

# Covert Document Claimed To Show Bolivian Injustices

Secret arrests, propaganda, spying and deportation of foreign clergy, with the help of the CIA, are all part of the plan to be used against progressive elements of the Catholic Church in Bolivia by the Bolivian government, according to a document allegedly used to instruct police agencies.

The Rochester diocese long has been involved in Bolivia; several priests and laymen helped develop San Jose Obrero Parish in LaPaz, the capital city. Archbishop Jorge Manrique, one of the persons attacked in the document, worked with diocesan personnel and has visited Rochester.

Many Religious in Bolivia and other Latin and South American countries are working to improve the living conditions of the people in addition to performing their religious duties. Often, this means a change in government policy; efforts toward that change have caused friction between the government and those advocating the change.

The document has circulated among Church people in Bolivia, and is said to have come from a person in the Bolivian government who, disagrees with the policy. It has been reprinted by services that provide documentation of activities in Latin and South America. One such service, Latinamerica Press, lists 15 points outlining the activities the police are to use.

Some of the points:

"1. Only the Church's progressive sector is to be attacked, not the Church as an institution or the bishops as a group. In the government's view, the principal representative of the progressive sector is Archbishop Manrique (LaPaz). The attacks against him should be personal."

"3. Certain religious orders should be closely watched, e.g., Dominicans, Oblates, Jesuits, and their connections with Radio Fides, Radio Pius XII, Indicep, and with religious activities in the atiplano among cotton workers and especially among the miners.

"4. The CIA, through Freddy Vargas and Alfredo Arce, has decided to get directly into this project. The CIA promised to provide full information on certain priests, especially those from the USA. In 48 hours, they compiled, for the Minister of Interior, complete files on certain priests.

"5. The replacement of the chief of the Intelligence Service is part of this plan. He was unwilling to undertake a headon attack against the Church. The new chief is a hard man with sadistic tendencies who has taken direct part in a number of tor-



Archbishop Manrique, during his visit to Rochester in 1973.

turings. He is quite ready to carry out the plan."

"10. Arrests should be made, preferably, in the countryside, on deserted streets or late at night. Once a priest has been arrested, the Ministry should try to plant — in his briefcase and, if possible, also in his room — subversive literature and a weapon (ideally a large-bore pistol); his dossier should be ready in order to discredit him before the bishop and public opinion."

"13. The police have been told that those who perform well in this plan will be given any belongings that are confiscated in the houses of certain priests."

Recent developments in the investigation of the CIA and in Bolivia have brought the

document into a new focus. One of the allegations concerning the CIA is that they used religious orders to further their intelligence gathering activities. Denied by several sources, this role is reversed by the document to show the CIA helping oppressive governments in Latin America in their efforts to suppress social action of the church.

The killing of Father Raymond Herman, a Dubuque, Iowa, priest, near Cochabamba, Bolivia, on Oct. 20 also raises questions. Missing valuables caused the motive to be determined as robbery, but no suspects have been apprehended. Father Herman was shot and strangled in his bed just after returning from the opening of a hospital he had been instrumental in building.

## NE Region Highlights

A conference for religion educators is now in the planning stages. Its goal will be to explore possibilities for regional education in the future.

Teen clubs, from the Northeast region are invited to attend a semi-formal Christmas dance and buffet sponsored by the St. Philip Neri Teen Club. The dance will be held on Saturday, Dec. 20 in the school hall, 1772 Clifford Ave. from 7 p.m. to midnight. Tickets are \$4 per couple and \$2.50 for single. For reservations call Fran Bonsignore (288-1491), Barb Mastro (482-3686), Liz Buckley (288-3710), or Tom Hasenauer (288-7631).

Parish Councils are currently being contacted by liason

representatives with the request that they review and ratify the constitution of the Northeast Regional Assembly.

During the past year the constitution was framed and revised by the executive committee and by the representatives to the June assembly at St. Paul's. These revisions have now been completed and will arrive at member parishes soon.

Young people of all parishes in the region are invited to a Youth meeting to be held at St. Ambrose on Dec. 4. The meeting is aimed at getting parishes that already have active youth groups to help other parishes organize their own groups.

## Gasser Named Chairman

William D. Gasser, 66 Pinecrest Drive, has been named 1975-76 Crusade Chairman of the American Cancer Society, Monroe County Unit, according to Unit President Dr. W. Lyle Brewer. Gasser will be charge of all facets of the American Cancer Society's annual educational and fund-raising drive, culminating in April, the nationally-designated Cancer Control month.

volunteer record with the American Cancer Society. As the 1974-75 Crusade Chairman, he led the volunteer crusaders who helped the Monroe County Unit raise a record total of \$416,414 for cancer control programs.

### SEMINARY BOOK SALE

St. Bernard's Seminary library will have a book sale Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 8 and 9, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Some works of literature, and theology, philosophy and history books will be offered.

A CPA and professor of accounting at Rochester Institute of Technology, Gasser is serving his second term in this position and has had a long and active

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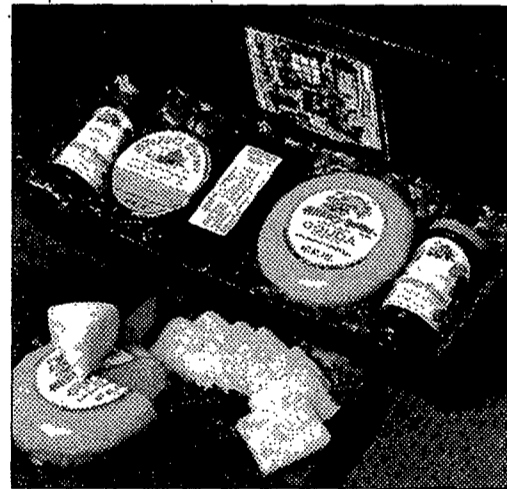


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