



Israel's Aniversary

Israeli President Zalman Shazar and Prime Minister Golda Meir toast Israel's 22nd anniversary. (RNS)

Jesuit Survey Criticizes Missionaries in India

New Delhi — (RNS) — India's Jesuits have been criticized for serving the richer classes in an official report compiled here by a national Jesuit team.

It declared, "Jesuits have been moving with the middle and upper classes. They should come down to the level of ordinary folk."

The report — framed from findings of the first national survey of Jesuit activities in this country — will be studied in depth at a conference of Indian Jesuits at Bangalore in June. The survey was undertaken as part of a global investigation of Jesuit activities which was voted at a world conference of Jesuits in Rome five years ago.

The 75,000-word document calls for evolution of a "Jesuit pastoral policy," clearly oriented and concretely planned, "a pastoral ideal" that Jesuit young men can aspire to.

In the past, Jesuit work in India has been largely in the educational field — colleges and high school predominantly.

However, there was no general agreement that the highest priority should continue to be given to educational work. There is a tendency to place less emphasis on educational institutions "than we have done in the past," the report declared.

In introducing the report, the

Pa. Governor Urges Cutback In School Aid

Harrisburg, Pa.—(RNS) — A sharp cutback in state aid to education, including parochial schools, was proposed by Gov. Raymond P. Shafer in his 1970-71 budget proposals to the General Assembly.

He cited a lack of state revenue and the unwillingness of the Legislature to provide additional funds. The purchase of educational service program, under which Roman Catholic parochial schools and other private institutions would have been slated to receive \$30 million, was pared to \$18 million by the governor.

This amount represents approximately the same sum approved for the current year.

Courier-Journal

Jesuit General, Father Peter Arrupe, said in a letter to Indian Jesuits that the society must cooperate to free the Indian people from their burden of poverty and illiteracy, but at the same time and primarily it must strive to preserve their freedom and the sense of true spiritual values.

The challenge of India's poverty requires changes in both attitudes and structures, Father Arrupe declared.

The report declared that Indian Jesuits are mostly concerned with the intellectual and professional classes, and to a lesser extent with the leisured classes, but only slightly with the working poor.

"Our schools are schools for the rich; we cannot or do not make provision for the poorer classes of society (the lower middle classes; the working classes are quite another matter)."

"... Jesuits generally agree with the charge made against us by others that we favor the

well-to-do upper classes to the neglect of the poor.

"The most common explanation of this bias seems to be that traditionally the society has worked for the elite."

Of India's ecumenical movement, the report says that Jesuits lack a "province policy" on ecumenism and do not seem to be very active in the field.

There is no doubt, says the report, that notwithstanding their "small and possibly dwindling numbers," Protestants in India are doing much for the cause of Christ. Congregational churches in the past, it added, have contributed much to the advancement of the Indian people in many fields by their excellent institutions and programs.

The report also declares that while Jesuit citizens in India should avoid any direct political activities such as electioneering, joining parties, standing for office, they should know what the various political parties are and should vote intelligently.

NCCB Sessions To Be Open

Baltimore, Md. — (NC) — Cardinal Lawrence Shehan of Baltimore predicted here that in the not-too-distant future some sessions of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) may be open to the press.

Writing in the May 1 issue of the Baltimore Review, the archdiocesan newspaper, Cardinal Shehan noted that at their recent meeting in San Francisco the American bishops fell one vote short of approving a motion permitting press coverage

of their sessions. A two-thirds vote was required for passage.

"The vote," Cardinal Shehan wrote, "showed... that the overwhelming majority of bishops actually favor a change in procedure which will permit the press and other groups to be present for certain meetings of the conference of bishops."

"While it is true that the next meeting of the bishops will be closed, the vote seems to me to indicate clearly that a change will be made in the not-distant future."

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