

Pope to Stress Commitment to Third World

By FR. ROBERT A. GRAHAM,
Special Correspondent

Vatican City—(RNS)—When the Pope makes a public speech to his own staff you can look for good clues to papal intentions. And the talk of Paul VI a few days before Christmas to the cardinals and other Vatican officials produced a rich harvest of hard core data.

Never in the whole year does the pontiff face a more knowledgeable and critical audience than when he talks to the Roman Curia. It would be wrong to say they are exactly "hardboiled" but they are realistic.

An Analysis

Though models of loyalty and obedience, they are not "yes" men. There is a public opinion in the Roman Curia, too, and it isn't necessarily always the same as the Pope's.

The papal address was therefore both an explanation of the

past and a glimpse into his plans for the future. He explained his recent tour of the Far East in terms of the subsidiarity and collegiality fostered by the Vatican Council, culminating as it did in the episcopal conferences in Manila and Sydney. He then turned to immediate problems.

For Italians, the biggest news-making item was his protest against the divorce legislation enacted during his absence. He expressed his "bitterness" over what he described as the moral damage thereby brought to the Italian people, not to speak of its open violation of the 1929 Concordat.

As often is the case, the papal allusions—it was learned immediately—were accompanied by official protests against the unilateral action of the Italian Parliament. No one knows yet just how far the Pope intends to push his complaint. For the moment there seems no sign of an approaching "religious war" on the issue.

Of much more general interest is the now clear determination of Pope Paul to push even more aggressively his program of material and spiritual aid to the Third World.

His description of the Far East tour, served as a natural prelude to his announcement that the next General Synod of Bishops which he said would meet on Sept. 30, 1971, would include the theme "Justice in the World."

He intends to bring the bishops of the West face to face with their duties of collegiality towards fellow bishops in the developing areas. There is a question, he said, that presents itself to the ancient Christian Communities of the West, "Are they sufficiently aware how much the other Christian communities in the world expect from them, with anxiety and hope, especially in the problems cited by our encyclical, 'Progress of Peoples,' towards integral development in their faith and in full participation

in the goods of modern civilization?"

This means a new status for the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace which up to now has functioned more as a study group without the clear mandates that the Bishops' Synod might well confer on it.

Like the other post-conciliar agencies, such as the Secretariat for the Propagation of Christian Unity, it has had to fight for recognition within the Roman scene. A Canadian, Maurice Cardinal Roy of Quebec is president, while an American, Msgr. Joseph Gremillon of Alexandria, La., is secretary.

Thus there will be two major topics at the upcoming General Synod of Bishops. The question of the ministry of the priesthood is the other item.

In talking to the Curia, the Pope adverted to the "corrosive criticism towards the traditional and institutional Church" which, he said, is spreading from "not a few intellectual

centers in the West, not excluding America."

He said this criticism creates a psychology subversive of the certitude of faith and destructive of the organic structure of ecclesial charity. The Pope said that when he thinks with grief of the "statistics of voluntary defection of not a few priests and religious," as when he sees promising young lay persons adopt spiritual and social attitudes inconsistent with the charity and unity proper to the Church, he asks himself what it would be for the Church if these forces maintained their faithfulness and effectiveness.

Paul VI has spoken with alarm before about the protest movement within the Church among the youth and about the loss of both priestly and religious vocations.

But this is the first time that he linked the crisis to the vast enterprise that he intends to launch in the form of a new-style "peace corps."



Merry Christmas

Pope Paul shakes hands with Leo Cardinal Suenens at a formal exchange of Christmas Greetings in the Vatican. At left is Joseyf Cardinal Slipyj of the Ukraine, one of 38 cardinals who attended. (RNS)

Moscow

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Defense lawyers for the 11 accused in the airline hijacking plot made the appeal to the Soviet federal Supreme Court, amid pleas for clemency from around the world and even from within Russia itself. All the defendants were convicted of treason for planning to hijack a Soviet airliner.

Had their plea been rejected, the two condemned men, Mark Dymshits and Eduard Kuznetsov, could have made a plea to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian federation parliament.

The commutation of death sentences of six Basque nationalists in Spain reportedly put additional pressure on the Soviet court to act with leniency.

Hours before the sentences were commuted in Moscow, top Jewish leaders met with President Nixon in Washington, D.C., asking his help in "softening" the Soviet sentences. Other Jewish groups canvassed embassies and government agencies in the nation's capital.

The same delegation that met with President Nixon also conferred with Secretary of State William P. Rogers. It was headed by William A. Wexler, president of the 500,000-member B'nai B'rith and chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Courier-Journal

American Jewish demands for clemency also included a call for the release of those Jews who wish to emigrate from the Soviet Union. The demand was supported by spokesmen for religious, civic, labor and educational institutions and by prominent intellectuals.

Bayard Rustin, noted black civil rights leader, accused the Soviet Union of suppressing "Jewish cultural, educational and spiritual privileges."

Elsewhere, Pope Paul, in his weekly general audience, lumped "false legalities" and "certain judicial proceedings" among his litany of ills contributing to a world "assailed by the sickness of disorder."

"This is not peace," he said, "this is not civilization; this is not Christianity," obviously alluding to both the Basque and Leningrad trials.

PAPAL APPOINTMENT

Vatican City—(RNS)—Pope Paul VI has nominated Angelo Cardinal Rossi, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, as a member of the Council for the Public Affairs of the Church. Cardinal Rossi, before coming to Rochester, was Archbishop of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Madrid

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terms, are not affected by Gen. Franco's decision.

The six men saved from the firing squad were: Francisco Izco, 29, a printer's helper, found guilty of the actual killing of Mr. Manzanar; Eduardo Uriarte, 25, a university student; Joaquin Gorostidi, 26, a labor leader; Francisco Javier Larena, 25, a university student; Mario Onaida, 22, a bank employee; and Jose Maria Dorronsoro, 29, a former seminarian. The five were found guilty of having taken part in a meeting at which the police chief's death was planned and ordered.

All 15 defendants are admitted members of the Basque underground separatist organization, ETA (an acronym for "Basque Fatherland and Liberty.")

Many observers see Gen. Franco's decision as a response to pleas for clemency that poured in from all parts of Spain and most parts of the world—from friendly governments, bar associations, civil rights, labor and religious organizations, including the Vatican.

Federico Alessandrini, the Vatican press officer, said the Vatican had "noted with particular satisfaction" that Gen. Franco's decision to commute the death sentences "answers an appeal to the Spanish Head of State by the Holy Father."

Wednesday, January 6, 1971

Catholics, Jews Map Joint Attack on Bias

Rome—(RNS)—High-level representatives of world Judaism and the Roman Catholic Church agreed here to combine forces and talents to fight racial discrimination and to work together on questions of justice, peace, human rights and religious liberties.

In an unprecedented four-day meeting which included the participation of a delegate from Israel, Jewish and Catholic representatives outlined plans and procedures to improve relations between the two communities in all parts of the world, and "tighten their collaboration in fields of common interest."

The Vatican daily, L'Osservatore Romano, said the representatives considered the formulation of "mixed working groups" and "study commissions."

Participating were a delegation from the Vatican Secretariat for Christian Unity and a delegation from the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations.

The Jewish participants said they were "encouraged by the attitude of mutual respect and collaboration" put forward by the Second Vatican Council which, they noted, issued the declaration exonerating Jews from collective responsibility in the death of Christ.

Osservatore said that the meeting was opened by Jan Cardinal Willebrands, head of the Vatican unity secretariat. Joint chairmen for the sessions were Rabbi Henry Siegman of New York, vice president of the Synagogue Council of America, and Father Jerome Hamer, a Belgian who is secretary of the Vatican unity secretariat.

A special participant was Prof. R. J. Zwi Werblowsky, chairman of the Israel Jewish Council for Interreligious Contacts.

Other members of the Jewish delegation were Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum of New York, who heads the interreligious affairs department of the American Jewish Committee; Dr. Zachariah Shuster, European director of the American Jewish

Committee in Paris; Dr. Gerhart Riegner, secretary general of the World Jewish Congress in Geneva, and Dr. Fritz Becker, World Jewish Congress representative in Rome.

Catholic participants included Msgr. Joseph Gremillon, American-born secretary of Pontifical Commission on Justice and Peace; Prof. Roger Le Deaut of the Pontifical Biblical Institute; Msgr. John McCarthy, another American who is with the Vatican Congregation for Oriental Churches, and Father Cornelius Rijk, a Dutch priest in charge of the new Vatican office for Catholic-Jewish relations.

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COURIER-JOURNAL

Vol. 84 No. 15 January 6, 1971

Published Weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Single copy 15c; 1 year Subscription in U.S., \$6.00; Canada and South America, \$8.00; other foreign countries, \$9.50. Main Office: 35 Scio Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14604. Second class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.