

Church in Poland: 1945: 8,500 Priests 1969: 11,200 Priests

Bonn, Germany — (NC) — The Church in Poland has grown considerably since 1945, according to a release of the government-controlled Polish press agency (PAP).

There are now more than 13,200 churches and chapels in Poland, while in 1937 there were only 7,257, PAP said. In 1945, there were 8,500 diocesan priests, today there are about 11,200, and the number of Religious priests has increased from 16,800 in 1937 to over 28,000 at present, the agency reported.

The Catholic Church runs a university in Lublin, and more than 48 seminaries attended by about 4,000 students, it added.

In June, however, Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński of Warsaw claimed that the Polish

government discriminates against Catholics by impeding Church-building.

He said that many Polish parishes have their churches in barracks or tents or in the open, even in bad weather. He also denounced the ban on religion teaching in the public schools, in effect since 1961.

After this statement of Cardinal Wyszyński, the bishops of Poland issued a communique stating that Poland's communist regime continues to impede religious freedom.

The bishops stated that "we Catholics have no independent Catholic daily newspaper and we have only three weeklies." They added that "censorship puts great restrictions on our chances of publishing."

Court Extends St. Louis Ban

St. Louis — (NC) — U.S. District Judge James H. Meredith has extended for 10 weeks a temporary court order barring ACTION and the Black Liberation Front — local civil rights militants groups — from entering and disrupting worship services at the St. Louis cathedral.

After a full day of testimony regarding ACTION's disruptive demonstrations on several successive Sundays at the cathedral, Judge Meredith declared "the court finds no moral or legal justification for these events."

The court order was originally granted by Meredith two weeks ago at the request of Joseph Cardinal Carberry of St. Louis, cathedral rector Msgr. Rowland E. Gannon, and 19 named cathedral parishioners.

Rather than ruling on a permanent injunction, the judge extended the temporary injunction until Oct. 1, during which time both sides should suggest new findings of fact and law. After two subsequent exchanges of statements from both parties, the court would issue further conclusions, Meredith said.

Britons Swaying on Abortion

London — (NC) — House of Commons rejection of the move led by Catholic Norman St. John-Stevens to curb the unrestricted freedom granted to doctors under the controversial Abortion Act, reflects the growing concern of all parties with the law.

Commons voted 210 to 199 to defeat St. John-Stevens' amendment.

St. John-Stevens said he was "immensely encouraged" by the "remarkable" shift of opinion in the Commons, only 29 of whose members had voted against the original Abortion Bill when presented for its crucial second reading in 1967.

"It shows that the anxiety in the country over the working of the act is now being reflected in the House," he added.

The Labor party government has favored the Abortion Act, allowing it exceptional parliamentary priority in its long process onto the statute book after it was introduced privately by a member of the opposing Liberal party, David Steel. But a gen-

eral election is due here within the next 18 months and the government has to play its cards carefully.

St. John-Stevens' bill would have insured that of the two doctors who, under the present law, can certify an abortion one would be a consultant gynecologist holding office in the National Health Services and the operation would have to be performed under his supervision.

Because the number of gynecologists is limited in some parts of the country, doctors of equivalent status should be given approval to act in the same way, he proposed. This, he said, would end most of the racketeering he said is now going on.

St. John-Stevens said that as a Catholic he has strong views

on the morality of abortion, but that he feels it would be wrong to impose these views on other people. Although the community does not want a total ban on abortion, neither does it want abortion on demand, as is possible under the present Abortion Act.

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'A New Sin'

South African Law Assailed

Cape Town — (RNS) — By introducing its Immorality Act preventing sexual relations between people of different races, the South African government has "invented a new sin," the Rev. D. D. Adendorff told the Cape Methodist Synod here.

He said convictions and jail sentences meted out under the law had brought the courts and police into disrepute.

The black delegate complained that where couples are convicted under the Immorality Act, the white party always seemed to receive a lighter sentence than the non-white.

churches to keep politics out of the pulpits.

"Is the state a higher authority than God?" he asked. "It seems they want us to say nothing about sins in high places. We must stick to things like adultery, theft, etc., but leave other moral issues alone."

"Apparently the state has taken over the question of morality — such as who should or should not worship together. It is about time the churches told the state it should keep the church off its political platforms."

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The Rev. Don Morton told the Synod that the law was "part of a sick philosophy and a sick society."

Delegates to the Methodist Synod reaffirmed their opposition to a law which placed "the principle of morality purely on the color of a man's skin."

The government of South Africa was requested to review "this cruel act." Mr. Adendorff also attacked the government for urging the

WORLD TOUR
Rome — (RNS) — Father Pedro Arrupe, general of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), has completed his tour of Jesuit establishments throughout the world.
On his return from Latin America it was announced that Father Arrupe will evaluate his findings in an effort to bring Jesuit operations into line with Church renewal.

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