

Thesis Explores Church News

Paris — (NC) — A priest-journalist has charged that the Church encourages news coverage of its activities only when reports are favorable to official viewpoints.

The charge was made in a doctoral thesis at the University of Paris by a Spanish Jesuit, Father Antonio G. Molina, professor of journalism at Sophia University in Tokyo. Information, Father Molina's thesis said, always troubles authority. Knowledge, he claimed, limits the power of those governing and their capacity to control the attitudes of the governed.

The Church demands, he said, that newsmen report about it with the respect that is owed to the sacred character of its institution, and it believes that it is capable of judging and solving any earthly situation by means of its revealed knowledge. As long as this medieval concept persists it will be impossible to understand the real function of the means of social communication, Father Molina concluded.

Church Schools and the Poor

Quito Ecuador —(NC)— Scholarships must be given to 10 poverty-stricken pupils for every 100 students now enrolled in private schools, according to a government decree.

In a move toward making private school education more accessible to the less fortunate, the country's Conference of Catholic Education approved a resolution that calls for the abolishment of "luxuries and frill such as class rings, caps and gowns; graduation fees, trips outside the country, and expensive social functions."

The Conference also called for an end to "First Communion parties, which detract from the Christian spirit of the event, and any other unnecessary expenses that (economically) harm the poor.



Archbishop Helder Camara of Brazil charges the Brazilian government with torture of its political enemies. He addressed the press in Paris. (RNS Photo)

USCC Group Sees 'Terror' in Brazil

Washington — (NC) — The military government of Brazil is pursuing a "campaign of terror against the Catholic Church," nine U.S. Catholic leaders declared in a statement issued here.

They asked that charges of terror and torture be investigated by the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

Bishop Edward E. Swannstrom, executive director of Catholic Relief Services in New York, and four other bishops were among the signers of the statement. All of the signers are members of the U.S. Catholic Conference's committee for international affairs, which Bishop Swannstrom heads.

Issued on the first anniversary of the brutal murder of a Brazilian priest, Father Henrique Pereira Neto of Recife, the statement said that Father Neto's only crime was "an active concern for social justice and the liberation of men."

Father Neto was a close friend of Archbishop Helder Camara of Olinda Recife and his vicar for youth affairs. The progressive priest was a friend of many student leads who were highly critical of Brazil's military regime.

Father Neto was beaten, shot and hanged from a tree on the campus of Recife University.

The chief suspect is a rightist terrorist organization called

the Anti-Communist Hunt Commandos, whose members include ultraconservative elements in the armed forces. That organization has said it considers progressive priests more dangerous than communists themselves.

Father Neto's death, the statement asserted, was no isolated instance, but "a part of a wider picture of systematic terror. The crippling of a Catholic student leader, the imprisonment and beating of others, including nuns and priests, the deportation of North American and European missionaries, the baseless accusations brought against several Brazilian bishops, even the attempted suicide of a tortured Dominican friar — these are 'instances' which add up to a campaign of terror against the Catholic Church."

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