



Surfing Santa

Santa Claus steers a surfboat ashore at the Australian east coast resort community of Surfers Paradise. Christmas comes at the height of Australia's summer with temperatures often hitting 100 degrees. This Santa, appropriately enough, is played by a local businessman named Max Christmas. (NC Photo)

Agca Implicates Bulgarians In Papal Plot: Italian Press

By Father Kenneth J. Doyle

Rome (NC) — Mehmet Ali Agca, the man convicted of shooting Pope John Paul II May 13, 1981, has fingered two Bulgarians who accompanied him to St. Peter's Square that day and were associated with him in the assassination plot, according to Italian news reports.

Several Italian newspapers during the week of Dec. 6 widely reported a scenario of the plot which they said used information gathered from unnamed judicial sources.

Agca, who was convicted by an Italian court in July 1981 of attempting to murder the pope and is now serving a life sentence in an Italian prison, is said to have made the revelations to Italy's chief investigator in the case, Judge Ilario Martella.

Agca, 24, is reported to have identified the two men,



MSGR. McPHERSON

Former Head Of Fr. Baker's Dies at 73

Msgr. Joseph M. McPherson, 73, former chairman of the board of directors of Our Lady of Victory Homes of Charity (Father Baker's), died Nov. 26, 1982, in Our Lady of Victory Hospital. He served as chief administrator of OLV Homes from 1949 to 1979.

along with a third accomplice involved earlier in the plot, from police photos, and to have known them during the conspiracy only by code names. All three are Bulgarians, according to the Italian news reports.

The articles appeared in Corriere Della Sera of Milan and two Rome dailies, La Repubblica and Il Tempo. The plot described in these articles developed as follows:

Agca first met the three men in the Bulgarian capital of Sofia and was introduced to them by Bechir Selenik, a Turk reputed to be a kingpin of the drug underworld. Selenik's present whereabouts are unknown, but an arrest warrant reportedly has been issued by Judge Martella.

Agca is reported to have told investigators that Selenik offered him 3 million German marks (about \$1.25 million) to kill the pope.

The three men were Sergei Ivanov Antonov, a 35-year-old employee in the Rome office of Balkan Bulgarian Airlines, currently under arrest by Italian police on complicity charges in the assassination plot; Teodorov Ayvazov, a former cashier at the Bulgarian embassy in Rome, who left Italy in November and whose diplomatic privileges Judge Martella has reportedly asked the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry to revoke so that an arrest warrant can be issued for him; and Vassiliev Kolev, a longtime military attache at the Bulgarian embassy in Rome who left his embassy post six months ago and for whom an arrest warrant has been issued by Martella.

Several of the Italian press reports allege that the three Bulgarians had the backing of the Bulgarian secret service.

Before coming to Rome Agca met in Milan with Omar Bagci, a Turk who was arrested in Switzerland in June 1982 and who was extradited to Italy after telling Swiss police that he gave Agca in Milan the Browning 9mm pistol used to shoot the pope. Bagci claimed that he was unaware

of Agca's purpose in wanting the gun

While in Rome, according to reports, Agca conferred several times with the three Bulgarians and plotted the shooting.

Several days before the shooting, Agca rented a room at the Pensione Isa near the Vatican, using a false passport for identification.

On the day of the shooting, the Italian press reports added, Agca met Antonov and Ayvazov in Rome's Piazza Della Repubblica and drove with them to Ayvazov's apartment, where they picked up the weapons to be used. The weapons included Agca's Browning automatic, pistols carried by the two others, a stun grenade which Ayvazov carried in his pocket and which was to be used to create confusion in the crowd and cover the getaway.

Agca told police, according

Chile Human Rights Deployed in U.N.

By Jeff Endrst

United Nations (NC) — A U.N. report says there has been "nothing to indicate an improvement in the human rights situation in Chile" in 1982 and that the main problem there continues to be the institutionalization of military rule.

There has been a decline in the number of acts of persecution or intimidation against individuals, but those acts committed have been directed against persons linked to human rights organizations, the report said.

The report was written by Abdoulaye Dieye of Senegal, a member of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights responsible for monitoring the situation in Chile.

"None of the recommendations of the international community have been heeded and there has

been no indication of the adoption of measures designed to restore the enjoyment of human rights," said the report.

Chile should abolish "the institutionalized state of emergency and re-establish the traditional democratic order," it added.

Chile has been ruled since September 1973 by Gen. Augusto Pinochet who came to power in a coup.

Since 1980 Chile has refused to cooperate with Dieye, saying that the U.N. procedure was discriminatory and violated Chilean sovereignty.

Dieye said his report was based on information in the Chilean press, testimony of persons with direct knowledge of the situation and on legislative and court proceedings published in 1982.

Priest Blasts CIA in Ireland

Washington (NC) — The linking of the Central Intelligence Agency to five men recently acquitted in New York of attempting to smuggle guns to the Provisional Irish Republican Army has "frightening and sinister" implications, said Father Sean McManus, CSSR, director of the Irish National Caucus.

In a statement issued here, Father McManus said, "The American Irish community must make it absolutely clear that it does not endorse or silently approve of any covert CIA action in Ireland."

the IRA, an outlawed guerrilla organization fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland, were acquitted in federal court in New York after a five-week trial in which the defendants said operatives of the CIA had induced them to make the arms shipments over the past two decades.

No evidence establishing a link between the CIA and the smuggling operation was given at the trial, but jurors said afterward they found the argument plausible.

Deadline

The deadline for submitting news to the Courier Journal is noon on Thursday preceding the following Wednesday's publication.

The caucus is a Washington-based organization seeking to increase support in the United States for a united Ireland.

On Nov. 5, five men accused of smuggling arms to

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