

EPISCOPAL CHURCH STAGES AN ORIENTAL STUDENTS' CONFERENCE

By MANUEL GOMEZ.

(Special to The Daily Worker)

RACINE, Wis., Oct. 7.—Muffled by an artfully created atmosphere of mock christian piety, the voice of young Asia managed to be heard at the Episcopal Devotional Center here, during the oriental students' conference. Some thirty students from universities thruout the United States gave virtually unanimous expression to the demand of the oppressed peoples of the East for freedom from imperialist domination. Meanwhile the bishop of Milwaukee, distinguished host to the delegates, looked up at the ceiling and pretended as tho nothing had happened.

Representative Delegation.

Students attending the conference included Chinese, Hindus, Filipinos, Koreans, Japanese and one Siberian. The sessions, held twice a day, extended over a period of a week.

The conference was called under the chairmanship of Haridas Mozumdar, author of a book on Ghandi. It was financed by the ever-ready gentry of the episcopal church, who explained their charitableness by declaring sympathy with the previously announced aims of the gathering: "to create a better understanding between East and West."

Much Religious Hokum.

Not to let a good opportunity go to waste, the hosts overwhelmed their youthful-guests with courtesies, generously interspersed with religious propaganda and apologies for imperialism. Every student found a good-sized cross on the wall in his room. "Grace" was said by the bishop before and after each meal. Each session of the conference began with five minutes silent meditation. Moreover, a goodly supply of preachers and missionaries were on hand to participate in the debates.

Most of the students were obviously cowed by their surroundings. However, two Chinese students (S. C. Cheng and C. C. Chang) and one Hindu (N. K. Paranjpe), put forward the position of the oppressed peoples in vigorous fashion. Others who took a leading part in the discussion were Cirilo Manat, a Filipino law student, and Mr. Mozumdar.

No Resolution Adopted.

No resolutions were adopted by the delegates. Paranjpe made an attempt to present some, but he was gracefully brushed aside with the explanation that the conference was "merely an exchange of views." The consensus of student opinion favored a united struggle by the oppressed peoples of Asia to throw off the imperialist yoke. The delegates also showed themselves to be opposed to the so-called Pan-Asiatic movement, which was denounced as an instrument of Japanese imperialism.

Despite the unnatural restraint in which the conference took place, a sharp conflict in views between the students and their hosts was discernible thruout. Everyone of the christian crew, including the benign bishop, maintained the imperialist position. All except one or two defended the U. S. immigration restrictions against Orientals, all insisted upon "the need for continued United States sovereignty over the Philippines, and all showed their lack of sympathy with the national liberation struggle of the Chinese people. They pleaded with the Orientals "to understand" the benevolent purposes of imperialism, just as they were prepared "to understand" the Orientals.

Several of the students, notably the Chinese, let it be known that they considered the attitude of their hosts on these points to be a crude insult to the conference.

Denounce Missionaries.

There were one or two bitter moments in the discussions. Perhaps the most memorable was that which featured the debate on missionaries in the Far East. All of the Orientals except the Filipinos, denounced the missionaries in unmeasured terms.

At the end of each day's discussion, good feeling was restored by some kindly missionary who arose and explained that there was really no fundamental difference of opinion at all.

There was not a great deal of discussion—only a few hours each day. The program had been thoughtfully arranged so that most of the time was taken up by volley ball, tennis, swimming, wandering about the grounds, polite tete-a-tetes and praying.

I did not stay until the end of the conference. I left as the chairman was announcing that the delegates had been invited to march in a body to Father Sturtevant's church in Racine Sunday morning. As I was going thru the doorway I heard him add that taxicabs would be provided for those who might wish to attend holy communion.

The episcopal church obviously considered it worth while to spend a good deal of money on the conference.

Argentina Votes a \$75,000,000 Naval Development Plan

NEW YORK, Oct. 7.—The Argentine parliament has voted \$75,000,000 to be used to acquire three light cruisers, six destroyers and six submarines. Contracts previously made for eight destroyers from France and Germany were cancelled and the new order will be placed either in England or the United States, according to the advice of a commission now in England and soon to arrive in the United States for the purpose of purchasing war material.

Parliament also provided for the construction of a navy yard at Mar del Plata and enlargements of the shipyards on the River Platte and at Puerto Belgrano.

The socialists in parliament spoke repeatedly against the additional armaments and voted against the appropriations.

Mussolini "Looking for a Fight."

ROME.—"I'm looking for a fight. I shall not shun obstacles. Opposition makes me harsher and more irreconcilable," said Mussolini in a speech at the city hall of Rome. In another speech he declared that Italy must dominate the Mediterranean.