

International News

Pope Reported Interested in Canada Ties

Ottawa, Ont. — (RNS) — Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau returned here from a private audience with Pope Paul VI in Rome and said His Holiness was interested in exchanging diplomatic representation with Canada.

Mr. Trudeau said the main subject of his 45-minute conversation with the Pope was peace in the world, but that he had raised the subject of diplomatic representation and the Pope had "responded favorably without pressing."

Before he left Rome, Mr. Trudeau said he was prepared to take the argument for an exchange of envoys with the Vatican to the Canadian people. He told a Rome press conference that in initiating talks with Pope Paul he was not trying to "thrust initiatives down the throat of Canada."

"We shall have to explore public opinion," he said. "We want to hear the arguments for and against — including the view of the Roman Catholic hierarchy. We want to give guidance."

Protestant leaders have reacted strongly to any suggestion that a Canadian diplomat should be stationed at the Vatican, in addition to the envoy already stationed in Rome as Ambassador to Italy.

Defenders of the proposal suggest there are "diplomatic advantages" in close association with the Vatican's excellent diplomatic network. Opponents say such recognition would be religious, not political.

As the Prime Minister returned home the Canadian Protestant League



PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU

joined the chorus of protest. In Edmonton, Alta., James E. C. Shepherd, League president, sent a letter to Mr. Trudeau warning that any such move would represent official recognition of the Pope's political power and could result in every Catholic priest and bishop becoming political guests.

"We plead for rejection of the suggestion," Mr. Shepherd said, adding that it would discriminate against all other religions in Canada.

In his Rome press conference, Mr. Trudeau said the Canadian cabinet has discussed recognition of the Vatican, that this came as part of a general foreign policy review and that generally, cabinet ministers were in favor of it. His job, among other things, is to determine whether the opposition party favors it.

He indicated that bilateral talks will follow to see what sort of diplomatic representation should be exchanged. At present, the Vatican has only an Apostolic Delegation here in Ottawa.

If ambassadors should be exchanged, the Vatican bishop or archbishop who comes here would be called a Nuncio or Pro-Nuncio, and would automatically — if a Nuncio — rank first in precedence among diplomats of other nations.

Mr. Trudeau said that, in his opinion, Canada would gain many advantages from an exchange of envoys with the Vatican. He said the Vatican, for example, can often provide knowledge of the affairs of the world at a grassroots level not available anywhere else.

The Prime Minister added that just as Canada, a bilingual English-French nation, wants to extend its ties with French-speaking countries, so it also wants to establish relations with the Vatican because of the Roman Catholicism of 40-50 per cent of its people is also part of the national character.

Not all the opposition comes from Protestants. Mark MacGuigan, Liberal member of Parliament for Windsor-Walkerville, law professor and a Catholic intellectual, frowns upon the suggestion.

"The Vatican exists as a private arrangement between Italy and the Church," Dr. MacGuigan said. "I have always been opposed to the appointment of a civil ambassador there. Such a move would be a transgression of the traditional separation of church and state."

Czech Prelate Declares 'Suicide Never Human,'

Vatican City — (NC) — Josef Cardinal Beran, the exiled archbishop of Prague, has spoken out over Vatican Radio to the people of Czechoslovakia, appealing for an end to the suicides of political protest in that land.

"Suicide is never human," Cardinal Beran declared.

"Let no one repeat it! Instead, let everyone remember it, in order to live the idea for which they have so cruelly sacrificed their young lives."

Speaking "as a pastor and a citizen," Cardinal Beran said he shared the suffering that is now afflicting his homeland.

"I weep with you over the tragic death of Jan Palach and of the others who followed him. I admire their heroism even though I cannot approve their desperate gesture."

He said the idea of those who immolated themselves was "at bottom" good.

"It was the idea of the sacrifice of one for the salvation of all," he said. "It was love for our country. It was anxiety for its freedom."

In what seemed like an appeal to the people of Czechoslovakia to unite behind their Communist leaders in a common front against pressures from

their Soviet occupiers, the Cardinal urged them to forget past sufferings and open up a new future for the country's young people.

"But the time has come to forget the past. Don't let us waste spiritual energies in hatred, but let us pour them into concord, into work, into service to our brothers, into the country's new prosperity."

"We are a good and strong people. Let us open up a road of hope to the young."

Cardinal Beran began his broadcast by announcing his identity in emotion-filled tones: "Beloved brothers and sisters, sons and brothers of the Church of Prague! Beloved people of Czechoslovakia!"

He said it was impossible for him "for the time being" to get to Czechoslovakia "after so many years of absence." He came to Rome four years ago as part of an agreement between the Holy See and Czechoslovakia over the terms for his release from detention.

His words "for the time being" raised the possibility that he would return to Czechoslovakia. He declared in the broadcast that it was his "deepest desire" to go back.

But he said if that desire "is not granted" the people of Czechoslovakia should look upon his spoken message "as my spiritual testament."

Martial Law Imposed By Franco

Madrid — (NC) — Chief of State Francisco Franco's government imposed modified martial law Jan. 24 in a sudden move against what it termed a conspiracy to "plunge the country into a wave of confusion and subversion."

The "state of exception," decreed by the cabinet on orders of 76-year-old Franco, gives police and the military sweeping powers to search and arrest anyone and to detain suspects indefinitely.

The suspension of civil rights under the decree for at least three months extends a similar crackdown in the northern Basque provinces torn by "separatist" unrest and violence and student agitation.

It was the first time a state of exception had been applied to Spain since Franco came to power in 1939 at the end of the Spanish civil war.

As part of the suspension of rights guaranteed by law, full press censorship was resumed for the first time in 23 months since the enactment of the new press censorship law.

A statement by the government said the emergency action was taken because of "minority actions systematically directed at disturbing the peace of Spain and its public order." It blamed "an international strategy affecting many countries."

Ireland

Second Official Quits In Civil Rights Issue

Belfast, Northern Ireland — (NC) — The government of Northern Ireland, plagued by civil rights disturbances since October 1968, was plunged into a political crisis with the resignation of a second member of the cabinet within two months.

Deputy Premier Brian Faulkner, who was also commerce minister, resigned Jan. 24 in a bitter row with Prime Minister Terence O'Neill over the premier's handling of the Catholic civil rights movement.

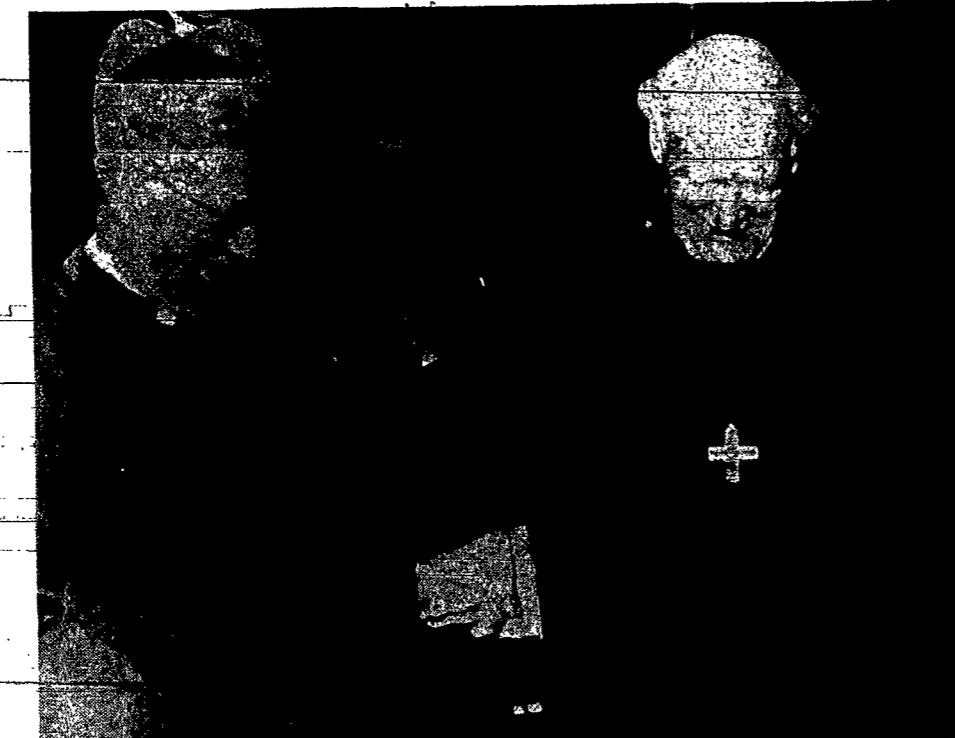
Faulkner's resignation is a source of greater concern than that of Home Minister William Craig two months ago, because of Faulkner's greater political weight and is regarded as posing a serious challenge to the moderate leadership of O'Neill.

Political observers said an election for a new legislative assembly might become necessary.

Faulkner said he openly broke with O'Neill in opposition to the regime's decision to hold an independent inquiry into the recent outbreaks of civil strife. Faulkner called the inquiry "a political maneuver" and an abdication of authority, because he said, the inquiry commission was being set up "to do a job which the government in this small country should be able to do — introduce the one-man, one-vote principle in local government elections."

Much of the civil rights unrest has been sparked by the country's Roman Catholic minority alleging discrimination in local election voting rights, housing and job opportunities. The local vote in elections now is tied to property, and the Catholics contend this discriminates against them.

The Catholic militants' campaign of marches and demonstrations has been directed in favor of the one-man, one-vote principle. They claim that the present property requirements for voting is discriminatory because Catholics make up the bulk of the nation's poor.



Dr. Michael Ramsey, the Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury, chats with John Cardinal Heenan, Roman Catholic Primate of England. (RNS)

Ulster Protestants Disrupt Ecumenical Service

London — (RNS) — Shouts of "No Popery here" rang throughout historic St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral here as "Protestant extremists" scattered among the congregation of 4,000 protested a service for Christian unity at which John Cardinal Heenan, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, was welcomed by Dr. Michael Ramsey, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Young men from Northern Ireland where serious Protestant-Catholic clashes have taken place in Derry in recent weeks over the issue of civil rights, constantly interrupted the Anglican Primate as he introduced the cardinal. They were led by the Rev. Ian Paisley, head of an extremist Protestant movement in Ulster.

Cardinal Heenan was forced to remain silent for nearly ten minutes

after he had entered the great carved pulpit to preach on the theme of unity. Ulsterites were joined by other demonstrators waving Bibles and shouting abuse.

Catholics in the congregation raised counter cries of "Well done, Cardinal!"

One demonstrator ran toward Dr. Ramsey, who was sitting just below the pulpit, and denounced him loudly as "a liar and a traitor." Ushers seized him before he could reach the archbishop.

In the midst of the uproar, Cardinal Heenan stirred laughter and applause when he commented, "This demonstration shows the need for the ecumenical movement." He added, "Of course, I realize these are not members of your usual congregation."



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