

AROUND THE WORLD



Local Maryknoller Has Kenya Duty

Mombasa, Kenya — (NC) — Four Maryknoll Sisters, including one from Rochester, N.Y., are preparing to set up a new hospital at Kinango, about 35 miles south of here.

The 75-bed hospital, scheduled for completion early in 1969, is a project involving the diocese of Mombasa, the Kenya government and a German Catholic relief agency.

Maryknoll Sister Noel Marie Doescher of Rochester, who is to set up the out-patient department, has served in Ceylon for eight years.

Rumanian Pentecostal Movement Grows

London — (RNS) — Rumanian Pentecostal churches have 80,000 members in 900 congregations, according to leaders of the movement who visited here. They said that official recognition for the churches had been obtained from the government and that the Pentecostal movement had 200 ministers in Rumania.

Anglican Bishops Oppose Melanesian Independence

Port Moresby, New Guinea — (RNS) — The Anglican bishops of the Australian protectorate here have spoken out against the secessionist activity of the "Melanesian Independence Front."

The organization seeks independence for a small segment of the protectorate territory, a measure which the bishops said "would seem to be economically and nationally disastrous."

In a statement the bishops expressed sympathy with geographic and racial groups who wish to play a major role in their own development. But they pointed out how efforts to secede had led to war, starvation and widespread death in Biafra and Katanga.

Stand Against Abortion Restated

Ottawa, Ont. — (RNS) — Bishop Alexander Carter of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., president of the Canadian Catholic Conference, told reporters here that several Members of Parliament had consulted Catholic bishops over the proposed relaxation of this country's abortion laws.

He said he had told those who asked him that as their spiritual adviser he must speak against the changes, but that they should vote according to their consciences.

Bishop Carter added that the Church was not fighting proposed changes in the Criminal Code dealing with divorce, contraception and birth control information. The Church has its own teachings on such matters for Catholics, he said.

Freedom Hailed In Polish Pastoral

Warsaw — (RNS) — National freedom and unity were the themes of a pastoral letter issued by the Roman Catholic hierarchy of Poland to mark the 50th anniversary of liberation at the end of World War I. For approximately a century and a half before the war, Poland had been partitioned among Russia, Austria and Prussia.

"Nations which have not experienced slavery will not be able to experience as well as we the benefits of freedom," the bishops said, and oppression has "imprinted deeply on our memory a respect for every nation's right to freedom."

Today, the bishops asserted, Poland is "no longer divided."

Spanish Bishops Rebuke Priests Involved in Sit-in

Madrid — (NC) — The permanent committee of the Spanish Bishops' Conference has rebuked 50 priests of the Bilbao diocese in Spain's Basque region who are staging a "sit-in" in the diocesan seminary to press "for a solution to grave social and pastoral problems."

Among their demands is the resignation of Bishop Pablo Gurpide Beope of Bilbao—a non-Basque.

The priests were suspended by Bishop Gurpide after they failed to meet his deadline of Nov. 5 for vacating the seminary or being deprived of their priestly functions.

A statement issued by the

permanent committee of the Spanish Bishops' Conference said: "We publicly disapprove the procedure which these priests are following."

In Bilbao, one of the priests involved said through a seminary window that the group would not end the sit-in until the priests were assured that "pending problems were tackled."

Seminarians joined in the protest and a group of older priests began preparing a letter to the bishop asking for his resignation and the appointment of a new bishop who will "participate with the people of God."

The sit-in is the latest de-

velopment in the long conflict between Bishop Gurpide and some liberal members of his clergy who have protested what they regard as the bishop's conservative policies and his failure to support them in frequent difficulties with the government.

The cleavage between Bishop Gurpide and an estimated third of the diocesan clergy is part of the overall tension that has gripped the Basque region in northern Spain. Basques have been in conflict with the Spanish government for some time over their demands for greater regional autonomy and wider use of their language and customs.

Bottleneck in The Hourglass

Biafra Aid Moves Slowly

By JOHN R. SULLIVAN (NC News Service)

Sao Tome — Getting relief supplies into Biafra is much like pouring sand through an hourglass—the supplies, like the sand, will only go so fast.

The neck of the hourglass is Sao Tome, a tiny Portuguese island on the equator. Its 18th century town is flanked by curving beaches, and the volcanic mountains rise quickly into a permanent, gleaming tower of cumulus clouds.

But for the 60-some people who came to Sao Tome from the United States and Europe, there is little time to dwell on the scenery. It is their job to keep the trickle of supplies moving, with the ever-present knowledge that the hourglass counts deaths in Biafran villages 300 miles away. At the neck of the hourglass is a small, complex operation.

There are, after all, customs inspectors to satisfy, aircrews which must be paid, shipping agents and longshoremen to hire and records to keep. There are Americans, Germans, Scandinavians, Irish and Portuguese, here, each of whom works in his own way and his own style—and his own language.

There is Father Anthony Byrne, 36, an Irish Holy Ghost missionary who until the war broke out was social service director for the Onitsha archdiocese in Biafra.

It was he who convinced Caritas Internationalis, the Vatican-based relief agency, and the German Protestant and Catholic organizations that they should buy their own planes for the relief airlift.

He is the very antithesis of the organization man—although he runs his office 16 hours a day. He is much more at home passing through enemy lines, or paddling a canoe. But he is Caritas' official representative on Sao Tome.

There is Joe Galona, a humorous bachelor who keeps track of the supplies sent by Catholic Relief Services of the United States—so far, more than \$1.5 million worth.

His only official job is docu-

menting the entry and exit of CRS supplies to and from Sao Tome—required by the U.S. government, which donates much of the food. But Galona is one of the few people who speak Portuguese and his ability to work with the islanders is unmatched.

At Catholic Relief Services in New York, Ed Kinney, a burly nononsense type, buys, begs, borrows and sometimes politely hijacks food, medicine and other supplies. Then he figures out what to send by air—charter plane to Amsterdam, and from there to Sao Tome—and what by ship. The decision is important; dollars wasted here cannot be spent elsewhere.

Kinney has counterparts at the Scandinavian relief agency in Copenhagen, at the German agencies, and at a score of smaller groups in Ireland, England, Portugal, Holland, and Italy. They work together closely enough to see that most of their high-priority items arrive together, on the weekly flights from Amsterdam and Frankfurt which are chartered by CRS and the World Council of Churches.

The rest arrive in partial loads on commercial ships, or in the Irish relief ship Columkille.

Vatican Guards To Be Cooler

Vatican City (NC)—Vatican City's gendarmes, for the first time in their 152-year history, are to have lightweight uniforms to protect them against Rome's midsummer sun.

The summer uniforms have not yet received final approval from the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City, but all wrinkles are expected to be ironed out before fitting time.

Present plans call for a white jacket with blue tie and blue trousers, topped off with a kepi, a military cap with a round flat top sloping toward the front and a visor.

Students Oppose Pentecostal Sect

Jerusalem — (RNS) — A quiet demonstration by Yeshiva students was held here to protest the "Israel Deeper Life" meeting of Pentecostals. The students peacefully dispersed at the request of the police. Former Israeli constable and Christian convert Shlomo Hizak recently established a Pentecostal center, with the financial aid of the Voice of Healing, Dallas, Texas.

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