

Communists, People Without Country, Are Mostly Cruel, Freed Priest Believes

Editor's note: This summer Father Joseph Patrick McCormack, a Maryknoll Missioner, was released from five years in a Red Chinese prison and sent home. Father McCormack now recuperating from his ordeal, has spent almost half his 65 years serving God in the Far East. Today, in the first of two dispatches, he begins his story of what happened to him, and is happening to the Chinese people, under Communist rule.

By JOSEPH P. McCORMACK, M.M.
(Written for United Press International)

Since my release after five years in a Red prison, people are continually asking me about the Chinese Communists. My reply is that there are no Chinese Communists for all Communists are men without countries. Regardless of their nationality—whether they're Russian or Chinese, or even American—once they've been indoctrinated with the Communist idea, they're the same all over the world—shrewd, fanatical, capable of doing anything to get what they want.

But mostly they're cruel. The Communists that I mixed with during my trial and while in prison had lost not only their personal identities, but their national characteristics as well. They were too cruel to be called Chinese. People frightened.

The ordinary people of China are frightened to death because of Red brutality. They are terrorized by a highly-efficient secret police organization which has a finger on everyone. A jailed Communist told me that between October 1953 and October 1954 the Reds arrested 35 million Chinese from all walks of life, and on the slightest pretext. It's unbelievable how the face of China has changed. What was once a land of warmth and laughter is now a desert of frightened, unsmil-

ing faces. In Shanghai alone, over one million people have been put in prison. The jails are jammed with men and women whose only crime is that they're too poor to pay taxes.

I saw part of the picture during a propaganda campaign which the Communists launched last February, using nine of us from the prison.

Father McCormack Came From Ireland

Father Joseph Patrick McCormack, Maryknoll Missioner, was born in Roscommon, Ireland, Aug. 6, 1893. After attending schools in his native land, he came to the U.S., entered Maryknoll and was ordained for the priesthood. In 1925 he left for the missions of Fushun, Manchuria.

During World War II, he was interned by the Japanese but was repatriated to the U.S. in 1942. Early in 1943, he took up new work in the missions of Chile.

After the war, Father McCormack returned to Manchuria but Communist Army advances forced him to withdraw into South China. He was arrested at Shanghai with seven other missionaries in 1953 and placed in a Red prison.

After assigning 14 secret police to guard us, they took us on a 30-day conducted junket of new redevelopment projects.

Official Clearance
The tour was a big thing, let me tell you, with high powered publicity and all kinds of official clearance. Even though we knew we were being used—with photos taken of us in clean white shirts, eating good food and smoking cigarettes—I must say it was a nice switch from prison life. So we went along with the game. I wasn't much impressed

with their building program. Most of it was a sham, like a set for a Hollywood movie. The one exception was the big bridge at Hankow, which they've been working on for several years. It's quite an engineering feat in any man's book—especially for China. But the tragedy is that all this is being accomplished by slave labor. I saw thousands of workers at the bridge site—prisoners from the labor camps—their bodies thin and worn, carrying heavy loads that you wouldn't put on the backs of animals, much less human beings.

System Terrifying
The whole judicial system, from what I saw of it, is terrifying. As soon as you know you don't have a chance. Arrest is synonymous with guilt, and you never try to obtain leniency by defending yourself. When they grabbed me in 1953 they said that I could have a lawyer, but that I shouldn't fight the charges. Because the more you fight, they told me, the more severe the penalty. They kept reminding me that what I said to the court really wouldn't matter—I would be judged on my "mental attitude."

I never did find out what they meant by "mental attitude," but I suppose they marked me fairly high on it, because I only got a five-year sentence. It all started for me when the Reds came storming through Manchuria after World War II. I was up there then, as Vicar Capitular of the Maryknoll diocese of Fushun. The wind was blowing against us, and as the Communist movement grew stronger, the persecution of the Church became more intense.

The crucial point, in my own mind, was the slaying of an elderly Chinese priest in January, 1948. For two winter months he had been in an unheated prison, covered only by burlap rags, and half starved. Then, on a bitter cold morning that I will never forget, they dragged him out of his cell, shot him three times in the back of the head, and kicked his body into a drainage ditch.

From then on, it seemed, everything went against us, and in desperation, I decided to abandon the present and prepare for the future.

Depends Upon Priests
The future of the Church in China, as in any country, depends upon priests—so, I made arrangements for our 30 Fushun seminarians to move south, to Peiping, where they could continue their studies for the priesthood.

Palo Alto Firm Low for Freeway

Sacramento, Calif. — McCammon - Wunderlich company and Wunderlich Contracting company of Palo Alto, Calif., submitted a low bid of \$4,140,553 last week for construction of a new four-lane divided freeway on Highway 99 around Dunsmuir.

The freeway will include three interchanges and three under crossings near the city. Travelling lanes will be concrete pavement, and interchange approaches will be asphalt concrete, California highway department officials said.

Included in the project will be 300 wells, 24 inches in diameter, and up to 40 feet deep, filled with gravel to collect ground water to reduce unstable foundation conditions. There also will be 13 miles of horizontal drain pipes to prevent slides from highway cuts.

To relieve the present Dunsmuir storm sewer system, all precipitation falling on the freeway will be carried in a drain along the center line of the freeway. It will empty in Yew Tree creek and the Sacramento river.

The freeway will extend from just south of the Sacramento river bridge north of Dunsmuir to a mile south of the Shasta county line. Construction of the section is expected to take two years. Ellis C. Engle has been named resident engineer for the division of highways.

ATTENTION, PHD'S
Tapeh, Formosa — UPD — A provincial legislator has urged that women employees of the provincial government be fired and sent back to the kitchen. Lin Yuan-Tsan told the provincial assembly that most women employees are relatives of officials anyway and "their positions should be filled with unemployed college graduates."

Kennan said other locations seeking the museum are Green Bay, Wis.; Miami, Fla.; and St. Louis, Mo.

Quotes From the News

United Press International
New York — Nathan H. Knorr, president of the Watch Tower and Bible Tract Society (Jehovah's Witnesses), on the state of the world:
"It is evident that government of the earth by man has not been the best form of rulership."

Washington — Rep. Kenneth B. Keating (R-N.Y.) on "bugging," or electronic eavesdropping:
"The insidious practice of electronic eavesdropping goes to the very marrow of our individual freedoms."

New York — Military analyst and aviation pioneer Maj. Alexander P. De Seversky, criticizing the administration's alleged lack of awareness of the danger presented by the Russian Sputnik:
"They laughed it off. It was just a little ball. It couldn't do anybody any harm."

Taipei — Formosan legislator Lin Yuan-Tsan on the role of women in government offices:
"They should be sent back to the kitchen."

Moscow — Former presidential candidate Adlai E. Stevenson, assuring a Russian Baptist audience their congregation would flourish:
"I have seen evidence of spiritual vitality that will hearten all mankind."

KING TURNS AUTHOR
Stockholm, Sweden — UPD — King Gustav Adolf is Sweden's newest author, with a glossy tourist booklet giving details of Sofiero royal castle in Haelsingborg. The king also took the pictures illustrating the text.

Ottawa — UPD — Princess Margaret went through a last day of official ceremonies Saturday before a two-day rest at a summer cottage in the Gatineau Hills.



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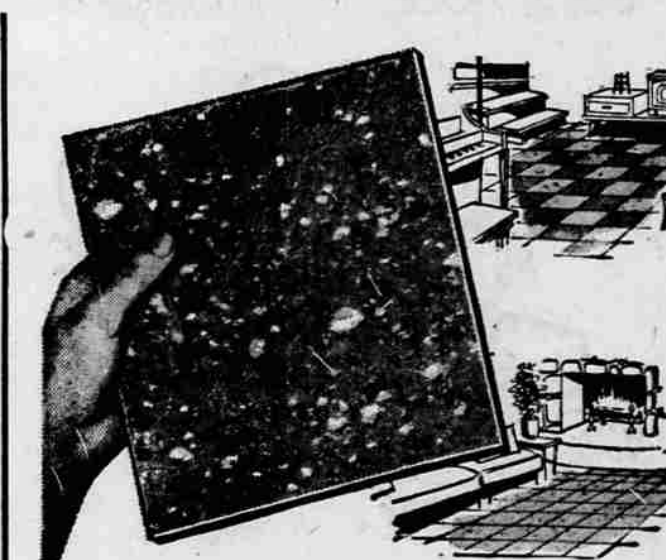
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