

Clergy, scientists are nailing hoary anti-Soviet lies

By L. L. SHARKEY

PROFESSIONAL slanderers of the Soviet Union and the Socialist countries are making heavy weather these days.

Clergymen, scientists, trade union delegations and others who have visited these countries are refuting the inventions of red bogey propaganda.

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, Rev. McKeown, who recently visited the Soviet Union, China and Czechoslovakia, in an address at the Lyceum Theatre Sydney on August 16th, said:

"All religions had the right to worship and Christian leaders had come to believe the Communists were trying to promote the good of the masses. The Chinese believed the Churches in the past tied Christianity too closely to Western politics and economics . . . (ie, imperialism).

"But when the authorities were satisfied they (the Christians) were working for the good of the people and not trying to subvert the Government they were allowed to continue their work." — Sydney Morning Herald, August 17, 1959.

His colleague, Rev. Gribble said "the most impressive feature of life in Communist countries was the absence of vandalism, hooliganism, and delinquency. There was a complete absence of an over-emphasis on sex, and the impression of being in a well-ordered society."

He had been "impressed by the almost puritan level of the community both in Russia and China."

Dr. Billy Graham also praised the morals and manners of Moscow as superior to those in London or New York.

The "Sun-Herald", August 16, reports that illegitimacy is another mounting problem in the U.S.A. Two-hundred thousand babies annually are born out of wedlock, sometimes to 10 year-old girls. Such is the contrast in morals between the two systems.

THE professional red-baiters, imperialists and reactionaries have spread slander for decades to the effect that "Communists have no morals," accusing us of precisely their own practices.

It is clear that Socialist society, led by Marxists, has achieved in a few short years, what the Churches in 2,000 years of feudal and capitalist society, have failed to achieve. This is one more splendid testimony to the new man being created by Communism.

"There is no freedom under Communism" is the catch-cry of world reaction.

If you work in a speeded-up factory under the watchful eyes of a dozen overseers, and in fear of the "sack", to swell the profits of a handful of monopolists you are a "free man".

If you work in a publicly-owned factory under Socialism for the betterment of yourself and society you are a "slave"—such is the content of this nonsensical catch-cry.

There is no "free enterprise" under Socialism, therefore there is no individual freedom (to exploit everyone else).

Such is the basic content of the capitalistic idea of "freedom."

NO less a well-known person than Prof. Oliphant on his return from visiting the Soviet Union explodes this myth also.

He is reported speaking of not only the great scientific upsurge but "also the great freedom!"

So the peoples of the Socialist countries enjoy "great freedom" and have the highest standards of morality.

Reaction, baffled by all this, falls back on its ancient sliche—"they were fooled, were only shown a few good things." So the hired scribblers and bigots who have never been there or even read anything about Socialist developments, are the "experts" on what really under Socialism is like; not honest people who have seen and heard with their own eyes and ears.

To use a well-known colloquialism, "that wouldn't fool blind Freddie."

A tribute to a great man -- Albert Namatjira

By NOEL COUNIHAN

ALBERT NAMATJIRA WAS WORLD FAMOUS.

In the Soviet Union and the rest of the Socialist world, his name was honored and his work admired, though only known in reproduction.

His premature death at the age of 57, a mere three months after completion of his notorious, unjust gaol sentence, brought shame on Australia in the eyes of the world.

His humiliation broke his heart, killed him as surely as if he had been lynched.

His handsome appearance, powerful physique and modest dignity, had commanded attention in the capital cities a few years earlier.

He emerged from gaol, in the words of the Alice Springs representative of the Melbourne Sun "a disillusioned, broken old man."

His frightful distress on learning that his right of appeal had been disallowed by five learned, highly paid, white judges, was described by the Sydney Morning Herald: "Almost hysterical, Namatjira cried: 'Shoot me. Kill me. Put an end to all this. I would rather put a rifle to my head now than go on. Let me finish it here and now. Better they shoot us, get

rid of us and save all this trouble if we are not allowed to live like men!"

His relatives had to prevent him grabbing a rifle and killing himself. Alan Marshall, deeply moved by the circumstances of Namatjira's death, and his pitiful, almost furtive burial, expressed the feelings of many in a very fine letter to the Age.

The Rev. Pech, a Lutheran pastor, and apologist for the inhuman policy of racial discrimination pursued by the Federal and State Governments, replied, extolling with brazen affrontery the "enlightened co-operation between missions and station owners" in the interests of the Aborigines.

Namatjira's bitter outcry provides a tragic illustration of the fruits of this "enlightened co-operation."

THE Christian gentlemen of Hermannsburg have had the direst humphs of the Aboriginal camps under their noses for years without raising a finger to fight for the emancipation of the black people.

On the contrary, many of the most plausible arguments against granting the Aborigines full citizenship rights and equality of status have been provided by the Hermannsburg Lutherans on the grounds of their "experience".

The sordid events leading to Namatjira's arrest, including the death of a woman in the derelict camp where the Namatjira family lived like pariahs outcast by the white "society" of the Alice, were the inevitable result of the policy of racial segregation which corrupts Centralian life.

It is the policy of protecting the rights of the station owners to enrich themselves by exploiting to the full the cheap labor of the Aborigines.

Until the unlimited powers of the station owners over the black people are broken, then poverty, misery and degeneration remain their lot.

"The repeal of the Northern Territory Ordinance is the first step necessary to the solution of this problem."

ALBERT Namatjira's death brought forth all the usual hypocritical humbug in official tributes. Much attention was, and is, drawn to his exceptional income. The extent to which white man's minds can be blinded to the realities of the situation is expressed clearly in the following lines from a full page Melbourne Sun article of 10/8/58. The writer says of Namatjira: "He was a curious mixture of a man. He once earned nearly £7000 a year—more than any other artist in Australia—but lived in a humpy." (my emphasis N.C.).

The fact remains that had Namatjira earned ten times this amount he could not buy or build himself a house among the whites in Alice Springs. He and his tribal brothers were flatly rejected.

No single thing highlights the social character of the discrimination against the Aborigines more than that the impotence of Namatjira's income to enable him and his family to "live like men."



The late Albert Namatjira and his wife.

The common people, the broad lay public, love Namatjira's warm, colorful paintings.

But in official and professional art circles he is rejected artistically as Alice Springs rejected him socially.

It is to the credit of the famous painter William Dobell, that he is one of the few prominent artistic figures in this country to pay respect to Namatjira as an artist as well as a man.

National Gallery directors, lecturers on art, critics, and many well known painters have stated that his work had little artistic merit.

Sydney Gallery Director Hal Missingham said publicly that he considered there were 25 watercolorists in Australia better than Namatjira.

I am waiting for him to name them.

Sir Daryl Lindsay refused to purchase Namatjira's watercolor for the Melbourne Gallery when he was Director.

NAMATJIRA'S place in our art must be seen historically, in its exceptional circumstances.

Were he far less an artist than he was, representative examples of his art should still be in all the major museums and galleries of this country on historical grounds alone, as an expression of the cultural strings of this unique people in our times.

As it is it is a disgrace that our major National Galleries have ignored him, as I had occasion to say last year in an interview with the Melbourne Herald.

Namatjira came to art with nothing but his natural abilities. He had no cultural tradition by which to establish his values. Great artists do not rise from a cultural vacuum. Behind Rembrandt lay two centuries of richly developing realistic art of the magnificent Dutch tradition. It produced a mighty stream of painters including Steen, Hals, and Vermeer. Rembrandt was familiar with and owned examples of the greatest Italian art of his day.

These are the familiar artistic circumstances which throw up great figures.

Namatjira, the 30 year-old camel man with an elementary mission education, possessed none of the advantages of an

art student in any Australian city.

His ancestral art forms had meaning for him. Theirs had perished along with primitive tribal life and the which they were the experts.

While the jaded art world of capitalism seeks to reject itself at primitive and primitive sources, the more the primitive people are aspired higher things.

Albert Namatjira received few friendly lessons from Batterbee, a white watercolorist who loved landscape of the Centre, and rapidly mastered Batterbee's methods, to develop an individual style of his own.

Namatjira possessed a ter's eye, keenly sensitive color, a vivid visual memory, a formidable intelligence and warm love for his land, respected nature.

To have done what he has done, in the circumstances is, to create a series of broad realistic pictures with strong feeling for the color and rhythmic form of Central Australia is a achievement.

He has taken a vast leap spanning thousands of years. He has opened a rich vein of talent in his own people, the base for a regional art of Aranda painters. He made his own contribution to national tradition.

He has been rejected by the realistic challenge presented to an art world gaged in a wild flight, really.

THE capitalist art world is weltering in the jellyfish of its own decay. The chaos in the world is the direct expression of the profound spiritual characteristic of the capitalist world.

Capitalism sees in reality the prospect of its own end and the victory of Communism. A deep and all pervading pessimism colors the art of today. Abstract art the rejection of reality is complete. The mental values of art have turned upside down. What is called beautiful, the less praised for its strength, empty considered profound, is stripped of his dignity and

CONTINUED PAGE 1



SOVIET READY WITH PLEDGE

Not to be first to start H Bomb tests

THE Soviet Union is ready to give a most solemn pledge not to be the first to stage any further nuclear tests, Soviet Prime Minister Khrushchov has declared in a message to Herr Hans Werner Richter and Canon Collins, President and Vice-President respectively of the European Federation against Nuclear Arms.

Khrushchov's message is in reply to their letter of June 29 asking the Soviet Government to refrain from being the first to carry out nuclear tests and reporting that they had asked the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom to do likewise.

Mr. Khrushchov's message, sent this month, reads as follows:

"I have studied your letter. I can assure you that in advocating the immediate cessation of nuclear tests for all time, the Soviet Union regards this as a first step towards the final goal, which is the prohibition of atomic and hydrogen weapons, the withdrawal of these weapons from national armaments, and the destruction of existing stocks.

"Your aspirations in this respect are near to our hearts and understandable to us.

"You have proposed that the powers possessing atomic and hydrogen weapons, that is to say, the U.S.S.R., the United States and Britain, should give a pledge not to be the first to carry out further nuclear weapon tests which, as you put it, would contribute to the conclusion of an agreement on the final cessation of nuclear tests of any kind. "The Soviet Union, for its part, is ready to give a most solemn pledge that it will not be the first to carry out any new tests of nuclear weapons.

"Moreover, it should be recalled that some time ago, on March 31, 1958, the U.S.S.R. ceased unilaterally all tests of atomic and hydrogen weapons, hoping that the United States and Britain would follow our example.

"You know, however, that the governments of the United States and Britain not only failed to follow this example, but tried to obtain the maximum military advantage at our expense by carrying out a series of nuclear tests unprecedented in their intensity.

"Unfortunately, I do not see any grounds for believing that the Western powers will be any more willing on this occasion to put an end to nuclear weapon tests.

"Our misgivings are intensified by the fact that although negotiations on the cessation of tests have already been going on in Geneva for about a year, the successful conclusion of these negotiations is still in doubt in view of the negative attitude of the United States and Britain.

"As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, it will continue to strive to end for all time the testing of nuclear weapons which threatens the health and lives of millions of people."

Nikita Khrushchov also sent a reply, on August 5, to a memorandum on nuclear tests signed by 18 distinguished scientists of various countries, including the British professors, C. F. Powell, President of the World Federation of Scientific Workers, and J. D. Bernal and Academician Topchiev of the U.S.S.R.

In his reply, Khrushchov points out that the Soviet Government attaches great importance to the conclusion of an agreement to end nuclear tests, regarding it as a most im-

portant step towards broader disarmament measures and an improvement in the international situation.

He draws attention to the fact that in the Geneva talks between the U.S.S.R., the United States and Britain, the Soviet Union has made great efforts to reach such an agreement. "Some progress has been made at the conference on the initiative of the Soviet side," he says, "but the main difficulties have not yet been overcome."

He points out that, for the conference to be completely successful, it is essential that the representatives of the United States and Britain should also display willingness to co-operate and a desire to achieve the goal of the conference.

He notes with satisfaction that one of the main aims of the World Federation of Scientific Workers is to ensure the broad utilisation of science to eliminate poverty and disease, and to improve the wellbeing of all peoples. "This aim is clear and understandable to all Soviet people," he writes.

U.S. chemical war funds to treble?

NEW YORK.—A three-fold increase in U.S. spending for research on chemical, biological and radiological (C.B.R.) warfare was recommended on August 7 by the House Space Committee.

The Committee said that the United States was now spending 35-40 million dollars on C.B.R. research. It asked that this amount be increased to around 125 million dollars a year.

Chemical warfare could provide a swift and cheap method of conquest, the Committee stressed.

AMERICAN HP DEBT JUMPS

CONSUMER instalment debt in the U.S. rose by 452 million dollars in June, the largest increase for any month since September, 1955, announced the U.S. Federal Reserve Board, according to a Washington report.

The June increase raised total outstanding consumer instalment credit to a new high of 35.8 billion dollars.

These figures forecast a drop in the purchasing power of American people in the coming period.

FRIENDS FOREVER



CHINESE youth delegation held a reception for young people of Arabian countries on August 1. Photo shows an exciting scene of delegates expressing their solidarity at the reception.

French tests are threat to thousands

THE French Government will bear responsibility for the fact that thousands of people will fall victim to the projected atomic tests in the Sahara, a Tass correspondent was told by the well-known Soviet radio-chemist, Professor Andrei Lebedinsky, in a recent interview.

Lebedinsky is a member of the United Nations atomic radiation committee and is directing research on the effect of ionising radiations on living organisms.

He said the Sahara tests were a dangerous experiment. "I am personally deeply incensed by the participation of West German firms in the preparation of the atomic tests in the Sahara," Prof. Lebedinsky added. "This is a direct way of developing nuclear weapons for Western Germany herself and a grave danger to the cause of peace."

"The French Government," he went on to say, "is obviously ignoring the recommendations and warnings contained in the report of the United Nations atomic radiation committee."

"This report, endorsed by the 13th session of the General Assembly, unequivocally draws attention to the undesirability of raising further the level of the Earth's radio-active contamination. It should be noted that official French representatives took part and signed it together with representatives of 11 other countries."

Lebedinsky noted that the Sahara tests will create a new big source of radio-active contamination. In his opinion, an ominous circumstance, which should alarm world public opinion, is the fact that air currents not only in the stratosphere but even in the troposphere over the African continent are absolutely unexplored.

Under these circumstances, it would be difficult to rate out hazards not only for the peoples of Africa, but also for the thickly populated countries of the Mediterranean.

As far as the African continent is concerned, he said, it already has areas — especially the vast Congo region — where the level of natural radio-activity is many times the normal.

"Those who are planning nuclear weapon tests have the right to forget about future generations," Professor Lebedinsky added. "Every new series of tests means hundreds of thousands of people with hereditary diseases."

Malayan opposition arrested

ELECTION-EVE INTIMIDATION

PEKING, August 15.—On the eve of the lower house elections of the Malayan Federation, mass arrests of members of the Opposition Parties were carried out by the authorities.

This was one of the principal reasons why the ruling Alliance Party "won" the elections.

According to press reports from Kuala Lumpur, 112 election workers of the Opposition and Independent candidates were arrested under the "prevention of crimes" ordinance, many of them on the night of August 12.

Among those arrested was Lee Tien-moh, former member of the Central Committee of the Malayan Chinese Association who had withdrawn from the Association because of his disapproval of the ruling UMNO-MCA-MIC alliance's planned distribution of parliamentary seats and its language policy.

V. David, executive member of the People's Socialist Front, in a written statement on August 13, said that the arrests were undemocratic measures taken by the ruling party to intimidate the voters and the Opposition.

This fact showed, he said, that under the rule of the alliance the Federation of Malaya had been turned into a police state. He demanded immediate trials for all those arrested.

Independent candidate Robert Hoh said that the manner and timing of the arrests were significant.

20,000 police "at the ready"

It is reported that since July 15, when candidates were nominated, the authorities had kept 20,000 policemen standing by in order to restrict the Opposition's election campaign for the August 19 polling.

The armed forces of the Federation had conducted a series of military manoeuvres beginning from July 30 under the name of "preventing riots."

During the election campaign,

police authorities often sent agents to make recordings at the mass rallies held by the Opposition.

A high ranking official threatened that any "agitation" by the candidates in their speeches would be grounds for prosecution and that recordings would serve as evidence.

People back Communists in Sicily

IN the recent elections held in Sicily, whole regions came under Communist-supported rule for the first time.

This has resulted in the 90 deputy Regional Parliament electing eight new Ministers and four substitute Ministers, all of who are supporters of the ex-Premier, Silvio Milazzo, who is backed by the Communist Party.

The Christian Democratic Party, which has run the Italian National Government since the war, suffered a severe reverse.

The Communist Party of Italy has already, this year, enrolled 90,000 recruits.

NAMATJIRA (from page 4)

has become inhuman and anti-human. * * *

IN such a fashionable art world there was no place for the simple realism of Namatjira. The very people who condemned his truthful pictures of themselves praised to the heavens objects of painting and sculpture not only worthless as art but often quite ludicrous and absurd in themselves.

Namatjira roused much prejudice and hostility in the professional art world by his successful invasion of the white man's art market. His pictures were not only bought for their novelty but because people liked their form and color, their truth to life.

It is well known that racketeering dealers moved in like vultures to make what they could out of Namatjira and his talented sons and tribal relatives. They exploited the Aranda artists, encouraging them to churn out pictures at the expense of artistic quality. The market was flooded with stereotyped Aranda water-colors. But that was surely another expression of the exploitation of these people as a whole.

All artists are, in the long run, remembered for their best work, not their pot-boilers. History and posterity will give Namatjira the honorable place in our art to which he is entitled. A Socialist working class will see to that.

CONCERN AT U.S. A-TESTS POLICY

LONDON.—The statement by American Senator Anderson, Chairman of the Joint Atomic Energy Commission, that the United States intends to resume nuclear tests after October 31 has aroused concern in Britain.

The Birmingham Post wrote editorially on August 8 that resumption of nuclear tests would cause considerable concern and indignation throughout the world. The paper stressed that America would make a great mistake if it first resumed nuclear tests.

The Conservative Daily Telegraph commented that Anderson's statement was a "chastening reminder" that the cold war continued in dead earnest.

"Whether true or not, the impression abroad will be significant elements in the United States are getting impatient at the protracted negotiations at Geneva," the Daily Telegraph said.