

New Political Structure Advocated by Cardinal

Rome (RNS) — Cardinal William Conway, archbishop of Armagh, Northern Ireland, and Roman Catholic primate of Ireland, has called for a new political structure in Ulster that would enable "all political parties" to participate in the government of the British province.

In an interview published in the Rome English-language newspaper, The Daily American, the cardinal said that the principle of (Protestant) majority rule "as applied to Ulster" meant, in practice, that the (Catholic) minority was "permanently excluded from government."

"This," he added, "was an unhealthy and unstable situation."

The Irish Primate called for "community government, a government in which all political parties would participate in proportion to the number of their elected representatives."

"If reasonable stability and harmony could be achieved in this way," he said, "one could safely leave the problem of a united Ireland to history."

Cardinal Conway described Britain's imposition of direct rule in Northern Ireland as "a positive step," saying that political life in Northern Ireland had become "inflexible," and that a "break in the continuity" was desirable.

In response to a question, the prelate said it would be "too simple" to suggest that the British government's Ulster initiatives resulted from Irish Republican Army (IRA) violence.

"The (British) decision was a response to a deep-seated distrust among a large section of the Ulster population of existing political arrangements and of some methods used to combat violence."

Vatican Researchers Confirm Early Tomb

Vatican City — (RNS) — The Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archeology has announced that it has positively confirmed a long-standing tradition identifying the tomb of St. Callistus I, a third century Pope, in the catacombs north of Rome on the Via Aurelia.

The announcement confirms the belief that St. Callistus was not buried in the catacomb on the Appian Way that bears his name.

The burial site, according to the announcement, is the second oldest papal tomb identified to date, pre-dated by what the Vatican has identified as the tomb of St. Peter under the Basilica that bears his name.

St. Callistus, the 14th Pope after St. Peter, had a curious history, according to Roman Catholic hagiographers.

He was the slave of a Christian master in Rome who, probably in consideration of his slave's talent for finance and organization, placed him in charge of a bank. Though there is ambiguity about the events, Callistus became involved in financial operations and disturbances which led to his being sentenced to hard labor in the Sardinian mines.

When Marcia, mistress of the Emperor Commodus, obtained his release, along with that of other prisoners, Callistus returned to Rome. Pope Victor I emancipated him from slavery.

Victor's successor, St. Zephyrinus, made Callistus his archdeacon and put him in charge of the Christian cemetery on the Appian Way which still bears his name. He proved himself a capable administrator, and in 217 was chosen to succeed St. Zephyrinus as pope.

The choice was strongly opposed by a rigorist party, including St. Hippolytus, the most im-

Church Not Tied To Political Party, Declares Pope Paul

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI told members of the European Union of Christian Democrats that the Catholic Church is not bound to any one political system or to any one political party.

During an audience, the pontiff told Christian Democrats that the activities they pursued "within political formations" and "from a human and Christian perspective" must find their source of inspiration and guidance in a political and administrative expertise "inseparably" aligned with "the moral judgment of your conscience."

"The Church, for her part," he said, "is not called upon to guarantee this or that program, or the adoption of this or that technical measure. But she places at the service of citizens and politicians — before their consciences — a certain number of criteria which she considers to be indispensable for the realization of just and fruitful and lasting policies favorable for the full development of persons and communities."

Hanoi Drive May Prolong War, Vatican Weekly Says

Rome (RNS) — Vatican City's weekly magazine warned editorially here that the Communist offensive in Vietnam could force the United States to halt its removal of troops from the war zone and lead to escalation of the fighting.

The editorial, written by Federico Alessandrini, a member of the staff of L'Osservatore Della Domenica and the official Vatican press spokesman, said:

"Everyone knows that the United States has long expressed the intention — and more than the bare intention — to abandon Vietnam and perhaps all of Southeast Asia."

He noted that the withdrawal of American troops was already well under way and was proceeding "at a remarkable pace."

However, he said, by stepping up the war, the Communists are

going to try to "drive out" the American presence there.

He noted that the present Communist offensive from the North is slowing down the withdrawal of American troops from Indo-China.

"It may halt it and even perhaps reverse the trend, retaining U.S. forces in Vietnam and even increasing their numbers."

"Hanoi, or rather the Soviet Union, does not want the tragedy to end," the Vatican aide said.

PAPAL CONDOLENCES

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI has cabled the Shah of Iran, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, to express "profound grief" at the devastating earthquake which struck southern Iran on April 10. Unofficial reports from the ancient town of Shiraz, some 100 miles northwest of the quake center, put the death toll at 2,000 to 4,000.

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