

Pope Said to Seek Peace and a Free Poland, Protected Against Communism and Atheism

By HERBERT L. MATTHEWS

By Telephone to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ROME, Sept. 27—Pope Pius has been working diplomatically through neutral States to get Britain and France to agree to a peace conference that would end with the creation of a Polish buffer State on ethnic lines, it is reported here.

This report has been current since last Friday but has not been confirmed. Your correspondent has received it from three different sources. Today an Italian correspondent repeats it from Berlin, so there seems to be something in it.

It is said the Pontiff feels that the great menace to Christian civilization comes from Russia and her recent eruption into Central Europe. All States, including Germany, ought to get together to prevent the spread of communism and the atheism that accompanies it.

At the same time the Pope feels that anything is better than a continuation of the war, particularly as the worst effects of it are yet to be felt. Consequently, say these reports, he would be willing to accept, although not to condone, Germany's conquest of Poland if a settlement were arranged that would guarantee Europe a lasting peace and the Polish Catholics a State of their own which protected them from communism and the neo-paganism of Germany.

The diplomatic manoeuvre involved would be a delicate one since it presupposes the possibility of separating Germany and Russia. Otherwise, the Vatican would be ranged against Germany and Russia combined, which, in effect,

would mean that it would be taking sides in the war. This is something the Pontiff has carefully avoided doing.

It should be noted that this supposed proposal by the Pope parallels Premier Mussolini's peace move. He has suggested a cessation of hostilities in acceptance of the German conquest and, indirectly, the formation of a purely Polish State.

It has not been suggested, however, that the Premier has been taking advice from the Vatican, for the Italian line of policy has been consistent in that regard ever since the war started and even before. Behind that openly declared policy there has been and still is intense diplomatic activity by the Italian Government to bring pressure on Britain and France, which is what the Pope is supposed to be doing.

If Premier Mussolini is really being backed by the Pontiff it would help to explain Rome's hopes that the British and French will yield. It also gives a clue to the extent of the pressure to which London and Paris are being subjected.

One thing does seem certain: that the Vatican is forming an organization to give religious aid to prisoners and probably to handle mail for them. Later there may be a supplementary organization to arrange for the exchange of prisoners.

This has been foreshadowed for several weeks. It is understood that the Vatican is almost ready to put the plan into operation. Similar work was done by the Vatican dur-

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POPE SAID TO PLEAD FOR PEACE PARLEY

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ing the previous World War with effective results.

Osservatore Attacks Russia

An attack against Russia is published today in the Osservatore Romano, Vatican City newspaper, which denounces Moscow's latest diplomatic move against Estonia as a pretext for her expansionist policy in the Baltic. Russia, says the newspaper, has no right to demand explanations from Estonia for the escape of a Polish submarine from Tallinn and that what she really wants when she asks guarantees against the operations of a submarine fleet is predominance in the Baltic.

The Osservatore ridicules Russia, which "boasts of having the greatest submarine fleet in the world," for her "anxiety" over the disappearance of the last remaining Polish submarine and goes on to point out that Russia is now pursuing an "anti-Versailles policy," but the abolition of the Versailles Treaty, it stresses, would mean the end of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, three independent States created at Versailles with territory that belonged to Russia, as well as the return by Rumania of Bessarabia, another former Russian possession.

"Estonia is a neutral country," says the Osservatore. "Her neutrality was officially declared with a Presidential decree on Sept. 2 last. Russia, at the moment she began her aggression against Poland, declared her neutrality to all countries represented in Moscow, and therefore to Estonia as well. It is, then, clear that Soviet-Estonian relations are between two neutral powers.

"Therefore the relations between Moscow and Tallinn are not relations between a belligerent and a neutral, of which the belligerent asks explanations for alleged favoritism to an enemy belligerent. It is a question of relations between two neutrals and therefore neither of them has any obligation to account to the other for the conduct of neutrality, especially when one of them—Moscow—is a doubtful neutral who has been the first to violate the neutrality laws, and could therefore be defined an 'aggressor neutral,' if this were not a contradiction in terms.

"The fact is that Russia—which is a signatory of non-aggression pacts with all neighboring States—appears to the present conflict purely as an aggressor. After having attacked Poland and having marched against a heroic army to lacerate already inflicted wounds, Russia inaugurates a series of ukases against neighboring countries.

"Moscow is not interested in the vagrant and harmless Polish submarine whose engines were already proved to be out of order. She is interested in affirming in the Baltic her 'vital status'; and in having her 'vital rights' in that zone."

The newspaper then warns that Russia's "vital status" will not end in the Baltic, but include the Black Sea and the Balkans, and "as a matter of fact, the whole world, which Stalin wants to redeem with the affirmation of the vital rights of bolshevism."

Encyclical Expected Oct. 4

VATICAN CITY, Sept. 27 (UP)—Authoritative Vatican quarters understood today that Pope Pius XII would issue the first encyclical of his pontificate on Oct. 4, the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi.

The Pope has been preparing his encyclical all Summer in the seclusion of his villa at Castel Gandolfo.

A high source

President Kon

world represent principally a moral crisis.

The Vatican source said:

"It is our belief that the forthcoming encyclical will warn men that unless they return to a consideration of world events in their just value, subordinating them to spiritual value, the crisis which has been tormenting the world for so many years cannot be surmounted. If men heed the Pope's warning only then will a true and just peace again shine throughout the world."

Preparations for the return of the Pope from Castel Gandolfo to Vatican City are complete. After three months of work the papal apartment in the Vatican Palace has been rebuilt. Last Spring the apartment consisted of numerous small, dark rooms. Now partitions and walls have been removed and the apartment has large, sunny rooms. Many windows have been opened in the thick palace walls.

The Pope will occupy the apartment with a ceremony when he returns from Castel Gandolfo next month.

PENDERGAST ASKS PAROLE

Kansas City Leader's Pleas to Be Considered by Board

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27—Thomas J. Pendergast, former Democratic leader of Kansas City, has asked for parole from his fifteen-months sentence in the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth.

A hearing on the application will be held at the prison and the parole board will consider the plea at its regular meeting here next month.

Pendergast, who was committed to the penitentiary May 29, will be eligible for parole Oct. 28, when he will have served one-third of his sentence for evading income tax payments of \$315,000. When he first entered the penitentiary he was ill for a time, but is now said to be out of the hospital and in very good condition.

A parole was recently refused to R. Emmett O'Malley, the Missouri State Superintendent of Insurance, convicted with Pendergast, was recently refused when he sought a parole from his sentence of a year and a day.

GRASS HUTS VANISHING

Concrete Homes Replace Crude Shelters in Puerto Rico

Grass huts are disappearing from Puerto Rico's picturesque mountainsides, declares the Interior Department. More than 3,000 modern concrete and adobe houses have been constructed by the Puerto Rico Reconstruction Administration during the past three years.

The new