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"Nisi Dominus custodierit civitatem frustra vigilat qui custodit eam."

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CATHOLIC UNION OF INDIA

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS OF MR. M. RUTHNASWAMY
AT THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

THE SAFEGUARDING OF RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES OF CATHOLICS

(Concluded from last issue.)

Turning to the third object of the Union the safeguarding of the rights and liberties of Catholics in India, Catholic representative individuals and associations from the Catholic Bishops' Conference downwards have asked for the incorporation of certain fundamental rights in the future constitution of India. The battle for the incorporation of such rights in the Indian constitution is nearly won as the Congress, the Muslim League, the Sapru Committee are all agreed on this matter. But it is not fully won—for the British Government has to be converted to it. The British prejudice against such definition of fundamental rights in the constitution is long-standing and persists for we find it in as recent a document as the Joint Committee Report on the Constitutional Reforms of 1935. It is founded on a memory and a lapse of memory, on the memory that they have got on very well without such definition in any single constitutional document and on their failing to remember that their fundamental rights are scattered over a number of constitutional documents dating from the Magna Charta of 1215, running through the Petition of Rights, the Habeas Corpus Act, the Declaration of Rights and the Bill of Rights of 1688. But Anglo-Saxon themselves when they proceeded to frame a constitution outside England did not disdain a declaration of rights and the incorporation of many of them in their constitution. What was good and necessary for the Americans may be found good and necessary for India on the eve of a new political life. The founders of the constitution of the U.S.A. found that such a definition acts as a qualification upon forces exercised or exercisable by a democracy. As Story the great commentator on the constitution of the U.S.A. says "Whenever then a general power exists or is granted to a government which may in its actual exercise or abuse be dangerous to the people, there seems a peculiar propriety in restricting its operations and in excepting from it some at least of the most mischievous powers in which it may likely end." Madison, one of the founders of the constitution of the U.S.A. was of the opinion that especially in a democracy was protection required against the body of the people operating by a

majority against the minority and the interests of the community.

In addition to the rights ensuring freedom to practice our religion in public as well as in private and to preach and propagate it, and our claims to be governed in our family life by our personal law which is the Canon Law, I think in view of what has happened in Travancore we should have some such provision as occurs in certain Central European constitutions after the war of 1914-1918 which provide for financial aid from the State for the preservation and advancement of the culture of minorities.

While the battle for fundamental rights is almost won, I would suggest that care be taken in the drafting of the clauses in the constitution ensuring those rights. The form of words used in the U.S.A. Constitution should be adopted. That is to say these rights need not be granted in the constitution for they are not granted but taken for granted—they existed long before the constitution. Thus in regard to religious freedom, the constitution of the U.S.A. says "The Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." On that analogy the Indian Constitution should say "The legislature, federal or provincial shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." For this form of words presumes that the rights claimed are natural and necessary rights, natural to man and necessary for his life and not dependent on the good will of any State or Government or Constitution. This doctrine of natural rights is another Catholic doctrine dating from the earliest Christian times down to recent Papal Encyclicals. The right to life, liberty, property, freedom of religion, to obedience from subjects, to protection from the State are all natural rights according to Catholic political philosophy. Secular political philosophy among the best political thinkers of the U.S.A. has also come to recognize these rights as natural and not as granted by any State or Government or even Constitution.

For the protection of these rights in the Indian constitution the experience of the U.S.A. has also shown that they had best be placed under the aegis of an independent Judiciary like the Federal Court.

SPAIN'S "POLITICAL MARTYRS"

The following statement has been issued by the Spanish authorities concerning Cristino Garcia, whose execution led to French action against Spain.

"Cristino Garcia, in 1936 a stoker on a merchantman, fought in Spain's Republican army, enlisted afterwards in the F.F.I. in France. At the end of the World War he followed a course in the Terrorist school at Toulouse, proceeded to Spain and initiated a campaign of subversion, murder and sabotage, at the head of a band which he led until he was arrested on the 16th October, 1945. At the moment of his detention he had in his possession

numerous documents with precise data about establishments and persons to be victims of acts of violence.

"When tried he was convicted of the following crimes: Murder of the owner of a bar in Canillejas; leading an armed gang in an attack against the Civil Guard of Peguerinos which resulted in the death of two Civil Guards; attack and robbery of 21,000 pesetas at the offices of the R.E.N.E.F., pistol in hand; attack on 9th October, 1945, on a branch of the Banco Central; robbing 143,000 pesetas; the murder, on account of internal differences in the Party, of the Communist Gabriel Leon

'EXPERTS' ARE LEADING WORKERS TO THEIR RUIN

"Present-day social reform, because it is not based on the true idea of man, is bound to crash. The reformers are attempting an impossible task," said Fr. Paul Crane, S.J., at a "Catholic Worker" meeting in the Interval Club, London.

He warned workers that they are allowing themselves to become "plasticine" in the hands of "experts" who have no true knowledge of man and his supernatural dignity.

LEADERS NEEDED AT ALL LEVELS

"People are beginning to understand that men do not live by bread alone, but they do not know where or how to get the spiritual food.

"There must be a drive in this country to produce leaders, men who through their charity, firmness and truth can lead society. We need these leaders at every level, and we must look for them in the workshops, the offices, the public-houses.

"We are not fighting primarily for justice. Remember Our Lord's words: 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you.'

"If we complete with other 'isms' in their fight for material things we are doomed to failure. Our fight is for something higher.

"In this country Catholics are not socially conscious. Having, as it were, fostered man's soul at the expense of his body, we may now tend to lay too much emphasis on the other side. We must realise that our campaign is basically and fundamentally spiritual. We must integrate our enthusiasms for the good of man's body and his soul.

"We must be realists. We must come to grips with the problems of here and now. One ideal we have in mind is that the headquarters of our workers shall be an exchange for knowledge and ideas. Apart from being our central office it will be a brain centre of an

active social movement, one information bureau of people with whose philosophy of life we cannot agree."

OUR SOCIAL REFORM BOUND TO CRASH

"First, there is the fact that the only solution put forward, the only tide of social reform, is material. It is thought of only in material terms.

"You can say that the Marxist heresy is penetrating our society. Or you can say that the materialism of the 19th century is not dead.

"Heaven knows we want material improvements, but we want them as a means to an end, because material well-being is a help to sound living.

"The second failure lies in the fact that no part is left to individual effort. Man is always to be played on by the experts. They are to do everything for them. Can you imagine more insufferable impertinence than that?

"But man is asking to be treated in this fashion. Ask a man something and he will say: 'I don't know, it is not in my paper.' Or: 'I haven't read the book.' Or: 'Get such and such a book. It's all in there.'

'EXPERTS' WITHOUT REAL KNOWLEDGE

"People with that attitude allow themselves to be played on by the experts because they trust them. But these same experts have no knowledge of man and his supernatural destiny.

"If people leave themselves open to this sort of activity they will turn into a mob or herd which can be driven. People want only a bit of bread, with an occasional circus, and so they make themselves into a bit of plasticine. Taking refuge in the experts' view, many can be treated just as the experts want.

"So we have totalitarianism coming upon us—with the insidious kindness of State bureaucracy."

U.N.O. MORE ANXIOUS ABOUT UNITY THAN JUSTICE

There will be hope for the success of the United Nations as an organisation designed to remove disputes only when delegates cease to believe that the end is greater than the means. While so many believe that it is better to travel hopefully than to arrive, the United Nations will not arrive anywhere.

Too many people think it a good thing that the United Nations should remain united even if the influence of their unity does not extend beyond half a mile of Big Ben, and this is the reason for the empty formulas and equivocation to which the Apostolic Delegate and the Archbishop of Westminster have referred.

Trillo, alias Julio Torres Alarcon, and Alberto Perez de Ayala, on the 6th September and the 14th October respectively.

Similar crimes were charged against the other persons recently executed. All, it is said, were executed for crimes that would be crimes in any country. They were not sentenced for political views, but because they had themselves been guilty of physical violence.

A revealing indication of the spirit which infused the United Nations at its birth in San Francisco and which still persists is given in the report of the committee examining the question of trusteeship. The Charter lays down that the terms of trusteeship for each territory to be placed under the system shall be agreed upon "by the States directly concerned."

TERMS DELIBERATELY LEFT VAGUE

When the meaning of the phrase was demanded in committee, the American representative said that in the view of his delegation this question was not within the competence of the committee, and he added that at San Francisco it was decided to refrain from defining the term in a more precise form.

The penetration of the view that what chiefly matters is unity in the assembly rather than order and justice in Europe makes dangerous such resolution as that on refugees being pushed through the UNO machine by the Yugoslavs. They urge that "it is in the interests of good relations among members of the United Nations Organ-

(Continued on Page 4.)



In Memoriam

Elizabeth Saverimuttu

BORN 16TH APRIL 1921
DIED 29TH MARCH 1943

Inserted by her sorrowing husband and children.

No. 1, St. Patrick's Road,
29-3-46, Jaffna.

Church Calendar

MARCH 1946

- FRI. ...29 S. Eustace.
 - SAT. ...30 S. John Clim.
 - SUN. ...31 4 L.—S. Guy.
- APRIL 1946
- MON. ...1 S. Hugh.
 - TUES. ...2 S. Francis Paula.
 - WED. ...3 S. Richard.
 - THURS. ...4 S. Isidore.
 - FRI. ...5 S. Vincent Fer.

The Catholic Guardian

MARCH 29TH 1946

CHANGES IN HOLIDAYS

We read with much surprise in the *Daily News* of the 22nd inst. that the Home Committee in order to give two additional holidays for the Buddhist-Hindu New Year had recommended the deletion of Maundy Thursday as a holiday. This addition of two or more holidays to the Buddhist-Hindu New Year is no concern of ours but we must strongly object to the suppression of Maundy Thursday from the list of holidays as it would be very difficult for many Catholics to attend Church services on that day. The Minister and the members of his Committee may not know what Maundy Thursday is, but it ought to be enough for them to be made aware that it is a Day sacred to Catholics and its deletion would be looked upon by them as an invidious and a wholly one-sided action. Maundy Thursday was proclaimed a holiday at the special request of the Catholic Union acting on behalf of the Catholics of Ceylon. It was pointed out to the authorities at the time that Easter Tuesday which was then a holiday might well be suppressed and Maundy Thursday made a holiday instead. The Council considered the reasons given and granted the request of the Catholics. The Home Ministry must not think that it is wiser than the Council to set aside the latter's considered decision; nor should it presume that the majority can ride rough-shod over what is due to a minority. Curiously enough, this same Ministry took good care to consult the Managers of the different Banks in Ceylon and the Chamber of Commerce as to how the holiday changes would affect them; but it never seemed to have occurred to this Ministry that the Catholics on whose behalf Maundy Thursday was proclaimed a holiday need also to be consulted. As we are on the subject of public holidays we might refer to the impression that Christians in this country though numerically a small community have more holidays

than the other communities. This feeling arises from the fact that Christmas and New Year holidays extend from the 24th of December to the 2nd of January. This set of continuous holidays was sanctioned not for the benefit of Christians but for the convenience of the members of the public services the majority of whom are non-Christians. If we are not mistaken it was Mr. K. Balasingham in the Old Legislative Council who pointed out that the one-day holidays scattered through the twelve months of the year afforded little rest to the clerks and other employees but if they were brought together so as to make a week of holidays it would be greatly appreciated by them, particularly by those who worked away from their homes. To give effect to this proposal two holidays—Ascension Day and Ash Wednesday—were suppressed, but Christians did not object. It must not be forgotten, therefore, that the long holidays from Christmas to New Year were appointed more for the convenience of non-Christians than Christians. Now, to come back to the question of Maundy Thursday, we must say once more that we cannot allow it to be suppressed as a holiday and Catholics in this country will look to the Catholic Union of Ceylon to take up the matter with Government. What is especially hateful in the proposed change is that a day granted to Catholics for religious observance should be suppressed in order to find additional days for secular enjoyment for others.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The Soulbury Constitution and the Tamils.—An esteemed correspondent writes to say that preparations for the elections under the New Constitution are on foot and some candidates have already commenced canvassing support. In view of this development it has been suggested that the Tamil Congress should set up its own candidates without delay in order to ensure success at the polls. Our correspondent, however, does not fall in with this suggestion. His reasons are:

- (1) Under the present changed conditions a re-orientation of the Congress policy has become necessary.
- (2) There has as yet been no clear-cut parliamentary programme put forward and that programme will not be possible until the New Constitution is promulgated and the reactions of the Sinhalese and other non-Tamil sections of the people are known.
- (3) The Indian franchise remains to be settled.
- (4) The findings of the Delimitation Committee must be known.
- (5) If after information on the foregoing heads, the Tamil community as a whole would express its opinion in favour of a united front, then will it be time for the Tamil Congress to put forward its own candidates. Unity of policy and action is essential.

These are the salient points in the letter which we greatly regret space does not allow us to print. The points raised are sufficiently serious and must commend themselves to thoughtful men.

Syllabus of Catholic Doctrine

by REV. FR. B. WM. JESUTHASAN, O.M.I.

A summary of Catholic Doctrine almost in the very words of the Symbols of Faith, of the Holy Scriptures, and of the General Councils has been published in the "Guardian" of the 8th and the 15th inst. What is my purpose in publishing this Summary? Father C. C. Martindale, S.J., in the introduction to his little work entitled "Words of Life" has the following: "If I may allude to my own experience, I find that men much like to have some central guiding notion with which what else they learn is in organic connection. They like to see one thing growing out of another, and not merely juxtaposed statements or injunctions. This, perhaps, is what they do not find in the Catechism." His introduction was dated 1-11-21. About ten years later in an article called "A plea for a revision of the Catechism" published in the Clergy Review of May, 1931, Dr. Williams, Archbp. of Birmingham bewails that our Catechism does not make all its parts centre round the basic idea of the life of grace. He therefore advocates a rearrangement of the answers of our Catechism with a new orientation and a changed emphasis. After the publication of Gasparri's Catechism, the editors of the Catechism of the Catholic University of America write in 1938: "The Catholic Catechism by Cardinal Gasparri enjoys an authority that is beyond dispute, and its accuracy, as far as its theological content is concerned, cannot be questioned." Card. Gasparri has therefore left out of consideration the question of an organic scheme. Even with regard to the theological content, he allows the Bishop of the diocese to "amplify it or cut it down as he thinks fit." My purpose therefore in publishing the Summary of Catholic Doctrine is to raise again the question of an organic scheme referred to by the Archbishop and Fr. Martindale. They both echo my own ideas on the matter, though the schemes suggested by them differ from mine. My scheme, however, is not really mine. It is the scheme of the Apostles' Creed which centuries later developed into the Nicene Creed. But subsequent developments called "Profession of Faith" spoiled the scheme by making the fresh definitions and expositions trail behind the Nicene Creed instead of incorporating them, into the scheme itself. But in my Summary I have incorporated them into the scheme itself and present it as the organic scheme to be followed by our Catechism.

The scheme contained in my Summary is made clearer by the "chain sentence" given below. This sentence, which is in fact a summary of my Summary, has several divisions corresponding to the Sundays of the Liturgical Year. The scheme, outlined by the "chain sentence" is really a Concentric Syllabus which may be followed in conjunction with the observance of the Church Calendar, after dividing each subject into two or more parts and assigning those parts to be treated one by one in successive years. The desirability of such a syllabus is emphasised by Pope Pius XI; for, he says, "the people are better instructed in the truths of faith by the annual celebration of our sacred mysteries, than by even the weightiest pronouncements of the teaching of the Church" (Ency. on the Kingship of Christ).

- 1 THE TRIUNE GOD PATERNITY is our Eternal Life (16 Pent) i.e. the FATHER is the Principle of it Sept.-Dec. by being our
- 2 CREATOR who manifests to us His MICHAELMUS (17 Pent)
- 3 existence, 18 Pent
- 4 nature, 19 Pent
- 5 dominion, and 20 Pent
- 6 intervention. Guard. Angels
- 7 PROVIDER who assists SOULMAS (21 Pent) us by Grace of
- 8 light, 22 Pent
- 9 strength, 23 Pent
- 10 inspiration, Xt. the King
- 11 conversion, Saints & Souls
- 12 forgiveness, Dedication
- 13 deliverance, and 3-6 Epiph
- 14 pasture. 24 Pent.

- 15 PREDESTINATOR who prepares us for ADVENT 1 (Adv.)
- 16 death, and Im. Concep.
- 17 immortality. 3-4 Advent. Jan.-Apr.
- SON is the Mediator of it by being our
- 18 TEACHER who proves to us His divinity by CHRISTMAS (Circumcis. Holy Name Holy Family 2-5 Epiphany Candlemas.
- 19 prophecies,
- 20 character,
- 21 miracles, and
- 22 historicity.
- 23 REDEEMER who ministers to us Sacrament of LENT (Septuag.) baptism, Sexages. 24 eucharist, Quinquag. 25 confirmation, 1 Lent 26 matrimony, S. Joseph 27 penance, 3-4 Lent 28 extreme unction, and Passion 29 orders. Palms.
- 31 COHEIR who opens to us Heaven by His EASTER (Sun.) resurrection, and 1-5 Easter 33 judgment. Ascension.
- HOLY SPIRIT is the Consummator of it by being our
- 34 INCORPORATOR who convinces us of Church's WHITSUN (Sun.) Trinity 35 catholic unity, Corpus Xti. 36 holiness, Sac. Heart 37 apostolicity, and 4. Pent. 38 infallibility.
- 39 SANCTIFIER who perfects us by Virtue of HEARTMAS (5. Pent) 40 faith, 6 Pent 41 hope, Peter & Paul 42 charity, Prec. Blood 43 prudence, 9 Pent 44 fortitude, 10 Pent 45 temperance, and 11 Pent 46 justice. 12 Pent
- 47 GLORIFIER who rewards us by our ASSUMPTION (13. Pent) 48 resurrection, and 14 Pent 49 life everlasting. 15 Pent.

S. P. C., O. B. A., Jaffna

The Annual General Meeting of the O.B.A., of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna was held on Sunday the 17th March at 6-30 p.m. with Revd. Fr. B. A. John, O.M.I., the acting President in the chair.

After the adoption of the minutes of the last General Meeting the Secretary presented a short annual report on which the President commented on the Educational Policy and Free Education.

The President congratulated the Hony. Secretary on the Rank of Muhandiram conferred on him by the Ceylon Government which he said was not only an honour to the recipient but also to the College and the Old Boys' Association.

A vote of condolence was passed in the usual manner all members standing on the death of Mr. M. S. Rajakarier and Mr. James Joseph, two Vice-Presidents of the Association and Mr. P. O. Christian a member of the Committee whose death took place under tragic circumstances in Colombo.

The following were elected office-bearers:—

Vice-Presidents:—Chev. P. Moses, Chev. S. Arulanantham, Messrs. F. A. Sandrasegura and V. A. Duraiyappah.

Hony. Secretary:—Muhandiram F. J. R. Vikramasinkam.

Hony. Treasurer:—Mr. P. Saverimuttu.

Hony. Asst. Secretary:—Mr. K. Vamadeva.

Committee Members:—Very Revd. Fr. J. Emilianus Pillai, O.M.I., Messrs. Alfred Swampillai, A. H. Vanniasinkam, J. S. B. Selladurai, G. S. Pavirajasinghe, S. James, J. Alfred, P. R. Thambiyah, P. Philip, F. J. Armstrong, A. J. Selladurai, Emmanuel Tiruchelvalam, B. J. David, C.W.D. Alwines, Vital Moses, W. B. Canagaratne, J. Armstrong, V. Navaratnarajah, N.E.M. Cherubin, P. M. Joseph, V. Cherubim, James Rasiach, B. J. Benedict, S. Augustine and the President of the Teacher's Guild.

LOCAL & GENERAL

Our Lady of Refuge, Jaffna.

The Lenten Retreat will begin on the 7th of April. The Sixth Friday of Lent, the Feast of the Dolours of our Blessed Lady will be observed as usual on Friday the 12th April. Mass at the Grotto of the Calvary group at 6-45

a.m. The evening devotion will begin at 6 p.m.

The Third Order of St. Francis

The monthly meeting of the Third Order of St. Francis will take place at 6 p.m. in St. Aloysius' Hall on Monday the 1st of April, 1946. All the Brothers are kindly requested to be there in time. Plenary Indulgences can be gained on these dates:—4, 16, 21, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29 and 30. Conditions:—Confession, Communion, Visit to the Cathedral and prayer for the Pope's Intentions.

Reduced Allocation of Foodstuffs.—A message has been received from Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, who is now in Washington exploring the possibilities of getting more foodstuffs, that the authorities have recommended an allocation of 119,000 tons of flour per half year and 90,000 tons of rice per quarter for Ceylon. Ceylon had asked for 150,000 tons of flour and 120,000 tons of rice.

Annual Spiritual Retreat.—The Annual Spiritual Retreat during Lent organised by the Colombo Catholic Diocesan Union will commence on Monday the 1st April at 5 p.m. at St. Philip Neri's Church, Pettah. Revd. Father Claude Lawrence, O.M.I. of St. Joseph's College will be the Preacher.

The services are only in the evenings and are specially meant for the city workers.

The Retreat closes on 7th April (Passion Sunday) with Holy Mass and Benediction at 7 a.m.—Cor.

Cathedral Parish Council.—A Committee meeting of the St. Mary's Cathedral Parish Council, Jaffna will be held on Sunday 31st inst. at 5-30 p.m. in St. Charles' School Hall. All members are requested to be present without fail.

Food Situation.—The "Stratt Malakka" which arrived in Colombo on Saturday brought a cargo of 7,700 tons of flour to Ceylon and the "Fairmount Park" which arrived a few days ago brought a consignment of 8,700 tons. The normal flour ration will be restored by April 8th.

The position with regard to rice, it is understood is still very bad.

Pope's Seventh Birthday.—The Holy Father's personal physician, Dr. Piccardio Galeazzi, said in an interview that His Holiness is in good health and has an amazing capacity for work. "The Pope exercises in his private chambers every morning, takes an hour's brisk walk in the Vatican gardens every afternoon, and has a cold shower every day," Dr. Galeazzi said. On his birthday the Pope was visited by his two sisters and three nephews.

French Cardinal Bishop.—For the first time a French Cardinal is to be Bishop of one of the six suburban dioceses, that is the dioceses around Rome. At the last Consistory, Cardinal Tisserant was given the episcopal title of "Porto and Santa Rufina."

Portugal.—A hundred thousand Portuguese boys, with members of Catholic youth movements of other countries, are to take part in a great pilgrimage to Fatima in May, when the statue of Our Lady will be crowned and the third centenary of Portugal's dedication to the Immaculate Conception celebrated. The Pope will send a Legate.

New Cardinals Die.—Cardinal Count von Galen, Bishop of Munster, who was recently invested with the Red Hat by the Pope, died in Munster on last Friday aged 68.

He became world famous during the war for his denunciation of Nazism. "British bombs are better for Germany than Nazism," he said in October, 1941. Later, it was reported that Hitler wanted to shoot him but was warned of the disastrous effect that this would have on the Roman Catholics in Germany.

The air-journey from America to Rome and the exhausting ceremonies there proved too much for the 83-year-old Archbishop of St. Louis, who bore his new dignity only for a fortnight. Cardinal Glennon died in Dublin, where he was the guest of Mr. de Valera, on March 9th.

Austria.—As a result of the Austrian People's Party success in the recent elections, there are Catholic Governors in seven out of eight provinces in Austria.

At the request of Cardinal Innitzer, Archbishop of Vienna, the Red Army has returned 550 church-bells, recaptured from the Germans during the fighting in Vienna.

The Census Analysis

The Census reveals that the population of Ceylon is 6,650,823, compared with 5,306,871 in 1931.

The population of the chief towns are as follows:—

Colombo 364,106, Jaffna 62,922, Kandy 50,381, Galle 49,038.

Colombo District has a population of 1,420,498; Jaffna District 424,867 and Kandy District 720,208. The population of the Trincomalee urban area increased from 10,160 in 1931 to 28,334 in 1946.

The following are the population figures for Provinces, Districts and Urban Council areas:

Western Province: 1,877,395—in 1931: 1,445,034—Increase of 29.9 per cent.

Central Province: 1,146,963—in 1931: 953,388—Increase 20.3 per cent.

Southern Province: 961,912—in 1931: 771,204—Increase 24.7 per cent.

Northern Province: 479,591—in 1931: 398,874—Increase 20.2 per cent.

Eastern Province: 270,849—in 1931: 212,421—Increase 27.5 per cent.

North-Western Province: 670,155—in 1931: 546,966—Increase 22.5 per cent.

North-Central Province: 132,377—in 1931: 97,365—Increase 36 per cent.

Uva Province: 368,622—in 1931: 303,243—Increase 21.6 per cent.

Sabaragamuwa Province: 742,961—in 1931: 578,368—Increase 28.5 per cent.

Districts:—Colombo 1,420,498; Kalutara 456,897; Kandy 720,208; (exclusive of population in 36 estates); Matale 158,384; N'Elia 268,371; Galle 460,497; Matara 351,792; Hambantota 149,623; Jaffna 424,867; Mannar 31,449; Vavuniya 23,275; Batticaloa 202,900; Trincomalee 67,949; Kurunegala 489,366; Puttalam and Chilaw 184,789; A'pura 132,377; Ratnapura 141,591; Kegalle 401,370 (exclusive of population on 4 estates).

Urban Council Areas:—Avisawella 2,633; Dehiwela-Mt. Lavinia 56,388; Gampaha 2,883; Ja-Ela 3,082; Kolonnawa 13,512; Kotte 39,555; Moratuwa 50,093; Negombo 32,632; Wattala Mabile-Peliyagoda 12,419; Beruwala 11,489; Horana 3,613; Kalutara 18,844; Panadura 16,545; Gampola 9,194; Hattton-Dickoya 5,360; Kadugannawa 1,322; Nawalapitiya 7,700; Wattagama 1,078; Matale 14,046; N'Elia 9,840; Ambalangoda 9,952; Matara 23,493; Weligama 11,891; Hambantota 3,966; Tangalla-Beliatta 6,841; Jaffna 62,922; Batticaloa 12,946; Trincomalee 28,364; Kuliapitiya 2,169; Kurunegala, 13,466; Chilaw 9,075; Puttalam 7,766; A'pura 12,287; Badulla 13,162; Bandarawela 3,005; Balangoda 2,142; Ratnapura 12,467; Kegalla 4,922.

Official Language Question

The following is a letter addressed by Mr. C. Vonnambalam, Chairman, Jaffna Urban Council, to the Secretary of the Select Committee on Official Languages:—

Dear Sir,—With reference to your letter dated the 11th instant, I have to state that 9 a.m. on 6th April 1946 will not suit me. I cannot find time to meet the Select Committee on any day before 5 p.m.

Any-how I shall express my views:

(1) As regards Civil Administration, inter-departmental business etc., my view is that English should continue to be the official language for at least another 40 years. I am strongly opposed to Sinhalese and Tamil being made official languages immediately. If Sinhalese and Tamil are adopted as official languages for inter-departmental business, the efficiency of administration will be seriously impaired. At present, and for another at least 30 years or more, the present government servants or those who are recruited in future will not be competent to express themselves correctly in Sinhalese and Tamil. Further there are no appropriate words in Sinhalese and Tamil for many terms used in official correspondence. There should be first Sinhalese

and Tamil Translation Committees and all terms used in official correspondence should be translated in Sinhalese and Tamil and Sinhalese and Tamil Dictionaries for use in Government offices should be published.

(2) You say in your note annexed to your letter under reference that facilities will of course have to be provided for government servants and others who do not know the languages to learn them. It is very difficult for a man after he becomes an adult to learn anything new—there may be rare exceptions. Therefore facilities being provided for government servants and others who do not know the languages to learn them will not make the government servants competent to transact business in Sinhalese and Tamil.

(3) You suggest that a future date may be fixed when national languages alone will be the official languages. I state that the future date should be at least 40 years hence. I will fix the year as 1990.

(4) As regards the business with the general public, public inquiries, interviews and correspondence may be carried on as far as possible in the national languages without impairing the efficiency of the administration. If a government servant, even in dealings with the public, finds it difficult to express himself in any of the national languages, he should not do so.

(5) As regards the judiciary, before there can be administration of justice through the national languages, not only the Enactments should be translated but all necessary books in law applicable to Ceylon should be translated. Further, as stated above, at least 40 years notice should be given. It is absolutely impossible at present to conduct any portion of the work in Court in the national languages—not even the examination of witnesses. The judge may not be competent enough to understand any of the national languages. A lawyer appearing on one side may be competent to cross-examine the witness in the national languages; but the lawyer on the other side may not be competent to follow the cross-examination in the national languages. Until all lawyers and all judges are equally competent in the national languages, even the cross-examination of witnesses should not be in the national languages.

(6) As regards the educational aspect of the question, if the official languages of the country are to be Sinhalese and Tamil, Sinhalese and Tamil should be the *media* of instruction from the Kindergarten to the end of the University or professional course. It will be foolish to think of adopting Sinhalese and Tamil as official languages until a system of education is introduced according to which Sinhalese and Tamil should be the *media* of instruction as aforesaid. What is the object of adopting the national languages as official languages if there is no system of real national education. To make Sinhalese and Tamil the *media* of instruction till the end of the University and professional courses, books in science, mathematics, philosophy, economics, medicine law etc., have to be translated into Sinhalese and Tamil. How long will it take to do all these. It may be another 40 to 50 years.

(7) In this connection I may state that my Council at a meeting held in November last passed a resolution accepting the principle of making Sinhalese and Tamil the official languages; but expressing the opinion that the present time is not opportune for the introduction of Sinhalese and Tamil as official languages instead of English.

(8) I find in the press that it has been suggested that Sinhalese should be the only official language. I do not think that any Sinhalese leader with any sense of responsibility will suggest this. If Sinhalese is made the official language, Tamils will be placed at a great disadvantage as Sinhalese will have to learn their own language and Tamils will have to learn a foreign language. If Sinhalese is adopted as the only official language it will undoubtedly be an act of racial discrimination.

(9) Apart from the Tamils being not in a position to enter the public service the Government of Ceylon cannot be carried on efficiently if Tamils are shut out from the public service by making Sinhalese the official language. The

administration of the Government of Ceylon has been carried on successfully in the past and is being carried on successfully to-day owing to the Tamil brains in the public service. Apart from the question of racial discrimination, in order to maintain the efficiency of the administration of Ceylon, Sinhalese alone should not be made the official language.

(10) It has also been suggested that the minorities should study the language of the majority and that the language of the majority should be the official language of the country. Ceylon Tamils and Ceylon Muslims are not communities that immigrated into Ceylon recently; but are communities settled down in Ceylon at the same time as the Sinhalese if not earlier. They are equally entitled to Ceylon as the Sinhalese are. They are also equally entitled as the Sinhalese to have their own language as the official languages.

To sum up, Sinhalese and Tamil should not be the official languages for at least another 40 years. If you want me to express my views orally, I am prepared to do so any day after 5 p.m.

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Select Committee on Excise Policy

The Select Committee on Excise Policy will sit at Jaffna on April 10, 11 & 12. Those Associations and persons who have not already submitted written representations and who desire to give oral evidence before the Committee are requested to communicate with the undersigned by April 1.

SECRETARY,

Select Committee on Excise Policy,
Excise Commissioner's Office,
20, March 1946. Katugastota.

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U.N.O. More Anxious About Unity than Justice

(Continued from page 1)

sation that these persons return to their countries as soon as possible," and they add that there would be only one exception to this—it would be left within the competence of the Economic and Social Council to study the question of the Spanish refugees.

It is clear what the Yugoslavs have in mind, and the spokesman did nothing to disguise it. He even mentioned Chetniks among those who did not want to go back to their country and who would be forced to do so in one way or another if his Government had their way.

This of course met with the determined opposition of Mr. Noel-Baker, but it is an indication of the purposes which the members of the Russian bloc consider UNO should serve if the harmony of its members is to be preserved.

DEFINITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

When the question of the definition of human rights is considered in detail there may be lively discussion, in which it may be expected that the South American delegates will be outspoken.

Several delegations at the meeting of the relevant committee spoke of the importance they attached to the work of the Demographic Commission and hoped that it would be set up as soon as possible. This population question is one on which there is room for a clear statement of Catholic principles. Many countries are by now only too well aware of the evil effects of departing from them.

Telegraphic Summary of News

GYMNASIUM IS U.N.O. SETTING

The setting on Monday's meeting of the Security Council—which promises to be one of the most dramatic of gatherings ever held on American soil—is the 80-by-60-foot gymnasium in Hunter's College, New York, a chamber tastefully decorated in rose-coloured echo-killing draperies.

In the centre of the floor is a 30-foot semi-circular table for the Council's delegates and at the side are about 200 seats for representatives of the nations not represented on the Council.

The Russo-Persian dispute is the third item on the provisional agenda of the Security Council (according to an announcement made by Mr. Arkady Sobolev, the U.N.O. Assistant Secretary-General, at a Press Conference in New York).

CHIEF OF STAFFS WILL MEET

While the Security Council is meeting the Chiefs of Staffs of the "Big Five"—the United States, Britain, Russia, France and China—will be studying a secret memorandum laying down the basis for military action by the U.N.O. The memorandum, which has been circulated to the eleven members of the Security Council will be considered by the Chiefs of Staffs who constitute the U.N.O. Military Staff Committee, in conditions of war-time secrecy and security, in a secluded hotel away from the city's main centres.

PERSECUTION OF CATHOLICS

Cardinal Griffin, the Archbishop of Westminster, speaking at a Mass in his Cathedral on Sunday for "the persecuted peoples of Eastern Europe," referred to a recent Moscow statement that the Greek Catholics in Ruthenia had seceded from the Roman Catholic Church to join the Russian Orthodox Church.

"What are the true facts?" the Cardinal asked. "For the past twelve months a violent and bitter persecution has been launched against the Greek Catholics in Ruthenia." The entire Episcopate, consisting of seven Bishops was arrested. *Of these, three have died and the rest are still in prison.

"In addition, a very large number of priests have been arrested, imprisoned or deported and many have been murdered.

"The rest of the clergy have been placed in such a condition that they are unable to exercise their ministry.

"Catholic Church leaders have been

replaced by apostate priests who have declared their allegiance to the Russian Orthodox Church and their withdrawal from the authority of the Pope."

The Cardinal added: "The clergy in Yugoslavia have been imprisoned and many murdered.

"In many of the other regions that are now within the Russian Zone priests and the faithful been subjected to the tyranny of the secret police."

The Cardinal concluded: "We invite all those who would proclaim the sacred rights of man, and of his personal, religious and political liberty; to join with us in protesting against such brutal treatment meted out to those who fought that men might be free."

HESS GIVES OUT "TOP SECRET"

Rudolf Hess, who was Hitler's deputy until his "peace flight" to Britain in 1941, on Monday submitted to the International War Crimes Court a "most secret" record of the peace talk which he had with Lord Simon (then the British Lord Chancellor) on June 10th, 1941—a few days before the German attack on Russia.

Hess, gaunt and shrunken in an ill-fitting grey tweed suit, showed little more than his usual wandering interest as Dr. Albert Seidl (his counsel) developed his defence.

Lord Simon, according to Hess, received him "with governmental authority."

Hess's reasons for the sensational flight, as given in the document were:

"The Fuehrer was of opinion that the war, could, possibly, lead to an agreement with Britain and he told me that even if victorious, one should not impose severe conditions on a country with which it was desired to come to an agreement.

"I thought that if Britain once knew of this fact it might be possible that Britain, on her part would be ready for an agreement. I must confess that I faced the most critical decision of my life."

The document is of 70 pages, and, throughout, Lord Simon is described as "Dr. Buthrie" and Mr. Ivone A. Kirk-Patrick, of the British Foreign Office as "Dr. Mackenzie." The interview took place on August 10th, 1941—one month after Hess's flight to Scotland.

During the three-hour conversation Hess is recorded as having told Lord Simon that he had flown to Scotland "absolutely without Hitler's knowledge" and that the idea of the flight occurred to him during the French Campaign in 1940.

"Hess told Lord Simon that Hitler hesitated again and again about ordering counter-attacks as a result of the British air raids. It was always difficult for Hitler to give orders for these attacks," he said. "It pained him deeply."

Hess talked of the Luftwaffe's expansion but refused Lord Simon's demand for figures.

Hess told Lord Simon that three-quarters of Europe was building submarines for Germany and when Lord Simon said that the German figures about sinkings of British ships made the British people laugh, Hess declared: "I am convinced the day will come when the English will no longer laugh about it."

Hess then handed over a "basis for understanding"—a free hand for Germany in Europe and for Britain in the British Empire; the return of the German colonies; the evacuation of Iraq; and an armistice with Italy.

He told Lord Simon that if England would not agree sooner or later the day would come when she would be forced to accede to them. Lord Simon replied that Britain would not be impressed by threats.

Dr. Seidl said he would have to call as witness M. Vyacheslav Molotov, the Soviet Foreign Minister, if he were not allowed to submit as evidence a document claiming to disclose secret clauses in the 1939 Russo-German Pact.

CABINET MISSION BEGINS TALKS

At Karachi, Lord Pethick-Lawrence and Sir Stafford Cripps met Pressman and answered a number of questions ranging from Pakistan to the Soviet threat.

Lord Pethick-Lawrence said: "As my colleagues and I set foot on the soil of India we bring to the people of this country, on behalf of the British Government and the British people, a message of cordial friendship and goodwill.

"We are convinced that India is on the threshold of a very great future when, in the exercise of her freedom, she will stand for the preservation of civilisation in the East and bring her great influence to bear on the counsels of nations.

"We have come but with one purpose in view. This is, in conjunction with the Viceroy, Field-Marshal Lord Wavell, to discuss with the leaders of India and her elected representatives how best to speed the fulfilment of your aspirations to take full control of your own affairs and thus enable us to complete the transfer of responsibility with pride and honour to ourselves.

COMMON OBJECTIVE

"The British Government and the British people desire, without reservation, to consummate the promises and pledges that have been made and we can

assure you that in our negotiations we shall not seek to provide for anything that is incompatible in any way with the sovereign dignity of India.

"We have then, with all our Indian associates, a common objective for achievement, to which all our energies will be devoted in the coming weeks. The precise road to the final structure of India's independence is not yet clear but let the vision of it inspire us all in our renewed efforts to find a path of co-operation. I am confident that we shall face our task together with faith and with determination to succeed."

To a question about a report that the Cabinet Mission would seek India's support against the Soviet threat and would seek an alliance with India for security measures by Britain in North-West India, Sir Stafford Cripps said that the report was absurd.

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