

PRESS REVIEW

■ THE VATICAN IN THE SERVICE OF THE TWO IMPERIALIST SUPERPOWERS

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In bourgeois society, and that dominated by the modern revisionists, the church and religion are an integral part of the superstructure, serving the power of the ruling classes and acting in and influencing politics through both visible and invisible means. The claims of the Vatican that «the church does not identify itself with any social system», and that «it is not connected with any political system», are only expressions of political changeability and clerical conformity in the present conditions of the class and liberation struggle. Thus, for instance, there will not be many people naive enough to believe the documents published lately about the political and diplomatic activity of the Vatican during the second world war, those were

chosen in such a way as to «prove» that «the Holy See» cannot be accused of collaboration with fascism and German nazism. The Vatican seeks to hide the truth, but people are very well aware that it is an active participant and accomplice in all the political intrigues, diplomatic manoeuvres and crimes, including Franco's counterrevolutionary falanges in Spain, the chaplains and «sisters» of the fascist military detachments, the treachery and banditry perpetrated in many countries of the world by «Catholic Action», the «blessings» of the Nazi-fascist hordes, the churches and cells turned into arms depots and hideouts for criminals, and the sheltering and encouraging of reactionary political exiles and individuals who have committed

many crimes against the people.

Even today the Vatican's ties with the fascist movement in Italy are obvious.

The history of every country is replete with many facts which tell about the dark activity of the Vatican. It is publicly known that it supported Italian fascism and the Hitlerite campaign for the occupation of Europe and the world. Numerous facts show that the Vatican and the reactionary Roman Catholic clergy did all they could to assist the occupation of our country by Italian fascism, and have been consistent enemies of our freedom, independence and territorial integrity, our traditions, language and national culture. Since the liberation of our country, until today, the Vatican has continued its hostile activity against the

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Albanian people. In close collaboration with the US, British and other imperialists, it has done its utmost to overthrow the people's power and restore former regimes in Albania. For this purpose the «Holy See» has taken under its protection all the Albanian war criminals sentenced by the people's justice, and all the spies and diversionists of foreign powers captured by our people. Many plots against the People's Republic of Albania are connected with the Vatican. The pope and his friends have continually undertaken frantic campaigns and fierce attacks and calumnies against the People's Republic of Albania because they have been enraged by the fact that the popular masses in socialist Albania, on their own initiative, cast away religion, setting a great example of how to get rid of centuries-old religious obscurantism. But the entire uninterrupted hostile activity of the «Holy See» against the People's Republic of Albania has failed and will always fail shamefully. The enemies of our people are powerless with regard to Albania.

As in the time of the Middle Ages, so today too, religious intolerance, fanaticism and racism continue to be used and manipulated according to the policies, interests and situations of the two imperialist superpowers and international reaction. The fact that the Washington and Moscow chieftains often get the pope's blessing for their actions, and that their plots and deceptive agreements on «European security», «disarmament», «peaceful solution» of the Mid-

dle East crisis, etc., meet with the approval and support of the Vatican, helps to expose before the peoples the reactionary and aggressive nature of the two superpowers. There is no baser irony and demagoguery than to refer, for example, to the «will and benevolence of God», for the restoration of peace. Neither the essence of religious doctrine nor the diplomatic political practice of the Vatican brings about any kind of peace other than the so-called «peaceful coexistence» which ensures the further counterrevolutionary rapprochement of the two superpowers, the imposition of their dictate on the peoples and the strengthening of the shaky position of the Roman Catholic Church itself. The whole propaganda and activity of the Roman Catholic Church in this direction aims to weaken the vigilance of the peoples and leave the imperialists a free hand for their aggressive actions. The pope prays to «God for peace and Nixon thanks God in church for giving him «peace» in one or another focal point in the world. But this is a very convenient method of exculpation and justification, for even imperialist aggression and banditry may be presented as part of the «divine will». The Vatican exploits all situations and circumstances for the realisation of its aims. The pope notices that the policy of aggression and war of US imperialism for the establishment of world hegemony is closely connected with the cultivation and spread of religious obscurantism, and he relies on this policy. The Vati-

can's stance towards Eastern Europe is also conditioned by the revisionist cliques' moves towards the West. Religion, both exploited and used in its cosmopolitan class essence, extensively serves as an ideological bridge both for the penetration of the Vatican and for imperialist-revisionist rapprochement and collaboration.

The Vatican knows that any step to strengthen its position can be undertaken only under the shadow of the policy of the two superpowers and within the frameworks of their expansionist plans. As long as the neocolonialist aims and interests of Washington and Moscow in the Middle East demand that the «no war no peace» situation be preserved in that area, so that both sides have the chance to intervene, dominate and impose their will, the diplomacy of the «Holy See», too, remains in this framework and has been further set in motion calling for «peace» in the sense of the victims of aggression submitting to the Israeli aggressors and to the anti-Arab plots of the two superpowers for «coexistence» between religious communities etc.

In view of the realisation of its aims, the Vatican does not stop at the most unscrupulous tricks and manoeuvres. When one of the past popes signed the agreement with Mussolini, he declared that he was prepared to come to agreement with «the devil himself» if it would serve the interests of the church and religion; the present pope is prepared to accept any modification, liberalisation or modernisation

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of religious dogma, provided the religious opium and the «fear of God» is kept alive and spread among the peoples. Such is, for example, the preaching of the present pope «scientific studies confirm divine truths», that «the church supports science» that the «conflicts between religion and science have stemmed from the weakness of human judgement» etc. It is quite clear that the pope falsifies the entire ill-famed history of the church, and underestimates its savage activity against science, its barbarity, and the declarations of his predecessors.

The demagogy of the Vatican is connected with that of the two superpowers. They speak of «economic aid» and they plunder

with both hands, they preach «Christian charity», they «pray for peace and tranquillity» and carry out aggressions, disrupt and suppress the national liberation movements and the revolutionary struggle of the working class. Washington, Moscow and the Vatican are close to one another and allied in essence in the methods they use and in their counterrevolutionary aims. The raising of secret talks and secret diplomacy to a system, both between the two superpowers, in the internal activity of the «Holy See» and between the see and the superpowers, shows that these forces are afraid of communicating openly with the peoples, that they express their real aims and bar-

gainings tête-à-tête, in closed meetings and talks while publicly they come out with demagogic declarations.

The Vatican and the chieftains of the two superpowers would greatly like the world not to speak out, and not to judge their crimes. But the world will not remain silent. The intrigues and hegemonistic plans of the two superpowers will not be realized, however the pope may bless them and mask them with demagogy. The peoples will not allow themselves to be deceived by tricks and treachery, they are rising and opposing ever more strongly the aggressive and chauvinistic hegemony of US imperialism and Soviet social imperialism.