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Preserving American Jewish History

MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series C: Interreligious Activities. 1952-1992

Box 42, Folder 5, Paul VI [Pope] - audience with American Jews, 1964.

'EVERY FAVOR FROM GOD'

Pope attacks anti-Jewish violations

VATICAN CITY—Pope Paul VI said Saturday that no civilization worthy of the name would permit any infringement on the human rights of Jews or other groups

The Holy Father spoke in English during an audience for leaders of the American Jewish Committee, headed by AJC president Morris B. Abram, a member of the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

Abram announced later that Pope Paul had endorsed a project in which the AJC will open a Rome center for analyzing and combating prejudice

The pope praised the committee's work in safeguarding freedom of all groups "to develop the human values God has given them free from coercion and discrimination"

He stressed the close links between Christianity and Judaism. The text of Pope Paul's address follows

"GENTLEMEN: We thank you for your visit and we greet with attentive esteem the courteous words you have addressed to us

"We have heard with gratification the resolution you have manifested 'to safeguard the religious and cultural freedom of all people, and the rights of all groups to develop the human values God has given them, free from coercion and discrimination'

"We are glad of the opportunity you offer us of confirming what is already well known concerning the attitude of the Catholic Church, and in particular of the Holy See, toward the Jews. This name of Jew, in fact, raises several questions, which we consider with serene attention

"First of all, the racial question, and in this regard we repeat the heartfelt wish expressed, on numerous occasions, by our venerated predecessors, namely, that this should never be for you, or for any other ethnic group, a reason for undergoing any diminution in your human rights, which every civilization truly worthy of the name cannot avoid recognizing

"Second, the political question, which it is not our business to pronounce upon, especially at this time, when we are finding just and peaceful solutions both for the populations who have already sustained so many trials and suffering, and also by reason of the interests which the Catholic Church, and the other Christian churches, may have therein, and which must not be disregarded

"Finally, the religious aspect, which interests us most deeply, and motivates our particular consideration for the Jewish religious tradition, with which Christianity is so intimately linked, and from which it derives hope for trusting relations and for a happy future

Hence, again strongly deploring the horrible ordeals of which the Jews have been the victims in recent years, we wish you every favor from God, whom we invoke with all our heart on your behalf, and that of all those who are near and dear to you."

At a press conference in New York later, Abram quoted Pope Paul as saying that Francis Cardinal Spellman of New York, had "spoken my sentiments" when he condemned anti-semitism in an address before the American Jewish Committee's annual dinner April 30

In that talk, Cardinal Spellman declared that anti-semitism "can never find a basis in the Catholic

Turn to page 2

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSE BULLETIN

Cleveland, Ohio 4 31 a year — 10 cents

Vol 91 No 8

Friday, June 5, 1964

OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSE

SCHOOL INTEGRATION SEEN UNLIKELY

All factions urged to boost Negro training

The National Committee for Civic Responsibility said this week that instead of campaigning for an elementary-school integration which cannot really be achieved, civil rights groups—and their opponents—should support efforts to provide better education for Negro children

The drive to halt de facto segregation in Cleveland public schools has produced dangerous racial tensions, the NCCR executive committee said, but at the grade-school level "not a single comprehensive plan for integration has been put forward by any of its advocates"

Because of the city's distribution of Negro and white children, the NCCR said, genuine integration cannot be achieved without "massive" cross-city transportation and much new construction

"Significantly, such a large-scale program has not been seriously advocated by anyone, but anything less than that would not really eliminate 'de facto segregation'"

A far greater need, the NCCR asserted, is improved educational opportunities, because though color bars still exist in some places, "evidence points to the fact that Negroes are unable to supply the skills necessary to fill opportunities now open to them."

The NCCR said many private organizations have started projects for the "cultural and educational upgrading of deprived children" and that others are working for interracial understanding and cooperation



Thomas C. Westropp, president of the National Committee for Civic Responsibility

It urged help for these programs, especially challenging those who:

"Have been concerned about communist influence in the civil rights movement

"Have deplored the shortcomings of Negroes

"Have advocated local action as against government action

"Have contended that most white people hate Negroes and that the only road to progress for Negroes is in the streets"

The NCCR statement added:

"These organizations and individuals will now be given the opportunity to demonstrate whether they are truly concerned for the welfare of our country or whether they are

simply seeking to exploit this country's problems for other purposes"

The NCCR was founded here last year to combat extremism in public controversies. It said it hopes this statement, signed by NCCR president Thomas C. Westropp, "will serve to promote dialog along responsible and constructive channels."

The statement said that while the realities of de facto segregation have been given "little attention," "extremists have sought to exploit these tensions by fanning more hatred and encouraging more violence."

"The (national) founder of the National Association for the Advancement of White People and several Negro extremists have even advocated the formation of rifle clubs, while those who deplored civil rights demonstrations have often sponsored the appearance of 'peace' demonstrators who threatened and engaged in civil disobedience in his own state of Alabama."

However, desirable school integration might be, the NCCR said, organizations that sanction demonstrations for it here "have a responsibility for outlining precisely what their goals are and how these goals may be achieved

"From a preliminary study of the population and geographic distribution of elementary school children in Cleveland, this committee seriously questions to what extent meaningful integration can be achieved, even if everyone favored such a policy"

The NCCR said public grade schools on the East Side enroll 50,000 Negro children and 15,000 white, on the West Side, 25,000 white children and less than 400 Negroes

Thus, the NCCR said, mathematically perfect integration on the East Side would result in a 77 per cent Negro enrollment in each school

But "because of geographic distribution and other factors," this mathematical maximum could not be reached, the NCCR said, and the practical result would be either a large number of grade schools with a small percentage of white children, or genuine integration in a few schools and none at all in the others

The alternative, cross-city transportation and large-scale construction would be "astronomical"

SKIP IT, CIC URGES

'Wallace talk odd way to fight Reds'

The Cleveland Catholic Interracial Council today urged "Catholics and other fair-minded citizens" to stay away from a meeting here Thursday at which Alabama Gov. George Wallace is scheduled to speak under auspices of the Organization to Fight Communism

Promoting Wallace, said the CIC statement, is a strange way to "fight communism"

The CIC statement follows:

From the
archbishop's desk

[start]

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stant, St. Michael, Scranton Rd.

Father Carl L. D'Agostino, assistant, St. Charles, to assistant, Holy Redeemer.

Father Robert J. Ward, assistant, Blessed Sacrament, to assistant, St. Monica.

Father Peter J. Lenahan, assistant, St. Richard, to pro tem assignment as assistant chaplain, Notre Dame Educational Center, and at end of summer, assistant, St. Francis of Assisi.

Father Francis G. VanBergen, assistant, St. Leo, to assistant, St. Henry.

Father Edward F. Rupp, assistant, St. Ann, to assistant, St. John Bosco.

Father Thomas F. Cullen, assistant, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Wickliffe, to assistant, Our Lady of Peace.

Father John L. Viall, assistant, St. Augustine, Barberton, to assistant, SS. Philip and James.

Father Norbert J. Duda, assistant, St. John Cantius, to assistant, Nativity, Lorain.

Father Michael E. Marvett, assistant, St. Jude, Elyria, to as-

Attacks anti-Jewish moves

Continued from page 1

lic religion." Commenting on "Jewish responsibility for the crucifixion of Christ," he said:

"It is one of those distorted and terribly harmful notions which somehow gain currency and like a cancer spread among certain people who wish to justify their own bigotry..."

Abram said that the presentation to the Second Vatican Council last November of statements on religious liberty and the Christian attitude toward Jews were "historic acts of greater mutual understanding." He said:

"It is only natural that following this historic step, Jews all over the world look forward to the next session of the ecumenical council... with the expectation and belief that the council will solemnly condemn the distorted conception of deicide that has been the basis of such untold suffering to Jews and injury to Western civilization throughout the ages—a condemnation that

lies at the heart of the declaration concerning Jews."

Abram said it was "symbolic of the times" that in the United Nations "I have found myself working in collaboration with the papal observer in the preparation of an international draft declaration meant to protect men against all forms of religious intolerance, wherever they may take place."

Abram said the anti-prejudice center will be known as the Leonard M. Sperry Center for Inter-group Cooperation, in memory of the American Jewish Committee leader who died in 1963, and will be established in the Inter-

national University of Social Studies Pro Deo, headed by Father Felix A. Morlion.

In addition to promoting examination of religious texts and teaching materials throughout the world to determine in what light they portray various religious groups and ethnic minorities, the institute will conduct a long-range program of sociological and psychological research aimed at counteracting any prejudices found in the texts, Abram added.

Noting that the committee has already stimulated and encouraged self-studies of religious teaching materials by Protestant and Catholic authorities in the U.S., he said "similar investigations elsewhere could prove equally valuable and we believe the Sperry Center will be enabled to do pioneer work in this important area."

Jewish body favors school tax relief

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — (RNS) — A Jewish educators' council last week called upon the U.S. government to allow a partial income tax deduction for tuition at full-time parochial and other private schools.

Some 500 delegates at the annual conference of the National Council for Jewish Education approved a resolution noting that the deduction "would have a salutary effect to some degree on the overall issue of religious school financing."

The delegates said that parents of private-parochial pupils are subject to "a system of double taxation" in that the religious school relieves the public school system of the costs of school construction, maintenance, teaching and other pupil costs. At the same time, they said, "the parent of such a pupil is not thereby freed from the payment of real estate taxes which are the principal source of public school financing."

THEY AGREED, however, that while there could be "no quarrel with the principle that those who desire a special type of education for their children must be ready to pay for it, it is also a fact that they are paying as well for the approximate half of the total cost of the day school program devoted to the secular subjects which the law requires for all children, regardless of the particular framework of education."

The resolution urged a study by "appropriate public and governmental agencies of the possibility of writing into existing federal tax laws a provision which would permit relief for such parents in the form of deductions from their taxable incomes for a portion of the funds spent for the cost of religious school education for their children."

HOLDING THAT such deductions would not infringe on the principle of church-state separation, the delegates stated that "such an arrangement would ease the present unfair burden of double taxation on such parents at relatively little cost to the federal treasury without upsetting the existing local real estate taxation base for public school financing."

Pope Paul again defends Pius stand on Jews

VATICAN CITY — (NC) — Pope Paul VI last week returned to the defense of Pius XII who is accused by playwright Rolf Hochhuth of not speaking out in defense of the Jews in World War II.

The Holy Father told the Italian Association of Former War Prisoners:

"From that cry of our predecessor, Pius XII, with which he warned that everything might be lost through war, to his firm protests against the continuous illegalities of the invading armies, to the organization of charity and assistance relief in accordance with the possibilities of those years—short of means, of information and of men—everything reminds us of an untiring and sleepless work. This work was full of solicitude and of anxiety to recall minds to equity and clemency, to heal the frightful material and moral wounds of war and to check in some way the flood of sorrow which was rising as hatred and passion raged.

"Only an eye veiled by incomprehension and ill will can deny that work, and we are grateful to you for having publicly attested your convictions which show the delicacy of your feelings tempered by sorrow."

See council decree on unity of man

Continued from page 1

previous sessions of the council," the station said:

"Here is further timely evidence not only of the Church's desire that no one may ever feel himself a stranger in Rome—as the Holy Father put it so cordially—but of her binding conviction that her Catholicity is an appeal to perfect the image of the Trinity and impress upon all men, whatever their differences, superficial or fundamental, the need for unity.

"The council is fully aware, and made it clear in its 'Manifesto to the World' at the outset of its first session, that these differences in man's approach to God and his fellow men are anything but arbitrary. They are the work of the Creator Himself, Who has willed them to permit our mutual spiritual enrichment along the path of our pilgrimage to eternal life.

"It is by and through this Church of our Redeemer that the divine plan is resumed. She cannot but welcome and assume all these differences by offering herself with maternal friendliness to civilization as well as to individuals, with no other desire than to render them fruitful, sanctify them all, and lead them to the destiny preordained for them all.

"For human values, even where they amount to sincere religious convictions different from our own, the Church maintains a profound respect. She says no only to the deviations, only to the corruptions which disfigure the divine gifts within or without her communion. Outside the range of her sacramental life she knows that religious movement must always be slow, faltering and more or less devious. Her mission in life is to straighten it out and bring it to a happy conclusion."

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US Jewish committee where? leaders visit Pope

VATICAN CITY (NC)—Pope Paul VI told leaders of the American Jewish Committee that Jews and other ethnic groups should not because of race have to suffer "any diminution in your human rights, which every civilization truly worthy of the name cannot avoid recognizing."

The Pope received the group, headed by the committee president, Morris B. Abram, and spoke in English (May 30). He touched briefly on racial, political and religious aspects of Judaism.

Following is the text of the Pope's talk:

Gentlemen, we thank you for your visit and greet with attentive esteem the courteous words you have addressed to us. We have heard with gratification the resolution you have manifested "to safeguard the religious and cultural freedom of all people, and the rights of all groups to develop the human values God has given them free from coercion and discrimination."

We are glad of the opportunity you offer us of confirming what is already well known concerning the attitude of the Catholic Church, and in particular of the Holy See, toward the Jews. This name of Jew, in fact, raises several questions which we consider with serene attention.

First of all, the racial question: and in this regard we repeat the heartfelt wish expressed on numerous occasions by our venerated predecessors: namely that this should never be for you or for any other ethnic group a reason for undergoing and diminution in your human rights, which every civilization truly worthy of the name cannot avoid recognizing.

Second, the political question, which is not our business to pronounce upon, especially at this time; although we always desire and augur that it find just and peaceful solutions, both for the populations who have already sustained so many trials and sufferings, and also by reason of the interests which the Catholic Church and the other Christian Churches may have therein and which must not be disregarded.

Finally, the religious aspect, which interests us most deeply and motivates our particular consideration for the Jewish religious tradition with which Christianity is so intimately linked and from which it derives hope for trusting relations and for a happy future.

Hence, while we again strongly deplore the horrible ordeals of which the Jews have been the victims in recent years, we wish you every favor from God, whom we invoke with all our heart on your behalf and that of all those who are near and dear to you.

^{where?} ^{Pittsburgh Catholic} Pope Speaks to American Jews ^{6/4/68}

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George Sullivan
6/4/64

Pope Addresses American Jews

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SECOND, the political question, which is not our business to pronounce ourselves upon, especially at this time; although we always desire and augur that it find just and peaceful solutions, both for the populations who have already sustained so many trials and sufferings, and also by reason of the interests which the Catholic Church and the other Christian churches may have therein and which must not be disregarded.

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Pope Paul Receives U. S. Jewish Group

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ORDEALS OF JEWS DEPLORED BY POPE

Paul Expresses Desire for
Trusting Relations—Hails
Pius's Wartime Protests

*The text of the Pope's remarks
will be found on Page 15*

By ROBERT C DOTY

Special to The New York Times

ROME, May 30—Pope Paul VI told leaders of the American Jewish Committee today that he strongly deplored "the horrible ordeals of which the Jews have been the victims in recent years."

At an audience accorded to Morris B. Abram, president, and other leaders of the organization, the Pontiff also expressed his desire for "trusting relations and for a happy future" between Christianity and Judaism, which he said were "intimately linked" by tradition.

Mr. Abram, in greeting the Pope, emphasized the American Jewish Committee's objectives of safeguarding "the religious and cultural freedom of all people and the rights of all groups to develop the human values God has given them, free from coercion and discrimination."

Full Rights Stressed

Citing these words with "gratification," the Pope, who spoke in English, said he was glad of the opportunity to confirm the Roman Catholic Church's attitude toward the Jews.

Later, the Pontiff made implied reference to the controversy over charges that Pope Pius XII did not adequately speak out against Nazi persecutions of Jews during World War II. The controversy centers on the play "The Deputy" by the German playwright Rolf Hochhuth.

Addressing a group of Italians who had been in concentration camp, Pope Paul praised Pius's "firm protests" against war illegalities and his "anguished efforts" to obtain justice and clemency.

"Only an eye clouded by incomprehension and malevolence

Continued on Page 15, Column 1

ORDEALS OF JEWS DEPLORED BY POPE

Continued From Page 1, Col. 5

could fail to recognize that work," the Pope said.

In the audience given the American Jewish Committee leaders the Pope expressed the view that the "racial question" should never be for any ethnic group "a reason for undergoing any diminution in your human rights."

On what he called "the political question" concerning Jews, the Pope said he would make no comment, "especially at this time." But he expressed hope that this question would find "just and peaceful solutions" for the "populations who have already sustained so many trials and suffering."

At the last session of the Ecumenical Council the Secretariat for Christian Unity sought approval of a declaration specifically making clear that the church did not consider the Jew's responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus. It was believed that this would eliminate one of the historical sources of anti-Semitism.

Bishops from Moslem countries expressed fears that this might be interpreted as a political act bearing on the Israeli-Arab dispute. Action on the document containing this section was put off at the last Council session, but it is believed it may come up at the next session opening this fall.

The Pontiff spoke today of the "interests" the Roman Catholic and other Christian churches have in a settlement of the political question, "which must not be disregarded."

This apparently referred both to Christian humanitarian concern for the "populations" of the Holy Land, now divided between Israel and Arab states, and to the common interest in the holy places of Christianity visited by Pope Paul in January.

The Vatican does not recognize Israel and has long maintained neutrality in the dispute between Israel and the Arab countries.

Finally, turning to the religious aspect of church attitudes toward the Jews, the Pope expressed "our particular consideration for the Jewish religious tradition, with which Christianity is so intimately linked, and from it derives hope for trusting relations and for a happy future."

Text of Address by Pope

ROME, May 30 (Reuters)—Following is the text of an address today by Pope Paul VI during an audience accorded to American Jewish leaders.

Gentlemen

We thank you for your visit, and we greet with attentive esteem the courteous words you have addressed to us.

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1-2 Luglio 1957

The American Jewish Committee, which you, honorable gentlemen, represent, has just rounded out fifty years of service in behalf of the rights and status of those of your race, who with other minority groups have been subjected to violation of fundamental rights inherent in the human person. Forced to forsake the land of their birth and seek on far-off, unfamiliar shores a refuge, where they might begin anew a family life, how many have then had to experience the almost-desperate situation, added to their miseries, of not being welcome where they had hoped for hospitality.

Your desire to visit Us this morning is a testimony to your confidence in the interest We have in the sad plight of peoples just described. Again and again, as did Our predecessor of happy memory before Us, We have strongly urged that fundamental principles of justice and charity and the long recognized practice of offering asylum to those not guilty of crime be the norm of government conduct today. It is a consolation to Our paternal heart to know that Our appeal has been generously heeded in many countries, and We like to cherish the hope that, so long as that evil blight perdures, States will not be lacking in their obligation to succour those who have been forced to emigrate.

We have been happy to welcome you, gentlemen, and Our heart goes out in fervent prayer to God, that in His bounteous goodness He have pity on those who are suffering injustice and enlighten those who are perpetrating evil.

Con Breve Apostolico la Santità di Nostro Signore Si è benignamente degnata di nominare l'Eminentissimo e Reverendissimo Signor Cardinale Eugenio Tisserant Protettore delle Suore della Santa Agonia di N. S. G. C., la cui Casa Generalizia si trova a Mazamet, diocesi di Albi.

Provvista di Chiesa

La Santità di Nostro Signore Si è benignamente degnata di nominare alla Chiesa Cattedrale di Wurzburg il Reverendissimo Sac. Josef Stangl, Rettore del Seminario Maggiore della medesima Diocesi.

Risposta del Sommo Pontefice all'omaggio riconoscente dell'«American Jewish Committee»

Il Santo Padre Si è benignato di ricevere in Udienza il Signor Dott. Ivin M. Engel, Presidente dell'«American Jewish Committee» di New York, accompagnato da alcuni appartenenti allo stesso Comitato.

Essi, nel compiere un viaggio in Europa per ingraziare quanti hanno assistito gli ebrei e tutti coloro, i cui fondamentali diritti sono stati violati in questi ultimi decenni, segnatamente durante la guerra mondiale, hanno tenuto a rinnovare speciale e sentita gratitudine al Sommo Pontefice.

Alle loro espressioni di omaggio riconoscente Sua Santità Si è compiaciuto di rispondere nei termini che riportiamo, così come li abbiamo potuti raccogliere.