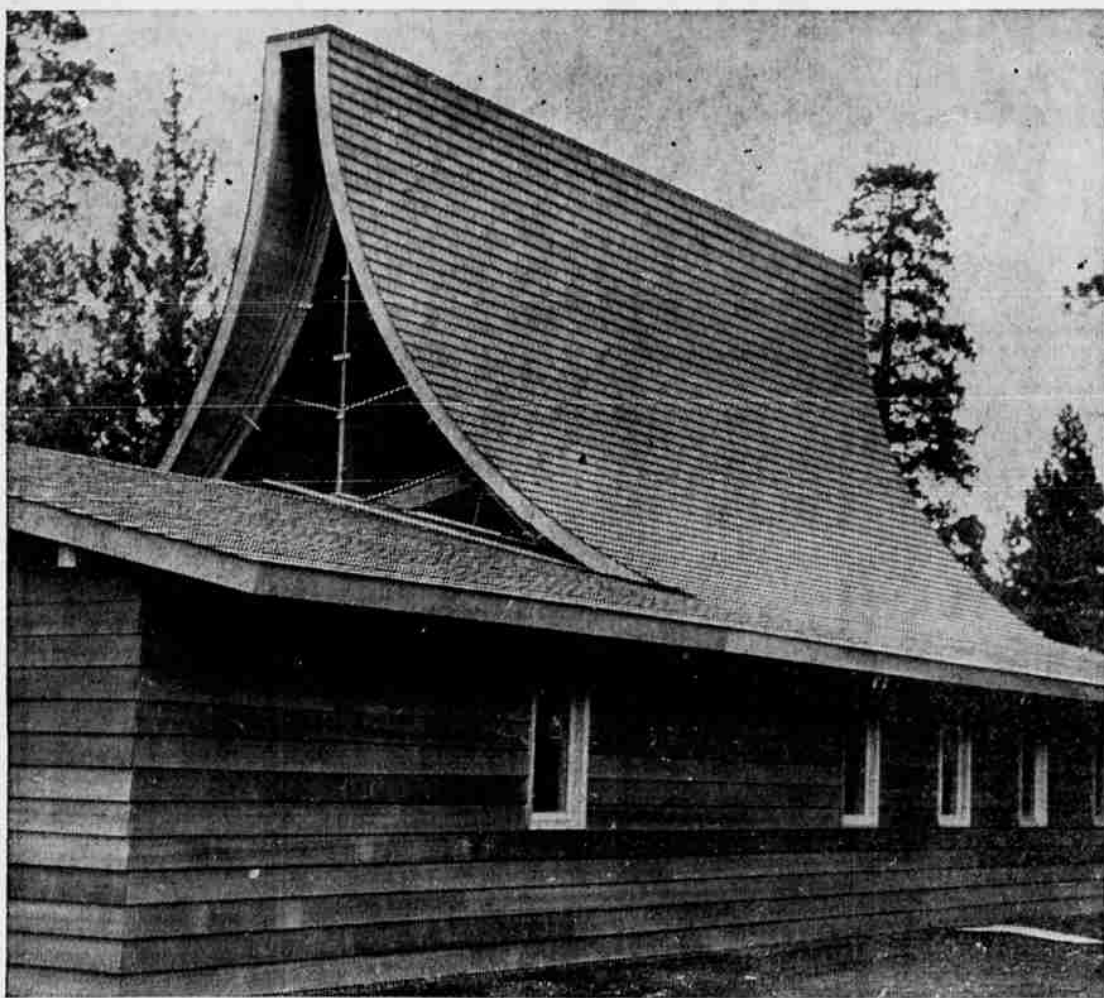




SISTERS CHURCH NEARS COMPLETION — The Catholic Church, pictured here, now under construction in Sisters will be completed in a week or so, and later will be the scene of a dedication ceremony. Time for the ceremony has not yet been set. The building is being constructed by George Hilgers. The structure is of a modernistic design. It will be administered out of Redmond, where the Rev. Francis McCormack of St. Thomas Catholic Church is pastor.

Expert on Cambodian affairs thinks Sihanouk's policy reversal represents fear that he may be next ruler to fall to assassin

By Frank Bartholomew

UPI Staff Writer

IDYLLWILD, Calif. (UPI) — Two years ago, Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia told an American friend:

"The whole of Southeast Asia will fall to Communist control in less than two years."

"Diem first, Sarit second, Sihanouk third."

The prince was referring to the then president of South Vietnam, Prime Minister Sarit Thanarat of neighboring Thailand and himself in that order.

President Ngo Dinh Diem of Vietnam was assassinated on Nov. 8 of this year.

Immediately thereafter, charging that the United States was conspiring with his enemies, Sihanouk announced he would accept no more American aid, and ordered the American military mission out of his country.

The decision was no great surprise to Robert L. Balzer, a friend and former adviser to Sihanouk and the man to whom the prince voiced his fears two years ago.

Balzer, a one-time Cambodian Buddhist monk now in private business here, is an expert on Cambodian affairs and personal friend of the unpredictable prince.

Sihanouk's prediction of the fall of President Diem's regime was made in the course of an exclusive interview with United Press International obtained by Balzer in the National Palace of Phnom Penh on Dec. 7, 1961.

Balzer was at the time a personal guest of the Cambodian strong man. Earlier, Sihanouk had come to California with his entourage for conferences with Balzer here at Idyllwild, in the

mountains overlooking Palm Springs.

In Balzer's opinion, the basic reason for Sihanouk's latest reversal of policy is the fear that he may be the latest ruler to fall at the hands of an assassin, and that the United States may be attempting to bring an end to his regime by masterminding or cooperating in movements such as that which toppled neighboring chief of state Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam.

Sihanouk is currently leading his nation into closer ties with Communist China on the one hand, and on the other with France, the country with which he broke to obtain total independence in 1954.

"Fears that the present action may swing Cambodia directly into the arms of the Communists by Sihanouk's leadership are groundless," Balzer said.

"Sihanouk, an often volatile prince, is personally anti-Communist. Cambodia is Communist free. It is diplomatically friendly with both Red China and Russia. But when I asked Sihanouk if he did not fear Red Chinese or Russian aggression, Sihanouk told me:

"We have never experienced difficulty from these countries. Our only problems come from Thailand and Viet Nam, countries supported by the United States."

Balzer said that Sihanouk, an astute international politician,

expressed fears two years ago of a Communist take-over in Southeast Asia unless the tottering regime of President Diem could be replaced. At that time he made his historic prediction to Balzer:

"Diem first, Sarit second, Sihanouk third."

The increasingly unfavorable position of the United States in Southeast Asia might be retrieved, according to Balzer, by an open declaration on the part of the new American administration of confidence in the Sihanouk policy of professed neutrality, and support for the Cambodian leader against political enemies in the surrounding countries who serve Communist purposes by fomenting political unrest in Cambodia.

"No Communist coup could hope to succeed if Sihanouk remained alive and in his homeland," Balzer said.

"The prince has reason to believe the Saigon affair may be repeated with his own life ending in possible assassination. Efforts from Thailand or Viet Nam or the United States to force conformity have only strengthened Sihanouk's distrust."

Balzer was asked to comment upon an impression gathered by this UPI reporter in travels across Cambodia — from the Viet Nam border to the capital city of Phnom Penh and on to Siem Reap — that Sihanouk was essentially an international opportunist soliciting and accept-

ing aid from both sides. Balzer emphatically dissented.

Similarly he did not attach importance to speeches in the Cambodian hinterland attributed to Sihanouk in which Cambodia's chief of state was quoted as calling Americans "the dogs of capitalism."

"Those speeches were made in the Khmer language," Balzer said, "which is difficult if not impossible to translate directly while protecting basic meaning and intent."

NAMED COUNTRY

King N'gola, who invited the explorer Paulo Dias de Novais to settle there in 1575, gave the name Angola to Portuguese West Africa.

District Attorney Wade cleared of wrongdoing by bar association

DALLAS (UPI) — The Texas Bar Association decided Thursday night that Dist. Atty. Henry Wade has been completely ethical in discussing with reporters the murder charge against nightclub owner Jack Ruby.

Ruby killed Lee Harvey Oswald, 24, the Marxist accused of assassinating President Kennedy and murdering a Dallas policeman who tried to question him.

The bar association, however, did not immediately absolve Tom Howard, Ruby's lawyer.

The two appeared before a grievance committee of the Texas Bar Association Thursday night. Wayne O. Woodruff, chairman of the committee, said the closed-door meeting was to check for violation of Canon 17 of the bar's code of ethics.

He defined the canon as prohibiting interviews concerning pending or anticipated cases. Violation can mean a reprimand, loss of license or disbarment.

A terse statement released after the meeting made it clear

Wade was off the hook and said he had only been there as an invited witness.

"The committee has no charges against Mr. Wade and in no manner criticizes any conduct or action on his part," it read.

"The committee has discussed with Mr. Tom Howard and other attorneys the matter of press, TV and radio releases and interviews concerning pending litigation in the light of Canon 17 of the code of ethics of the state bar of Texas."

Howard was accompanied to the hearing by Jim Martin, another defense lawyer. Assistant Dist. Atty. Jim Bowie was with Wade.

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The special commission investigating the assassination of President Kennedy may get its first important piece of evidence before the weekend—the FBI report on the slaying.

The seven-member panel, headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, met for more than two hours Thursday behind closed doors and under heavy guard.

It is scheduled to meet again this afternoon.

After Thursday's session, Warren called in newsmen and read a brief statement saying the commission had discussed the organization and future plans but had reached no conclusions. He said that no infor-

mation had been received as yet from any government source.

But after the meeting it was learned that the FBI had turned in its formal report on the assassination to Deputy Atty. Gen. Nicholas D. Katzenbach, Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy's top aide.

The report is expected to be forwarded to President Johnson soon, and the Warren commission may receive it before the weekend. Sources say the FBI has concluded that the man accused of the President's murder, Lee Harvey Oswald, acted alone and not as part of a conspiracy.

The commission, which must also investigate the circumstances surrounding Oswald's

murder, may take months to complete its report. Sources say the panel's members are acutely aware that any report that make could compromise Dallas night club owner Jack Ruby's chances for a fair trial. Ruby is charged with killing Oswald.

Warren said the commission would ask Congress for the power of subpoena.

The bipartisan board of inquiry is expected to have no trouble getting subpoena powers. Sen. Kenneth B. Keating, R-N.Y., introduced a bill Wednesday to grant such authority "to compel the production of live testimony and documentary evidence." A similar bill has been introduced in the House by Rep. Louis C. Wyman, R-N.H.

Johnson among NAM directors

NEW YORK (UPI)—Two Oregonians were chosen as directors-at-large of the National Association of Manufacturers at the NAM's 68th annual Congress of American Industry here Thursday.

They are Jack Murdock, chairman of the board of Tektronix, Inc., Beaverton; and Robert C. Warren, president, Cascade Manufacturing Co., Portland.

Oregon directors are Thomas W. Delzell, chairman of the board of Portland General Electric Co., and Sam Johnson, president, Jefferson Plywood Co., Madras.

Coleman H. Wheeler, president of Santiam Lumber Co., Portland, was listed among retiring directors.

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