edinburgh, Scotland — (NC) — A request to the Scottish bishops to set up a national commission on peace and justice in the light of Pope Paul VI's encyclical, Populorum Progressio, will be made by the National Council for the Lay Apostolate.

A Glasgow delegate, Dr. Thomas R. Taylor, said he felt that at a time when emphasis is placed on obedience to Pope Paul's birth control encyclical, there should be equal insistence on putting into practice the call in an earlier papal encyclical for a just distribution of wealth.

Northern Ireland Riots Shock Britain

By JOHN A. GREAVES (NC News Service)

London — The rioting in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, has shocked the British public into realizing that serious discrimination against Catholics still actively exists in the United Kingdom itself.

The clashes in the predominantly Catholic city between civil rights demonstrators seeking justice for its underprivileged citizens and tough police has blown the lid off the previously little-publicized situation in Northern Ireland and raised strong protests in the British Parliament, the press and television. (The Nationalist party — which represents the Catholic minority — announced its

withdrawal Oct. 15 from the Northern Ireland Parliament until the government promises to reform so-called anti-Catholic laws.)

While Prime Minister Harold Wilson was at Gibraltar seeking more justice for the non-whites of Rhodesia, the irony has not been missed that at home in Northern Ireland a man has no vote in local civic elections unless he is a householder and that discrimination in housing and in jobs operates against Catholics.

Additionally, in Londonderry the boundaries of local constituencies are so fixed that a small Protestant minority runs a predominantly Catholic city.

The Belfast Parliament, since the break with southern Ireland in 1921, been dominated by the Unionist Party, right-wing, intensely loyal to the British crown, and openly Protestant.

Past complaints of discrimination against Northern Ireland's growing Catholic minority — many of whom prefer union with the Irish Republic in the south — have been regarded as local prejudices with a political basis.

Now the brutality in Londonderry, where police broke up a peaceful civil rights march because it was walking through a forbidden part of the city, has been seen on

television here in detail, and reported at length in the press. The newspapers, to their credit, have generally joined in the wide protests and called for a clean-up of the situation.

The original march in Londonderry was led by Gerry Fitt, the only Catholic from Northern Ireland now sitting in the House of Commons in London. He was accompanied by three other Members of Parliament — all members of the governing British Labor party.

They have reported to the British government and moves have been made for a British government inquiry into the situation in Northern Ireland.

Ecumenical Events

Former Primate Opposes Merger

London — (RNS) — The present plan for union of the Church of England (Anglican) and the Methodist Church "is giving rise to some very dangerous and disturbing disunities," according to Lord Fisher of Lambeth, former Archbishop of Canterbury.

For doctrinal reasons, he added, it would be "very wrong for anyone to vote for the scheme in its present form."

The 81-year-old former Anglican Primate gave his views in a letter to The Times. In it he challenges a recent statement by Bishop George A. Ellison of Chester to his diocesan conference that it is right to vote for the Anglican-Methodist union project.

Bishop Ellison said that he had passed through the stages of bewilderment and doubt which had assailed almost everyone, but was now ready to vote for the union plan and also to take part in the much-disputed proposed Service of Reconciliation for integrating the ministries of the two Churches.

Lord Fisher wrote: "May I be allowed as a former Bishop of Chester to tell members of the (diocesan) conference, and others . . . that in my own personal belief it would be, for doctrinal reasons, very wrong for anyone to vote for the scheme in its present form."

"The Bishop wants to vote for unity, a cause for which I have labored long and not in vain."

(Lord Fisher in 1948 gave an address at Cambridge which is generally regarded as having initiated the Angli-

can-Methodist conversations leading up to the union proposal.)

"The proposed scheme of union," Lord Fisher said, "is giving rise to some very dangerous and disturbing disunities owing to grave structural errors which it contains, resulting from the fact that on some very important doctrinal matters members of the (Anglican-Methodist Unity) Commission hold mutually exclusive and irreconcilable ideas and purposes."

"It is my firm belief that if these structural errors were removed, the two Churches

could go forward to Full Communion on a scheme fully in keeping with their own basic doctrines and in line with the theological principles approved by the Lambeth Conference of 1968 in more than one of its doctrinal resolutions."

Lord Fisher did not spell out in this letter the structural errors to which he objected.

Bishop Ellison in his diocesan statement said he thought the agreement in doctrine was one that Anglicans could accept. Both Churches, he also said, accepted the au-

thority of the Bible, both agreed on the Creed, and both administered the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. The one difference on principle was that of Orders, but for the start of the union there would be an agreed ordained ministry, he said.

Communism Still Foe, Archbishop Declares

CHICAGO (NC) — The religious situation in lands held by the Communists has not improved but has deteriorated during the past 25 years, Philadelphia's John Cardinal Krol said here.

Speaking at the 25th anniversary convention of the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland at the International Amphitheater here, Cardinal Krol asked: "Is there a continued need for the activity of the Catholic League?"

"The answer," he said, "should be obvious. Communism has not changed its objectives. It has declared an all-out war against religion. Spiritual and religious oppression with its normal wake of moral decadence can be more destructive than political or economic enslavement."

Noting that the tactics used by Communists in achieving their anti-religious goals are "adjusted to the circumstances of time and place," Cardinal Krol said that the strategy in Poland has been "to avoid as much as possible open confrontation."

"There is no doubt that Communism wants desperately the death of the Church and of religion," the cardinal continued, "but it also wants the death certificate to read that the death occurred apparently of 'natural causes.'"

"The world was provided with the shocking evidence (Czechoslovakia) recently," Cardinal Krol said, "of the determination of the Communist countries to contain and dominate, if necessary by brute force, the people over whom it acquired control."

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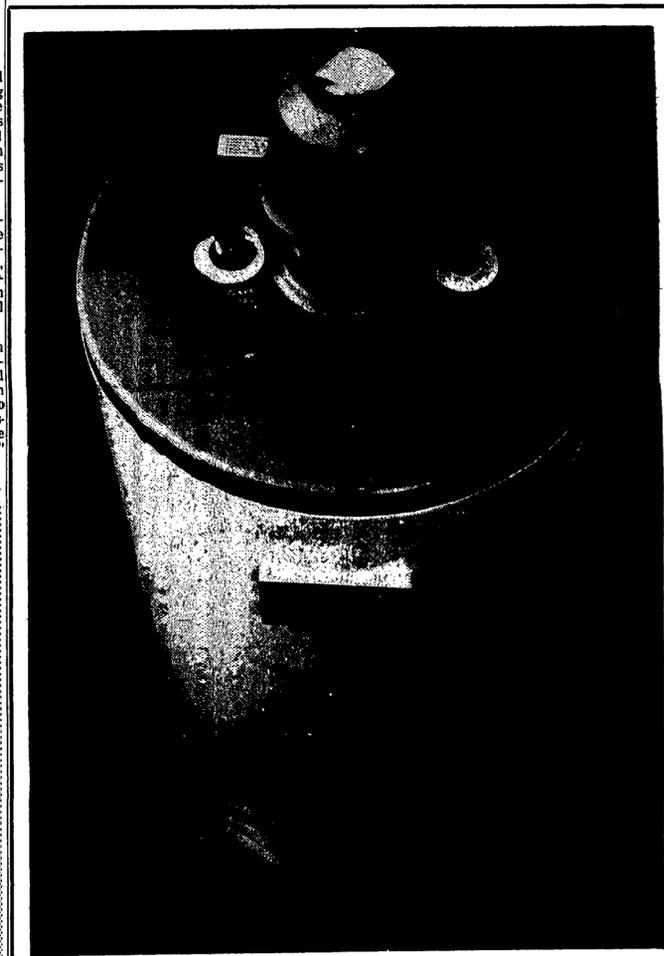
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