

Paisley Seeks Irish Votes

The Rev. Ian Paisley, leader of Northern Ireland's militant anti-Catholic contingent, is given at least an "even chance" of winning a seat in that nation's Parliament, according to the Christian Times, published in London.

The paper observed that such a victory would give the controversial head of the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster a national platform for his radical views. Mr. Paisley, running in a by-election in Bannside, is basing his appeal on "law and order," a phrase which in Bannside has much the same understanding as in Alabama, the paper said.

Nuclear Force Idea Rejected

Cardinal Bernard Alfrink of Utrecht, speaking as president of the Dutch branch of Pax Christi, international Catholic peace movement, said that the idea of a Western European nuclear force "is not easy to reconcile with a policy that aims at non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, cooperation between East and West and a detente."

TV Extends Graham Crusade

Europe's largest evangelism campaign in modern times, the Billy Graham Crusade at Dortmund, West Germany, ended here as it began—with a jam-packed arena of 15,000 persons hearing the American evangelist's message. Meanwhile, in 35 European centers, many thousands more heard his talk over closed-circuit television.

Organizers said of the television crusade that the number of "decisions for Christ" was about the same as that recorded when applicants had seen Mr. Graham in person.

Jews Decry 'Martyr' Cults

The Spanish Jewish Society has requested Archbishop Pedro Cantero of Saragossa to abolish local cults of two Spanish "saints" who, in the Middle Ages, allegedly were "victims of ritual crimes" unjustly attributed to Jews. A letter to the archbishop, who is president of the Spanish Bishops' Committee on Ecumenism, said the survival of such cults had "sometimes given rise to states of mind and collective movements directed against Jewish people."

Roman Catholic scholars point out that the charges, made in the Middle Ages, are entirely without foundation, as there is no place in Jewish liturgy for blood sacrifices of this kind.

Israel Grants Church Status

The Israeli government has decided to grant "The Evangelical Episcopal Church in Israel" official status as a recognized community.

This is the first addition in Israel to the Christian communities recognized during the British mandate, namely, Eastern Orthodox, Latin Catholic, Gregorian, Armenian, Syrian and Chaldean Catholic, and the Greek Catholic and Maronite and Syrian Orthodox communities. The mandate government did not even recognize Anglicans, out of fear that it might be charged with favoritism towards the established Church of England.

Father Ferrer Said Married

Bombay—(RNS)—All India Radio reported that the internationally famous Spanish Jesuit missionary, Father Vincent Ferrer, 49, has left the priesthood and married his English secretary, Miss Ann Perry, 32.

Father Ferrer, ordained 12 years ago in India, told newsmen that he had given up his priesthood "to serve Indian peasants better." He was quoted as saying he left the priesthood officially on March 30.

At that time, the government ordered Father Ferrer to leave the state—where he had worked since 1958, helping farmers and running schools — on charges of converting Indians to Christianity by unethical means.

However, the government allowed his return to Andhra, after peasants and others staged strong protests on his behalf.

The radio report said that Father Ferrer expressed the hope of devoting more time to the "economically backward Anantapur district," now that he was "free of the strings of the priesthood."

Mandatory ROTC Dropped at Bona

Olean—(NC)—Officials at St. Bonaventure University here have dropped the school's mandatory Reserve Officers' Training program in favor of voluntary ROTC participation.

University President Father Reginald Redlon, O.F.M., announced the change as a result of recommendations submitted by the school's board of instruction.

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