



**Spain's Lay Group to Reorganize**

Madrid — (NC) — Church leaders will make another attempt soon to reorganize the lay apostolate in Spain. The National Board of Catholic Action, appointed by the bishops last year, has called for a nationwide general assembly in June.

The more active movements withdrew last year, after a much heralded reform by the bishops sought to restrain their political and social involvement.

**Ancient University in Trouble**

Madrid — (NC) — Plans to keep the financially-troubled University of Salamanca open at least until the summer were made here by the Spanish Bishops Conference.

The 725-year-old institution, once considered among the best in Europe and a training center for professors sent to Spanish America, is now mainly a theological school.

The bishops plan to revamp the operation of the 12 schools involved, which have about 400 professors and 3,000 students.

**Anarchy Pervades Ex-Colony**

Santa Isabel, Equatorial Guinea — (NC) — Africans armed with submachine guns and hand grenades roam the streets of this capital.

Public order broke down after tensions grew between the newly independent government and Spanish officials left here to facilitate transition from colonial status.

This small country of 250,000 people, the majority of them Catholic, is situated at the mouth of the Muni River and includes the island of Fernando Poo. Spanish missionaries run several schools and hospitals. Consular officials from various European nations report that anarchy prevails in many areas.

**Canterbury Speaks for Immigrants**

Nassau, Bahamas — (RNS) — Archbishop Michael Ramsey of Canterbury said here that it would be "a shame" for Britain if it were not able to absorb and integrate a 4 per cent non-white population by the end of the century.

At a reception in his honor, Archbishop Ramsey said that fear of Negro immigrants was creating ghettos in England.

"There will be a time, many centuries hence," he said, "when there will be great astonishment and amusement about the great seriousness and sometimes bitterness about race that our particular phase in human history displayed."

**St. Cyril's Day in Bulgaria**

Istanbul — (RNS) — Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras, spiritual leader of Orthodox Christians, expects to participate next year in celebrations of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church marking the 1100th anniversary of the death of St. Cyril. The saint was a missionary from the ancient see of Constantinople, now held by Athenagoras I.

St. Cyril, who died in 869, is associated with the Cyrillic alphabet. With his older brother Methodius he is considered responsible for the spread of Christianity among the Slavic people.

**Pope Receives Czech Clergyman**

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul VI received in audience the former auxiliary bishop of Olomouc in Czechoslovakia, Bishop Stanislas Zela.

Bishop Zela, now 75, was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment and a heavy fine in 1950. He was released from prison in 1963 and has been living in a home for retired priests in the town of Radvanov.

**English Churchmen Fired Up Over New Proposal to Legalize ...**

**... Mercy Killing!**

London — (RNS) — A major socio-religious conflict is developing in Britain following publication of a new Parliamentary Bill providing for voluntary euthanasia — "mercy killing."

The measure, entitled the Voluntary Euthanasia Bill, was introduced in the House of Lords by Lord Raglan, a ruling Labor Party peer, and with its publication has thus had its formal first reading.

One political observer said the bill was almost certain to have a second reading debate, when it would be approved in principle or rejected, but that its prospects of getting further than that were regarded as remote.

Strong opposition is already building up. Immediate reaction came from Father John McDonald, a Roman Catholic moral theologian, who said the Vatican Council's Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World listed euthanasia among practices which were "wicked" and "an affront to the Creator."

He added that God alone had supreme dominion over human life and "the individual cannot claim any right to take his own life nor can he allow anyone else to do so."

A Church of England (Anglican) spokesman also said

the responsibility for ending innocent human life belonged to God alone, while Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits announced support of any campaign opposing euthanasia.

Other critical reaction came with the formation of a new agency, the Human Rights Society, to fight efforts to legalize euthanasia.

It was stated that the society's first chairman would be Norman St. John-Stevens, a well-known Roman Catholic member of Parliament, writer and broadcaster, and that Church leaders, including John Cardinal Heenan of Westminster, would be asked to sponsor its aims.

Many of the new society's founder-members were prominent opponents of the liberalizing abortion bill before it was enacted into law in 1967.

At that time Cardinal Heenan and others predicted that if the abortion bill passed it would not be long before a measure was produced to legalize euthanasia.

Lord Raglan's bill does just that, but — on a strictly voluntary basis — Physicians would be authorized to administer

euthanasia — the method is not defined — to a patient who is thought on reasonable grounds to be suffering from "an irreparable physical condition of a distressing character."

Such patients would have to be over the age of majority — which is being reduced from 21 to 18 years under another bill now before Parliament — and two physicians, one of whom would have to be of consultant status, would have to certify that the patients were apparently suffering from an irremediable condition.

The bill includes penal provisions, including life imprisonment, for falsification and forgery, while another clause states that no physician or nurse opposed in principle to euthanasia should be required to take any steps in its administration.

Lord Raglan, a farmer and holder of a title which dates from 1852, said he had always strongly believed that euthanasia should be available in certain hopeless cases. He said the bill had largely been prepared by the Euthanasia Society, which claims to have members of Parliament among its supporters.

**Cardinal's View**

**New Primate Urges Reforms**

Toledo, Spain — (RNS) — In the reform of the Roman Catholic Church, the new Primate of Spain said in his first pastoral letter here, "the only unacceptable attitude is that of excessive slowness, to say nothing about immobility."

Archbishop Vicente Enrique y Tarancón of Toledo devoted the pastoral to the problems of the priesthood and the need for pastoral reforms. He said the Church must scrutinize the signs of the times in order to interpret them in the light of the Gospels and stressed the "urgency" of many current problems.

Reforms are needed even though some efforts may be "dangerous" and there may be "moments of a certain confusion and disorientation," he said.

He insisted that the Church must adapt itself "to the circumstances and needs of man today."

**Erasing Grievances Way to Irish Peace**

Armagh, Northern Ireland — (NC) — Eliminating the real grievances that exist in Northern Ireland is the way to improve community relations, William Cardinal Conway of Armagh said (March 5).

Interviewed on Radio Telefís Eireann, the Republic of Ireland's television network, the cardinal said: "I think that the solution to the problem of community relations in Northern Ireland is to remove the very genuine grievances which exist, and specifically discrimination in housing, discrimination in employment, and gerrymandering of electoral constituencies."

Civil strife between Catholics demanding the elimination of such grievances and Protestants opposing them has erupted repeatedly in Northern Ireland since last October. Last month,

Prime Minister Terrence O'Neill, whose policy of gradual concession to the Catholics aroused opposition within his Unionist Party, was re-elected by a narrow margin in a general election.

Cardinal Conway said he does not believe the moderates have lost the initiative in the North. If they have not succeeded so far, it is because of the entrenched positions of people who are bitterly opposed to, and fearful of, all change, he said. Recalling that in the past five years he and his fellow bishops have repeatedly called for "good community relations," the cardinal said that in the Protestant community, there are sincere, excellent Christian people who are also dedicated to better community relations and who have suffered for that dedication.

**TEN THOUSAND GOODBYES TO CARDINAL FRINGS**

Cologne, Germany — (NC) — More than 10,000 persons crowded Cologne's cathedral March 2 to bid farewell to retiring Joseph Cardinal Frings and to attend the installation of Archbishop Joseph Hoeffner as new Ordinary of this See.

During the Mass Cardinal Frings handed over to Archbishop Hoeffner the crozier of Bishop Maternus, who is said to have been the first Cologne bishop, six and a half centuries ago. Archbishop Hoeffner is the 91st successor of Bishop Maternus.

EDITOR MADE PRELATE Philadelphia — (NC) — The editor of the Philadelphia archdiocesan newspaper, the Catholic Standard and Times, has been named a monsignor by Pope Paul VI.

Mgr. Francis X. Keul, who was ordained in 1948, has served as editor of the newspaper since June, 1967.

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