

Communists Court Spain's Catholics

By Manuel Mira
(N.C.W.C. News Service)

MADRID — Moscow-line communists have adopted a "bourgeois" attitude toward the Catholic Church in Spain in an attempt to align themselves with the Christian elements seeking social reform in this country.

Officially, all political parties outside the government's falange movement are banned in Spain. However two underground communist groups, one tied to Moscow and the other to Peking, are vying for control of the few thousand active communists here and, in a larger sense, for cooperation from military, labor and professional leaders.

The largest group, which echoes the Russian brand of communism,

is called the Communist party of Spain. The Chinese faction is based on a more revolutionary platform and calls itself the Spanish Communist party.

THE SIMILARITY in titles is further confused by the fact that each of them publishes a journal called "Mundo Obrero" (Labor World), one being the "organ of the political commission of the Spanish Communist party," and the other the "organ of the central committee of the Communist party of Spain."

It is the Moscow group, headed by a former youth leader, Santiago Carrillo, 45, which has adopted a more open, and more subtle, posture toward and who may be opposed to the status quo in Spain.

This includes Catholic Action groups working for social justice.

From his base in Cuba, Carrillo last year published a book entitled "Republican Spain" in which the aims of the Moscow group are set forth. These include agrarian reform, parliamentary government with provision for opposition parties, regional autonomy (a lure to Basques and Catalans), and a program of "national reconciliation" to heal the scars of the Spanish civil war.

CARRILLO would permit freedom of religion in Spain where now the Catholic Church is the "official" church. He would, however, provide state subsidies for the Catholic Church. In the meantime, he has stated that communist workers should cooperate with Catholic groups in order to "elevate Church action towards democratic tendencies contrary to the government."

Despite their desire to get along with all groups who may disagree with the policies of Gen. Francisco Franco, the Moscow communists have met with little success. Many of those who fought with the Loyalists in the Spanish civil war feel they were betrayed by Russia, so there has been no stampede to the communist banner.

News reports have told of communists mixing with Catholics in labor demonstrations. Yet the principal Catholic groups—such as the Young Christian Workers and the Workers' Brotherhood of Catholic Action—have never wavered in their loyalty to the Church. If there has been any infiltration of these organizations, it concerns only very isolated individuals.

Nevertheless, the Moscow communists are pursuing a very skillful line, supported by a great deal of money and by a radio station that beams programs here from outside the country. Some of their members hold positions of secondary importance in official trade unions.

THE EXTENT of their appeal was discussed recently with the arrest of Jose Lacalle, 25, accused of being a communist agent. He is the son of Gen. Jose Lacalle, Spain's minister of the air force.

Churchmen Hail Signing

Continued from page 1A

Act of 1964 "presents to the people of the United States an achievement and a challenge unsurpassed in our history."

"Will those who oppose the bill, however sincerely, accept it now with the same sincerity as the law of the land?" Archbishop O'Boyle asked. Will political leaders rise to new heights of statesmanship—as many of them already have—putting the rights of all the people above traditional sectional differences?

"WILL THOSE WHO have suffered from the injustices of the past, chiefly our Negro brothers, remember now to be generous in their hour of vindication, recognizing that some wounds heal slowly and time and patience are needed rather than overnight cures? Will we have the greatness to match the rightness of our decision with charity and forbearance in its execution?"

"These are the critical questions which challenge us today. Pray God we find the light and fortitude to meet them wisely."

Citing the interreligious cooperation that helped win passage of the rights bill, the archbishop, who is chairman of Washington's Interreligious Committee on Race Relations, suggested that "this . . . was what the late Pope John XXIII, that modern apostle of peace and order in the universe, had in mind when, as a spiritual father, he called on 'all men of good will' to make common cause to win for every creature in every land the dignity with which God endowed him."

"PERHAPS WE MAY imagine that, from his place in heaven, the beloved pontiff looks down on us and is glad at the start we have made this day," he said.

Archbishop Paul J. Hallinan of Atlanta, Ga., said that on civil rights the "majority of Catholics, Protestants and Jews do not stand with the extremist whose creed is hate, nor with the gradualists whose tactic is delay."

He called the Civil Rights Act "a tremendous national step forward" and said it "safeguards for the Negro only what each white insists upon for himself."

ARCHBISHOP HALLINAN warned that if the new rights law "is evaded or flaunted, both sides will lose, and Georgia and the American nation will suffer."

"Only if it is accepted as the law of our land, carried out with honesty and dignity, and implemented with Christian love, will all be well," he said. "Only when white and Negro persons see each other as brothers will the Judaeo-Christian fraternity of all men under God be realized."

MSGR. GEORGE G. Higgins, director of the Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, said his agency

joins with its counterparts in the National Council of Churches and the Synagogue Council of America in hailing the measure's enactment and "takes satisfaction in the thought that the joint efforts of the major religious groups in the United States played a significant and perhaps a decisive role in preparing the way for this historic turning point in race relations in this country."

Msgr. Higgins added that the rights act "will be of little avail unless the great mass of American people are prepared to go beyond the letter of the law and to help create an atmosphere of mutual understanding and racial brotherhood in their neighborhoods and communities."

"WE PLEDGE ourselves to cooperate with the other religious groups of this country and indeed with all men of good will in developing educational programs designed to accomplish this all-important objective," he said.

Mathew Ahmann, executive director of the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice, said that in passing the rights bill Congress "recognized the concern which all of our American society must have for the higher law which is that of God."

Melvin's Pharmacy

of Raleigh

1217 Hillsboro St.

Weekdays 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Sundays 12-6 p.m.

WORLD FAMOUS OPEN KITCHEN

Finest In Italian Food

CHARLOTTE, N. C.

1318 West Morehead St.

TRY

Holsum

WHITE ENRICHED BREAD

it's Blenderized

FOX'S ROYAL BAKERY, INCORPORATED

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

BRANCHES: LUMBERTON, ELIZABETHTOWN, WHITEVILLE, JACKSONVILLE, WALLACE, RED SPRINGS

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER FROM
PIEDMONT PHOTO STUDIOS
P. O. BOX 215
Leaksville, N. C. 27288
One 8 x 10 Enlargement from any size
negative 50c. Three for \$1.00 (same
negative).
From photo (returned unharmed) \$1.00.
Three for \$2.00 (same negative).

BELMONT ABBEY CHANCELLOR TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT

Effective August 1, the Chancellor of Belmont Abbey College will assume the duties of President of the College, it was announced today.

The Rt. Rev. Walter A. Coggin, O.S.B., D.D., Ph.D., will become President replacing the Very Rev. John A. Oetgen, O.S.B., who has held office since 1960. Father John will be on leave-of-absence for one year to pursue research studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Named to the position of Executive Vice-President is the Rev. Cuthbert E. Allen, O.S.B., who will also continue in the office of Public Relations and Development.

Humanities Foundation Backed by Msgr. Gilbert

The Right Reverend Monsignor Edward T. Gilbert, Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, has urged support for the establishment of a National Humanities Foundation as proposed by The Commission On The Humanities.

"The study of history, philosophy, the arts and languages is not solely the province of the university and graduate student," Monsignor Gilbert said. "A basic grounding in humanities begins in the elementary and secondary schools. An appreciation of literature, the social studies and the arts provides lifelong satisfaction for anyone, no matter what career he chooses."

"The City of Raleigh could benefit in several ways if a Humanities Foundation were established," said Monsignor Gilbert.

"Such a Foundation will make fellowships available for our teachers to do advanced study and research during the summer vacations," he pointed out. Funds would also be set aside to improve the school and local libraries.

THE FOUNDATION will be proposed to President Johnson by a

special commission of leading educators, businessmen and scientists. The commission, headed by Barnaby C. Keeney, president of Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, compiled a detailed report documenting the need to give federal support to the study of the humanities.

The Commission's year-long study was sponsored by the American Council of Learned Societies, the Council of Graduate Schools in the United States and in the United Chapters of Phi-Beta Kappa.

The Commission found the stress on the sciences in American education has drawn attention from the humanities throughout the entire education system, from elementary schools to the post-graduate level. To correct the situation, the Commission suggested that the President and Congress provide federal funds for an independent National Humanities Foundation, similar to the National Science Foundation.

The organization would be responsible for granting support to

See Humanities, page 4A

GEORGE W. KANE

General Contractor



Durham Roxboro Greensboro Henderson