

Vatican Makes Changes In Polish Church Structure

Vatican City — (RNS) — The Vatican has acknowledged Communist Poland's control over 40,000 square miles of pre-World War II Germany by naming Polish residential bishops to the area which the Vatican had previously listed as nominally German.

The territory was ceded to Poland under the Postdam Agreement of 1945, pending a settlement. The new lands, up to the Oder-Neisse River line, were intended as compensation for 70,000 square miles of eastern Poland taken by the Soviet Union.

The Polish Roman Catholic hierarchy and the Polish government have long pressured the Vatican to re-draw diocesan lines in the territory to conform with

Pope Paul:

Peace No 'Day Dream'

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul said he is "not a day dreamer" simply because he has not given up on his hope that the world will one day be free of violence and war.

The pontiff lamented the growing feeling that "peace is impossible and that only strong-armed methods can maintain a temporary and false truce."

The spiritual leader of the world's more than 622 million Catholics made the remarks Sunday, July 2, from his apartment window to thousands of men, women and children who gathered in St. Peter's Square below for his noon blessing.

'Enough,' Says Pope On Viet War

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul has called on the parties to the Paris peace talks on Vietnam to show "courage for peace," and bring an immediate end to an "intolerable and bloody conflict."

Addressing pilgrims and Romans in St. Peter's Square on July 9, the Pope referred to what he called "a new spiral of hope," which, he said, had opened up with the announcement — "not without accents of goodwill" — that peace negotiations were resuming in Paris.

The hope is, he explained, that the Paris talks would finally achieve a solution to the "intolerable and bloody conflict" in Indo-China.

"You who are responsible for the fate of those areas," urged the pontiff, "give proof of wisdom and magnanimity capable of putting human life and dignity above any other interest."

"We are echoing the cries of so many innocent victims," Pope Paul said. "We make ours the voice of a population exhausted by slaughter and ruination. We raise the cry of civilized humanity — believing in that justice and love which must hold first place in relations between men and nations — to entreat those who can and must discuss and decide — enough!"

The pontiff said he espoused the hopes expressed in the final declaration of the 1954 Geneva conference on Indo-China, that called for free elections in Vietnam. He cited the declaration's operative provision:

"The settlement of political problems effected on the basis of respect for the principles of independence, unity and territorial integrity, shall permit the Vietnamese peoples to enjoy the fundamental freedoms, guaranteed by democratic institutions, established as a result of free general elections by secret ballot."

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post-war "realities" so that bishops could function normally as "ordinaries," i.e., permanent resident bishops of officially designated Polish dioceses, rather than as "apostolic administrators" of nominally German dioceses.

However, the Vatican refused to accede to Polish demands, on the ground that it could not do so unless and until the territorial changes were ratified by international treaty.

The Vatican has been sensitive to its 1933 Concordat with Germany and to German sentiment. Some 8 million Germans, mainly Protestants, left the Oder-Neisse regions at the end of WW II. This constitutes an area which many of them still consider their home. (The millions who left

were replaced by 9 million Poles, mostly Catholics, who left the Polish territory that was taken over by the Soviet Union.)

When West Germany gave parliamentary approval in May to a Bonn-Warsaw treaty recognizing the pre-war German lands as Polish, the way was cleared for the Vatican to acknowledge the area as Polish.

Following are the changes announced by the Vatican:

A new Diocese of Opole has been erected, with territory detached from the Archdiocese of Wroclaw (Breslau), and becomes a suffragan of the Wroclaw archdiocese.

A new Diocese of Gorzow has been erected, with territory detached from the Archdiocese of Wroclaw, the Diocese of Berlin, the Prelature of Schneidemuehl (Polish, Pila). Gorzow likewise becomes a suffragan of Wroclaw.

A new Diocese of Szczecin-Kamien (Szczecin, the former German Stettin) has been erected, with territory detached from the Diocese of Berlin, making it a suffragan of the Archdiocese of Gniezno (German, Gnesen).

A new Diocese of Koszalin-Kolobrzeg has been erected, with territory detached from the Diocese of Berlin and from the remaining part of Schneidemuehl, making it, too, a suffragan of the Archdiocese of Gniezno.

At the same time, it was announced that the existing Diocese of Gdansk (Danzig) would become a suffragan of the Gniezno archdiocese, and that Warmia (Ermland), would become a suffragan of the Gniezno archdiocese of Warsaw.

The German Diocese of Berlin falls under the direct control of the Holy See in the new arrangement. And a new Apostolic Administration of Goerlitz in West Germany has been erected, with territory detached from the Wroclaw archdiocese.

In Munich Cardinal Julius Döpfner of Munich and Freising said that the German Catholic Bishops' Conference accepted and "respected" Pope Paul's decision on the "ecclesiastical reorganization" of territories acquired by Poland from Germany at the close of World War II.

Rogers Sees Pontiff on Viet War

Rome (RNS) — The U.S. secretary of state confirmed here that the Vatican has been actively seeking ways to bring about an exchange of prisoners of war between American and North Vietnamese forces.

Lodge Sees No Need for Ambassador

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge said here that although his relations with the Vatican as President Nixon's "personal visitor" have been useful, there is no need for a permanent U.S. ambassador there.

The envoy's comment came in reply to a question by a newsmen during a press briefing here. Lodge met with newsmen in the White House after a consultation with President Nixon and aides on a future visit to the Vatican. It will be the ambassador's eighth in two years.

William Rogers, at a news conference following a 90-minute talk with Pope Paul, said that the Holy See has made what he termed "several attempts, directly and indirectly, to see if there is some way prisoners could be exchanged."

A little more than a year ago during their first meeting, Rogers had asked Pope Paul to use his good offices to try to bring about some softening of the Hanoi stand and a possible swap of prisoners.

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