



India Bishop's Life Threatened

Trivandrum, India — (NC)—A packet containing three bombs was found beneath a chair where Bishop Peter Pereira of Trivandrum had been seated.

The discovery came against a background of Maoist terrorism.

The bomb packet was picked up by a boy after Bishop Pereira had left a ceremony inaugurating a football field at Kaniyapuram village. The boy's parents took the parcel to the police.

The Maoists have made guerrilla raids on two police stations, stabbed a police radio operator to death, looted houses and sent death warrants to landlords and businessmen. Most of them have now been arrested. They regard Kerala's present communist-led government as not revolutionary enough.

Czech Bishop Hopeful

Bonn, Germany — (NC)—Prospects for negotiations between the Holy See and Czechoslovakia on church affairs in that country appear good at present, the apostolic administrator of Prague said in that city.

Bishop Frantisek Tomaske, who had returned from a visit to Rome, told Lidova Demokracie that, although the climate for talks appeared favorable nothing could be said now as to a date or place.

Meanwhile, the deputy premier of Czechoslovakia, Gustav Husak, speaking at a Communist party meeting in Slovakia, said the current religious revival would be tolerated but that tolerance must be mutual.

"There must be no terror groups of one side or the other to bully people in the villages," said Husak, who is chief of the Slovak Communist party. "The people must be able to choose freely." He added that "after 20 years of socialism we are too far from the 17th century to fight religious wars."

Repression of Clergy Charged

Rio De Janeiro — (RNS) — Three French priests and a Brazilian seminarian arrested by the military on charges of subversive activities were defended by their bishop in an appeal to the Federal Supreme Court.

Archbishop Joao de Resende Costa of Belo Horizonte signed the brief submitted by defense attorneys. It argued that their arrest was illegal, being outside the competence of the army, and that their alleged confessions were null and void.

Greek Prelate Bans Divorce

Kavala, Greece — (RNS) — Greek Orthodox Metropolitan Ambrosios announced here that he will no longer grant divorces even if the dissolution of a marriage has been approved by a civil court.

He told a group of young people that "divorces create psychological wounds in the children, and such wounds remain incurable, with disastrous results."

Under Greek law only religious marriage exists, so a legal decision for divorce must be approved by the Church. The Greek Orthodox Church allows up to three divorces.



A Canopy of Lights

Shoppers stroll on the Via Frattina in Rome under a canopy of Christmas lights and red cloth bearing gold designs. Owners of the shops in the narrow street in downtown Rome sponsored the decorations. (RNS)

Nation on 'Brink of Chaos' N. Ireland Premier Warns

Belfast, Northern Ireland — (NC)—"We are on the brink of chaos," Northern Ireland's prime minister, Capt. Terence O'Neill, told his countrymen, and appealed to Catholic civil rights leaders to call off street demonstrations "before blood is shed."

In October, the Catholic minority in Northern Ireland began a series of demonstrations demanding fairer treatment by the Protestant majority. The Catholic demonstrations have provoked counter demonstrations by Protestants, with violence resulting.

On Nov. 22, O'Neill's government announced a proposal for social and political reforms in response to the Catholic demands. The reforms included legislation to provide for an ombudsman to investigate citizen's grievances, allocation of public housing on the basis of need, reform of local governmental structure with consideration to be given to a review of voting rights, and an end to the use of certain security provisions.

O'Neill derided the view of Protestant extremists that Northern Ireland can defy British public opinion and follow a separatist course while

maintaining Protestant privileges. He pointed out that British subsidies support the economy of Northern Ireland, keep its aircraft factories open, pay pensions and keep farm prices up.

'Christmas Ship' Planned for Biafra

New York — (RNS)—The Independent Biafra Relief Services Foundation is spearheading the U.S. fund-raising effort in an international drive to send a "Biafra Christmas Ship" to war victims.

Three thousand tons of carbohydrate foods will be carried by a Norwegian freighter to Sao Tome, from where it will be flown into Biafra and distributed with the help of Caritas International and World Council of Churches relief workers.

Other sponsors of the Christmas ship include independent groups in Holland, England and Canada.

The ship will leave Amsterdam with donations from Israel and Sweden, pick up additional contributions from

Cardinal Regrets Delay in Formulation Of 'Humanae Vitae'

NC News Service
Paris—Pope Paul VI's encyclical Humanae Vitae has been badly received because there was too long a delay before it was issued, Alfredo Cardinal Ottaviani said in an interview in Paris-Match (Dec. 7), a French publication similar to Life magazine.

In the interview, entitled "The Grand Inquisitor Speaks to You," the cardinal said, in reference to the encyclical: "The business was conducted with too great slowness. In practice, contraception had become almost general. People thought they would be able to continue to enjoy this freedom."

"They said: This study has been going on for several years, therefore the Church is in a state of doubt. If there is doubt, we are free to judge according to our conscience. After that, it was difficult to go back."

The cardinal continued, "The encyclical is nothing other than a declaration of the natural law. The Holy Father explained, with a singular gentleness, what flows, in the use of the conjugal rights, from the nature of man and woman created by God. One must not go against nature, as do the pill and other contraceptive means."

The cardinal said the crisis of the priesthood "is due especially to the lack of the spirit of sacrifice. The priesthood is no longer considered a renunciation of the things of the world. For example, the question of celibacy. Celibacy is a gift of one's self that is made to Christ, in order to imitate Him, to be such as He is. This lessening of the spirit of sacrifice has led to indiscipline, to the propaganda against celibacy."

"Nevertheless, we have experience of the benefits that are obtained in the Church thanks to celibacy. Think of the glorious history of the French in the missions. Would it have been possible if the missionaries had not been celibates?"

Asked if the ordination of married men could come about, the cardinal said: "One cannot be a prophet. . . . There is no doctrinal contradiction. Then what the Church will do in this direction cannot be prejudged."

Questioned about reports that he has never been as powerful or as much listened to since he left the Holy Office (the Doctrinal Congregation, Cardinal Ottaviani said: "I still take part in the work of the Holy Office, of which the Pope has named me prefect emeritus, with right of precedence over the other cardinals except (Franco) Cardinal Sepere, prefect by appointment."

"I do what I can to help the Holy Father. I do not consider my task finished," the 78-year-old Cardinal said.

Lay Plan Fizzles

In England;

Study Under Way

London — (NC) — Priest representatives from every diocese in the country met at the headquarters of John Cardinal Heenan of Westminster here to discuss what went wrong with a lay experiment called the New Pentecost campaign.

The movement, designed to provide the laity with opportunities for helping to run the Church, began on Pentecost Sunday when laymen went into the pulpits of most churches and appealed for money to help run various national commissions set up for this purpose and also for other laymen to offer their skills and talents.

The movement, however, has only been a partial success. Only about half the target sum of \$480,000 has been raised and only a small number of the laity who have offered personal help have been given anything to do.

After its launching, the campaign met with widespread criticism from both clergy and laity, some of whom said it was introduced too hurriedly and without sufficient consultation.

FEWER CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Chicago — (NC) — A survey taken among Catholic school superintendents in the six Illinois dioceses found that mounting financial problems have forced the closing of nearly 30 elementary schools and two high schools during the past three years.

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