

***press review***  
**THE VATICAN — CENTRE OF THE OPPRESSION  
AND EXPLOITATION OF THE PEOPLES**

«ZËRI I POPULLIT»

In many declarations and speeches on various occasions the Pope Wojtyla has expressed his «deep preoccupation» about the millions of working peo-

ple who suffer all over the world and has called for «justice», «equality» among the rich and the poor, has begged the oppressors and

exploiters to think of the poor in the sharing of profits, etc. These words, which are frequently used by all the popes of the Vatican, are intended

**press review**

only to keep the oppressed peoples and masses in passivity to sabotage their revolutionary struggle for the overthrow of the old world and its bosses. Through such phrases the Polish Pope Wojtyla seeks to cover up the crimes of the Catholic Church, its role as a centre of oppression and exploitation, of the plunder of the fruits of work of the peoples all over the world.

The facts show that the Vatican is, among other things, a company similar to the multi-nationals. The capital of the Catholic Church and the Vatican is invested in the steel industry, in the extraction and processing of oil, in the construction of aircraft and missiles, arms and ammunitions. Thus, the Vatican operates like the notorious multi-national companies such as General Motors, Esso, etc. In France, for example, the Vatican possesses a non-productive capital of 50-60 billion francs. It owns a capital of 2 billion pounds in Britain, more than 79 billion dollars

in the USA and is at the same time one of the biggest financial groups in Italy, where it controls 9 banks, one of which has a capital worth 36 billion dollars. Apart from this, the representatives of the Vatican participate in the administration councils of a great number of Italian banks, financial companies which control different industrial enterprises, etc.

By means of such activities, and through the exploitation of the proletariat of the countries where it has invested its capital and the plunder of the wealth of the various peoples, the Holy See makes huge profits. Only in the role of the proprietor of its assets in Rome, the Vatican ensures an annual income of about 4 billion dollars. Through such banks as the Banco di Santo Spirito, etc it ensures huge profits in Europe, Latin America and other regions. The Bank of Sao Paolo in Torino, which is connected with the Holy See, has made a net profit of 14,226 million lire

in 1979, or double that of the previous year.

Besides the activity of different industrial and financial monopoly companies and enterprises, the Catholic Church also appears as a big landed proprietor, whose estates keep extending all over the world. At present it possesses about 483,000 hectares of land in Italy, 500,000 hectares in France, 100,000 hectares in Great Britain, 330,000 hectares in West Germany, millions of hectares in Latin America, as well as hundreds of thousands of acres in Spain, Portugal, etc.

All these facts show what is hidden behind the religious demagoguery of the Vatican and its hypocritical calls for social «peace» and «equality». They indicate that the Vatican not only is the centre of mediaeval obscurantism, of the spiritual oppression and enslavement of the peoples, but also a centre of oppression and exploitation of the toil and wealth of the peoples, an institution which fattens on their sweat and toil.