

Spain Officially Ends 1492 Edict Against Jews

Madrid — (RNS) — A 476-year-old edict ordering all Jews to leave Spain "and not dare to return" was formally rescinded here in ceremonies attending the opening of the first new synagogue built in Spain in six centuries.

The expulsion order, originally issued by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella in the year Columbus discovered America, has been legally a dead letter for almost a century, since the proclamation of religious tolerance in the Constitution of 1869.

But the symbolic gesture of formally declaring the ancient restriction void was a high point of the synagogue dedication rites.

Dr. Benito Garzon, the first rabbi appointed to Madrid since the 15th Century, noted here that approximately 2,500 of the 8,500 Jews now living in Spain are resident of Madrid. Another 3,000 are in Barcelona, which has two congregations, he said.

Newsmen at the ceremony were told that the attitude toward Jews in Spain in recent years has generally been one of tolerance and that the position of Jews has been considerably strengthened under the religious freedom laws approved by the national parliament last year.

Max Mazin, president of the Madrid Jewish community, said that until the opening of the new synagogue Jewish services in Madrid had been held in private homes. The passage of the religious freedom law was a major factor in the decision to erect the \$250,000 house of worship, he said.

Bishop Named For Saginaw

Washington — (NC) — Pope Paul VI has appointed the Most Rev. Francis F. Reh to be bishop of Saginaw, Mich.

Bishop Reh has been serving as rector of the North American College in Rome. The See of Saginaw has been vacant since the resignation of Bishop Stephen S. Woznicki on Oct. 30, 1968. Bishop Woznicki died Dec. 11.

Bishop Reh was born in New York on Jan. 9, 1911, and was ordained in Rome on Dec. 8, 1945. He made his studies for the priesthood at St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers, N.Y., and at the North American College in Rome. He was later to head both institutions.

He was named to be the ninth bishop of Charleston, S.C., in 1962. In 1964, he was named rector of the North American College in Rome and was transferred to the titular See of Macriana in Mauretania.

Statement Demands 'Freedom' for Theologians

Zurich, Switzerland—A group of internationally known Catholic theologians have issued a statement declaring that the freedom of theologians and freedom in the service of the Church, regained by Vatican II (Second Vatican Council), must not now be jeopardized again.

In their statement, the theologians expressed loyalty to the Church, but said that the teaching office (magisterium) of the Pope and the bishops "cannot and must not supersede, hamper and impede the teaching task of the theologians as scholars. Any form of inquisition, however subtle, not only harms the development of a

sound theology, it also causes irreparable damage to the credibility of the Church as a community in the modern world."

Among the theologians who have signed the statement are two from the United States: Father John McKenzie, S.J., of Notre Dame University and Father Roland Murphy, O.Carm., of the Catholic University of America.

Other signers include Swiss-born Father Hans Kueng of Tübingen University, German Father Karl Rahner, S.J., of Muenster University, Germany; Belgian Father Edward Schillebeeckx, O.P., of Nijmegen University, the Netherlands;

and two French Dominicans, Father Yves Congar and Father Dominic-Marie Chenu.

The theologians said that they expect the teaching office of the Pope and the bishops to support their work as theologians "for the welfare and well-being of mankind in the Church and in the world. We would like to fulfill our duty, which is to seek the truth and speak the truth, without being hampered by administrative measures and sanctions. We expect our freedom to be respected whenever we pronounce or publish, to the best of our knowledge and in conscience, our well-founded theological convictions."

They also enumerated several "constructive proposals" because the freedom of their "work as theologians seems again to be increasingly jeopardized at the moment."

Their proposals include:
1—The Roman Curia (the Church's central administrative body), must express in the composition of its members, "the legitimate plurality of modern theological schools."
2—"An age limit of 75 years must be introduced in the Doctrinal Congregation."
3—Only those acknowledged as outstanding professional theo-

logians must be appointed consultants. Their term of office must be limited and they must never exceed the age of 75.

4—The international committee of theologians asked for by the Synod of Bishops must be set up at once and must be proportionally representative of the different theological schools and forms of mental outlook.

5—When the Doctrinal Congregation feels obliged to disapprove of or object to the theological teaching of a theologian or group of theologians, this must be done in orderly, legal and binding proceedings, that must be worked out and published.

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