



### Hurt

Tears rolling down her cheeks, a little East Pakistani girl is given an anti-cholera injection at a refugee center in Tripura, India. More than 6 million have fled from East Pakistan to India in the wake of civil hostilities and thousands have contracted cholera in the crowded refugee camps. Many church, private and governmental services organizations have rushed medicine, food and clothing to aid the refugees. (RNS)

## State Nonpublic School Aid To Be Challenged in Court

New York —(RNS)— A New York State law providing \$33 million in aid to nonpublic schools was challenged on constitutional grounds in a suit filed in U.S. District Court here by the Committee for Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL) and 14 individuals.

Scheduled to go into effect Sept. 1, the law was described in the suit as an unconstitutional violation of the First Amendment prohibition against excessive government entanglement with religion.

The suit also sought "a temporary and permanent injunction against the allocation and use of the funds" of the state "to finance operations of schools owned and controlled by religious organizations."

It asked the court to declare such use of public funds in violation of the First and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

State Controller Arthur Levitt and State Education Commissioner Ewald B. Nyquist were named as defendants. The plaintiff, PEARL, is a statewide coalition representing 30 civic, religious, education and labor groups opposed to public aid to nonpublic schools.

The suit was the first since the June 28 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that state funds could not be used for teacher salary payments or supplements in church-related schools of Pennsylvania and Rhode Island.

The new law, approved by Gov. Rockefeller in June, provides funds to nonpublic schools under a per pupil reimbursement plan, with special pay-

ments allowed for students in impoverished area.

The \$33 million will be added to the \$70 million now allocated annually to nonpublic schools for textbooks, bus service and record-keeping.

PEARL, which includes such groups as the American Jewish

Congress, the New York City Council of Churches and the State Congress of Parents and Teachers, filed a suit last year challenging the constitutionality of the \$28 million Mandated Services Act, authorizing the payment for record keeping in nonpublic schools. Court action is still awaited.

## Rabbis Assail AJC

New York (RNS) — The presidents of two Orthodox Jewish organizations have charged the American Jewish Congress with being a leading force in a "negative" campaign which they said would seriously weaken the Jewish educational system in America.

The congress protested the charges.

Rabbi Bernard L. Berzon, of the Rabbinical Council of America and Rabbi Bernard Bergman of the National Council for Torah Education referred to the recent announcement that the congress and the American Civil Liberties Union would sponsor court suits in six states to halt public aid to parochial schools.

The American Jewish Congress, however, declared that the rabbis' charges were "shocking and untrue" and insisted that "we believe deeply in Jewish education."

In a statement, Rabbi Berzon noted that the financial support for the congress "comes from all segments of the Jewish community who assume that the Congress is engaged in working in behalf of the well-being

of the entire Jewish community."

"Instead, it finds the American Jewish Congress in the forefront of those who would destroy the entire Jewish educational system, which has been the main factor in Jewish survival," Rabbi Berzon said.

Rabbi Bergman said that "in the past, the American Jewish Congress has rendered magnificent service in the field of Jewish civil rights, but today the congress is pursuing a negative policy that is harmful to Jewish education in America."

In his response, Howard M. Squadron, co-chairman of the American Jewish Congress national governing council, asserted that the two rabbis represented only the view of a "small but vocal minority in American Jewish life."

Squadron explained that the congress' position was based on the principle that "Jewish survival in America has been the product not only of Jewish education but of the protections against the establishment of religion" and for the "free exercise of religion" in the First Amendment.

## Church's Chances in China

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tween the Catholic Church and Peking appear slim at this time, most observers agree.

References made by Bishop Walsh, at a press conference in Rome, to signs of an "excellent spirit" by Peking towards the Catholic Church, appear to have been exaggerated and taken from context.

And the rumor that an "underground church" exists in China seems to rest solely on reports by an Australian journalist, Francis James, who said thousands of Christians are worshipping privately while living as loyal Chinese citizens throughout China.

At the same time, Catholic

churchmen in Hong Kong have discounted reports that missionary leaders have begun planning an eventual return of Christianity to China.

Citing China's own statements with respect to the Christian Churches, they disagree with what in Rome was reportedly called "a possible opening in a reputedly inaccessible country."

It must be remembered, they say, that an entire generation of young people in China, have grown up since the Christian Churches ceased to function and most have no knowledge of Christianity whatsoever.

Yet Pope Paul, in what has been interpreted as a possible call for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the

Vatican and Peking, has repeatedly emphasized the Catholic Church's long-standing concern "for the honor and prosperity of that immense nation that the Church has never stopped loving."

## 'One Heart'

### Pope Centralizes Charity Work

Vatican City — (RNS) — A new pontifical council, "Cor Unum" (One Heart) has been established by Pope Paul VI to coordinate all development and charitable agencies in the Catholic Church, charitable aid and the development of peoples."

## Mission Appeal

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bama, run by nine Sisters of St. Joseph; and "secular mission apostolates" in Wayne, Steuben, Tioga, Yates and Seneca counties.

The annual collection raised nearly \$106,000 in 1970 and \$107,000 in 1969.

General needs for the funds are: total support of the rectories and convents in the Latin American stations and partial subsidy of the Alabama and rural New York apostolates; also travel expenses of the missionaries, their training costs, insurance and medical care, and the operation of free medical and dental clinics for their people.

The complete tabulation of the parish contributions to the Mission Appeal will be printed in next week's Courier-Journal.

The announcement was contained in a letter sent by the Pope to Jean Cardinal Villot, secretary of state, who has been appointed president of the council.

The pontiff said that the council was being inaugurated to link more closely "all the energies and initiatives aimed at human progress" that flourish in the Church.

After recalling that there are many Catholic Church organizations throughout the world that "devote themselves to helping mankind," the Pope went on to say, "It is clear to all how very fitting it is that these admirable undertakings should more and more harmonize with one another.

"It is likewise clear that these organizations by organic cooperation, can be more effective in reaching goals in the field of

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