

AROUND THE WORLD



Prelate Abandons Civil Posts

Madrid — (NC) — A Spanish archbishop who might one day have been at the top of the government has resigned his principal civil posts.

Archbishop Casimiro Morcillo Gonzalez of Madrid had been a member of the three-man Regency Council set up to rule if the chief of state became disabled or died without a successor.

The prelate withdrew also from parliament and from the Kingdom's Advisory Council. There had been strong pressure from Catholics for him to do this since his election in February as chairman of the Spanish Bishops' Conference.

The trend within the Spanish church is toward disengagement from its alliance with the government. Archbishop Morcillo resigned shortly after General Franco's regime ended its "state of exception," a two-month suspension of civil liberties imposed in the name of combatting subversion.

Cardinal's Life Rewarded

Montreal, Que. — (NC) — Paul-Emile Cardinal Leger, who 18 months ago left here to work with lepers in Africa, has been named for the \$50,000 Royal Bank of Canada Award "for a life of devotion to the common man."

The award was established by the bank in 1967 to mark the celebration of the centennial of the Canadian Confederation.

Informed by cable of his selection, the cardinal replied from the Cameroons: "I am happy to accept this honor, and will be pleased to visit Canada in the fall to attend the presentation."

The award announcement said, in part: "His works on behalf of the poor and down-trodden are a measure of the man's unselfishness and have given him a place of eminence and honor not only in the eyes of all Canadians, but also to all peoples throughout the world."

Cardinal Leger, 64, is a native of Valleyfield, Que.

Horse Racing and Church Schools

Salem, Ore. — (RNS) — A bill that would add 10 days to the racing season and give the additional state income to parochial and private schools has been filed in the Oregon legislature.

Father Emmett Harrington, superintendent of schools in the Portland archdiocese (western Oregon), told the Senate Education committee, "because we are performing a public service, we are asking the state for assistance."

State Sen. Victor Atiyeh estimated that help from the fund would mean about \$3.12 a child a year — if all non-public schools accepted the funds.

Should we go for this approach, or should we be even bolder?" he asked. Father Harrington replied that the committee knew best.

Opposition was expressed by Elder Harold Peckham, spokesman for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which operates both high schools and grade schools in Oregon.

Peace Group Raps Nixon Vietnam Stand

New York — (RNS) — The U.S. is still on the same "bloodied and blundering course in Vietnam" that it was on a year ago, the interreligious Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam said here, the group's first broadside against the Nixon Administration.

A moratorium on criticism of the government's Vietnam policy was called by the 25,000-member organization after the Presidential election and during the first months of Mr. Nixon's term.

The five co-chairmen of Clergy and Laymen Concerned are: Dr. John C. Bennett, president of New York Union Theological Seminary; Rabbi Abraham J. Heschel, professor at Jewish Theological Seminary; Mrs. Coretta Scott King; Philip Scharper, vice president of Sheed & Ward, publishers, and Auxiliary Bishop James P. Shannon of St. Paul-Minneapolis, Minn.

The renewed criticism took the form of an Easter-Passover statement which was sent to President Nixon and addressed to the nation.

Quoting the President as saying "there is no substitute for days and even years of patient and prolonged diplomacy," the statement asked, "must we be patient about the killing" of 2,500 Americans in Vietnam since the inauguration? During that time, it said, 5,000 U.S. troops were wounded and 9,000 Vietnamese were killed.

Saigon's Thieu-Ky regime was called "the chief barrier to a peaceful settlement. This corrupt and dictatorial clique is alone in standing to benefit from continued war. With the coming of peace, the present regime would be stripped of power, prestige and profits. It is therefore determined that peace must not come."

Army Limits Chaplains on 'Religious Connotations'

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — The U.S. Army has deleted all passages "with religious connotations" from materials used in its Character Guidance Program.

It has also advised chaplains who generally conduct the programs "not to use the mandatory 'character guidance' sessions for religious purposes."

The change, which was ordered last year, did not, however, declare that chaplains could not conduct the Character Guidance Program, and it does not infringe upon the chaplains' right and duty to give spiritual guidance to those who come to them voluntarily.

The new policy was prompted by a complaint last year from the American Civil Liberties Union that religious references in the Character Guidance Program manuals violated the separation of church and state.

Among the passages objected to were the following:

- That soldiers should do their jobs well "not for reward but simply because it is obviously the will of God."
- That the Character Guidance Program is based on a philosophy of American freedom which "regards man as a creature of God."
- That "every soldier is re-

sponsible and accountable to his Creator for the way he performs his civic and military duty for the maintaining of his own and his nation's honor, and for the quality of service he renders to his country as a soldier."

Disclosure of the change brought immediate reaction favorable from two religious leaders, and critical from an Indiana congressman.

Dr. Sterling W. Brown, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, stressed that he "would not like for my country to have an army of godlessness."

"However," he continued, "I

consider the Army directive to be constitutionally sound and in line with the democratic principle of religious freedom. The prestige and other resources of the government should not be used for sectarian purposes or for atheism, for that matter."

Rep. W.G. Bray, R-Ind., however, said he would ask the Army to explain the reasoning behind its decision. "I cannot remotely understand what anyone finds offensive in this concept," he said of the language used in the training manuals.

"The term Creator means many things to many people, and all but a very tiny minority, no matter what their faith, do acknowledge a 'Creator' in some form."

An army attorney said the materials would be revised to eliminate passages "with religious connotations" and that control procedures would be revised "to assure that materials prepared in the future will be reviewed in a manner which would prevent the problem from recurring."

The letter concluded: "The chaplain has an entirely proper role in dealing with the religious problems of those who come to him of their own volition for religious counseling and guidance, but it is quite important that he separate that role from the one involved in the Character Guidance Program."



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Vatican City — Paul VI has been named after his The Development (Populorum Pro) order to foster 1 ment of Latin A

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Rome — (NC) — dents and prof North American their new rector, A. Hickey, walke grimace for pea streets of Rome Holy Week.

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