

AROUND THE WORLD



Minister Ordered Out Of S. Africa

Capetown — (RNS) — The Rev. Hans Haselbart, vicerector of Lutheran Theological College in Natal, has been ordered to leave South Africa by Dec. 31.

All foreign churchmen are threatened with the same fate if they speak against government policy, he commented.

Mr. Haselbart said he had received no explanation of the expulsion order.

"I have never engaged in what can be called politics," he said. "However, I am deeply opposed to apartheid. I believe in the Body of Christ and cannot accept anything separating people, in the Church or outside it."

Quebec Legalizes Civil Marriage

Montreal—(RNS)—The provincial parliament has passed a bill to permit civil marriage.

Premier Jean-Jacques Bertrand said notaries would be allowed to perform the ceremony in courthouses and other offices. He noted that unbelievers thus would be able to marry without benefit of priest, minister or rabbi. Others restrained by the old law included those whose own religion is not established in the province.

Quebec's six million people are nearly 85 per cent Catholic.

Caribbean Church Fights Prejudice

Port-of-Spain — (RNS) — Reacting to evidence of discrimination submitted at conferences in the Bahamas and Trinidad, the Archbishop of Port-of-Spain declared that the Church will strive to eradicate all forms of prejudice.

Archbishop Gordon Anthony Pantin said his stand had been affirmed at the recent 12th Antilles Episcopal Conference in Nassau, Bahamas.

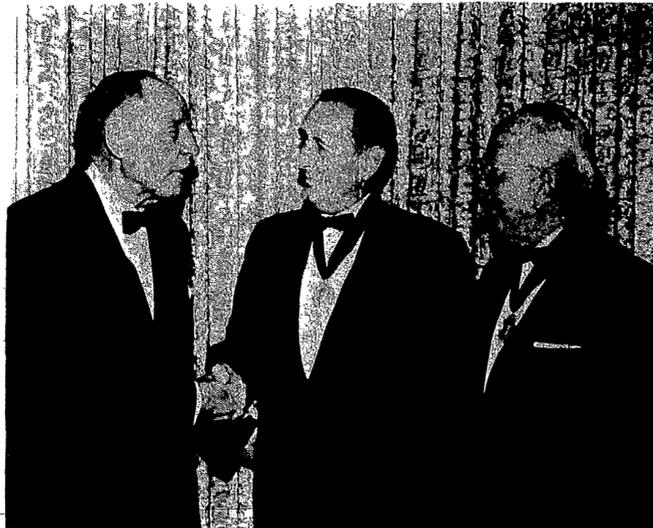
At another recent Caribbean conference on human rights, held here at the Cipriani Labor College, evidence was presented on "unequal opportunities on the basis of color, sex, race, religion, political opinion, national extraction and social origin" and the stultifying effects of this in the economy and culture."

Bishop Dies But Protest Continues

Bilbao, Spain — (RNS) — The sit-in demonstration at the Derio diocesan seminary here will continue despite the death of Bishop Pablo Gurrupide Beope, the dissident priests have announced.

The 70-year-old bishop died Nov. 18 of a liver ailment, several weeks after the demonstrators began to demand his resignation.

Other demands of the demonstrators include the election of a successor to Bishop Gurrupide by democratic means and the establishment of a Basque Bishops' Conference distinct from the Spanish Bishops' Conference. One of the priests' chief complaints against Bishop Gurrupide, who was not a Basque, was that he did not support Basque aspirations for independence.



Receive NCCJ Awards

Ambassador Robert D. Murphy, Roman Catholic co-chairman of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, congratulates the 1968 recipients of the Charles Evans Hughes Awards for distinguished governmental service. Dr. John Gardner, center, head of the Urban Coalition and former U.S. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, and Admiral Lewis L. Strauss, left, former chief of the Atomic Energy Commission, received the citations named for the late Chief Justice. Admiral Strauss is outgoing Jewish co-chairman of the NCCJ.

Jewish Affairs

Freedom of Religion Urged

Ottawa, Ont. — (RNS) — Israel should grant freedom of religion to Reform Jews, the president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath, said here.

The New York rabbi addressed the biennial convention of the Canadian Council of Reform Congregations.

"We are seeking that freedom of religion that Israel has pledged itself to in the covenant of the United Nations," he said. "To seek to worship there according to our way of worship is a legitimate demand."

"We seek it for the sake of Israel itself, because Israel will not persist unless it finds some way to make itself and the Jewish faith upon which

it is founded relevant to the contemporary world."

A number of other speakers also complained about Orthodox Jews' refusal to accept Reform practices in Israel.

As an example, Rabbi Eisendrath told reporters that Reform rabbis in Israel are not allowed to perform marriage ceremonies, nor to officiate at burials and conversions to the Jewish faith.

He had met a woman in Israel, he said, whose husband had died and who could not remarry until her husband's 5-year-old brother reached the age of 13. This is in accord with rabbinical law which says that a widow without children must marry her husband's brother unless he renounces her in a ceremony.

The 5-year-old could not do

this until he reached his Bar Mitzvah at 13.

"It is not an insignificant thing to her that her religious freedom is denied," Rabbi Eisendrath told the convention of 200 delegates.

Rabbi Leonard Poller of Temple Beth Shalom in Montreal, told a workshop group he would like to see the Reform group move to a position where "our children would be as comfortable in an Orthodox shul as they are in a Christian church."

The convention established a commission to study its constitution and is expected to recommend more autonomy for the Canadian Council of Reform Congregations from the parent U.S. group.

There are about 12,000 Jews in the Reform movement in Canada. Most of its rabbis are educated in the U.S. and Europe.

Businessman, 76, Becomes Priest

Dallas — (NC) — Father Arthur C. Hughes, 76-year-old Dallas businessman who was converted to Catholicism more than 50 years ago, was ordained to the priesthood in Sacred Heart cathedral here.

Bishop Thomas K. Gorman of Dallas-Fort Worth, long-time friend of the new priest, ordained him. In October Bishop Gorman had announced that Pope Paul had

given special permission for Father Hughes to be ordained without meeting the canon law requirement for four years training in theology.

In requesting permission for Father Hughes' ordination, Bishop Gorman wrote: "He has personally given instruction in the faith to more than 110 people... and has counseled hundreds of young people and adults in problems of faith and morals."

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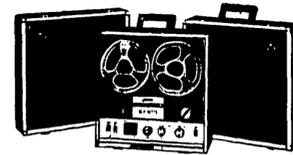
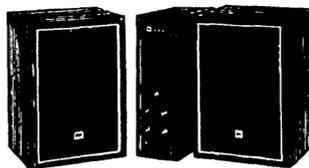
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