

From Ecumenical Council

Iron Curtain Prelates Absent

VATICAN CITY (AP)—With Roman Catholic prelates from around the world gathering for the 21st ecumenical council, prayers were said Wednesday for Catholics beyond the Communist Iron Curtain.

At a solemn ceremony in the Basilica of St. Mary Major, Juan Cardinal Landazuri Ricketts, archbishop of Lima, Peru, said the "church of silence" would participate in the spiritual victory that would result from a successful council.

"The church of silence" is the name given by the Vatican to its faithful in Communist lands. Relations between the church and the Communist countries contributed a somber note on the eve of the council opening

Thursday in St. Peter's Basilica. There was an air of expectation and hope for the meeting that will bring together 2,600 cardinals, archbishops, bishops and other prelates. It is the church's first general concave in 92 years.

But one great body of prelates was absent.

At least 170 bishops and archbishops in Red-ruled countries did not or could not make the trip to Rome. Only about 50 prelates and their aides had managed the trip.

Many refugees from communism attended the Mass at St. Mary Major. Cardinal Ricketts celebrated the Mass and preached a sermon that underlined the suffering of Christians

through the ages and in Communist countries today.

He said the prayers today were for "mercy to sinners and persecutors, comfort and relief to those who live today most intensely the passion of Christ... light for the souls consecrated to God but impeded in following their ministry... hope for the faithful unable to freely manifest their faith... and for the success of the council."

A chorus from the Ukrainian Seminary in Rome sang during the service. The singers were the children of refugees from the Soviet regime.

The fact that some prelates from "the church of silence" were allowed to come to the

council indicated that Communist leaders felt obliged to make some grudging concessions to Catholic world opinion.

Four prelates from Lithuania arrived by plane Tuesday night. Three bishops from Czechoslovakia were coming by train from Prague.

One of the largest Iron Curtain delegations was a group of 11 Polish bishops headed by Stefan Cardinal Wysynski, primate of Poland. The cardinal met Monday with Pope John XXIII for nearly an hour for a detailed discussion on the church's position in Poland.

Polish prelates were allowed to travel only after weeks of dispute between the church and the Warsaw government over passports. The government denied passports to a number of leading churchmen.

Three bishops from another Iron Curtain country, Hungary, were received in audience by Pope John Tuesday. It was the first time since 1948 that a pope had been able to receive a church leader from the nation.

Personal contact between the Holy See and the church in Hungary were broken after the arrest of the primate of Hungary, Josef Cardinal Mindszenty.

Cardinal Mindszenty is the only one of the church's 85 cardinals who will be absent from the ecumenical meeting. Sentenced to life imprisonment by the Communists, he was released during the 1956 revolution. He took refuge five days later in the U. S. Legation in Budapest when Soviet troops crushed the revolt. He has been there ever since.

Protestants in Rome as Observers Only

ROME (AP)—"We are not here as negotiators."

So declared a world Methodist leader Wednesday on the eve of the opening of the ecumenical council in the heartland of Roman Catholicism.

The statement reflects feelings among many of the 50-odd non-Catholic observers and guests who accepted invitations to enter historic St. Peter's Basilica to watch the concave of Catholics.

One task of the council is to discuss future possible ties among all Christian churches. Several Protestants polled have said they came here in a spirit of "peaceful coexistence," but determined to maintain the in-

dependence they took 400 years ago.

"We are here simply as observers, not as negotiators—that has to be understood," said Bishop Fred P. Corson, president of the World Council of Methodists and bishop for the Philadelphia area.

"We have no status from the standpoint of speaking and participation, which is the way it should be."

Non-Catholic observers furthermore will not present any united front at the council, Corson said. The representatives of various denominations, from the Rev. Jesse Bader, New York City, of the Churches of Christ, to the Rev. Younna Girgis of

the Coptic Church of Egypt "are here as individuals."

Bishop Corson a former president of Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa., calls the Catholic congress "the most significant religious event of this century... It is turning the thoughts and eyes of all people to the Christian faith."

He said he hopes "a better understanding might develop between the two great bodies (Catholics and protestants). Then we will not live as entire strangers, and a more united attack can be made on common enemies—atheism, materialism, secularism."

"I think the unity we can hope for at present is in the area of cooperation," he added.

Toll Reaches 28 in Polish Rail Mishap

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Twenty-eight persons died and at least 62 were injured when a derailed express train was rammed by the Moscow-Vienna-Rome express Tuesday night, the Polish press agency reported.

The casualty toll may rise, since all passengers have not been accounted for, officials were quoted as saying.

Earlier reports said no foreigners were among the dead.

But the press agency listed a Hungarian woman among 13 identified bodies.

Among the injured were four Hungarian diplomats, another Hungarian, three Yugoslavs, a Bulgarian and an English woman.

The freak wreck occurred at Moszczenica, 80 miles south of Warsaw.

Some other passengers reportedly suffered bruises and minor injuries in the wreck, which piled up 18 coaches and two electric locomotives on the Baltic-to-Balkan main line. They continued their journeys and there was no estimate of the number.

Officials said 11 coaches of the Warsaw-bound express from Budapest left the track when the train hit some broken rails.

Two of the coaches blocked the southbound track.

Moments later, the southbound express for Vienna hit the wreckage at 60 miles an hour.

Officials would not comment on the possibility that saboteurs or vandals had removed sections of the track on the northbound line.



FRANK STARZEL
Newman Steps Down

AP Names New Chief

NEW YORK (AP)—Wes Gallagher, assistant general manager of The Associated Press since 1953, Wednesday was named general manager by the Board of Directors.

He succeeds Frank J. Starzel, whose retirement, effective at the end of this week, was announced Tuesday night.

Gallagher, 51, has been with the AP for 25 years, starting in Buffalo. He was a war correspondent during World War II, and was chief of bureau for Germany from 1945 to 1951, when he was recalled to New York as a general executive in charge of personnel.

Starzel, 58, had been chief executive officer of the worldwide news service for 14 years.

Against Ousted Naval Attache

Spy Allegations Rejected by U.S.

MOSCOW (AP)—The United States Wednesday "categorically" rejected spy allegations against ousted U.S. assistant naval attache Lt. Cmdr. Raymond Smith, 41, and "vigorously" protested "manifest violations" by Soviet authorities of his diplomatic immunity.

The U.S. move was made in a note delivered to the Foreign Ministry.

The U.S. note said the American Embassy here "categorically" rejects all allegations of improper behavior on the part of Commander Smith and specifically that he was engaged in espionage.

"The embassy vigorously protests the manifold violations by Soviet authorities of the rights and immunities appertaining to Commander Smith as a duly accredited diplomatic officer of the embassy."

The note charged Smith, expelled from the Soviet Union Monday on espionage charges, was "physically assaulted and forcibly deprived of items of personal property by allegedly nonofficial Soviet citizens."

"During this period of illegal detention he was refused permission to communicate with the embassy and was subjected to threats of violence," it said.

The note charged Soviet militia men (police) refused to honor his diplomatic card. And it said the United States expected the Soviet Foreign Ministry to "undertake the necessary disciplinary measures" so as "to assure that there will be no re-

currence of violation of the diplomatic immunities of members of the embassy staff."

Embassy sources said Smith's expulsion from the Soviet Union appeared a clear case of retaliation for the expulsion by the United States of two members of the Soviet Union mission to the United Nations.

The ousted Soviets were Yevgeny M. Prokhorov and Ivan Y. Vydrov. The United States charged they had been buying U.S. defense secrets from Nelson C. Drummond of the U.S. Navy.

Smith was reported to have sustained a bruise on the left shoulder and to have been scratched.

Sailor Enters Innocence Plea

NEW YORK (AP)—Nelson Cornelious Drummond, a U.S. Navy enlisted man, pleaded innocent Tuesday to a charge of passing defense secrets to the Soviet Union.

Federal Judge David N. Edelstein ordered Drummond continued in custody in lieu of \$100,000 bail and set Oct. 29 for selecting a trial date.

Drummond, 33, a Negro who had been serving as a yeoman first class at the Newport, R.I. Naval Base, could receive a death penalty if convicted. He was indicted last Friday on charges of passing naval secrets to Soviets who had worked as secretaries of the Soviet mission to the United Nations.

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