Church Spokesmen Hail End of Quota System

Schauer said, of the nation’s new approach to immigration while remaining a monument to the many millions of people from overseas who made this nation great.

The signing of the new law was also lauded by the Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Maxwell, executive director of the NCC International Affairs Commission. He noted the close similarity of its provisions with those in two pre­nouncements adopted by the NCC General Board in 1952. They were especially critical of the “national origins” quota system and the Pacific Triangle, which practically barred Orientals from entry. Both restrictions have been removed in the new bill.

Apart from an expected influx of Cuban refugees to this country as a result of Castro’s change of policy, Dr. Maxwell foresaw no increase in immigration to this country. Changes in the quota system, he pointed out, affect quality not quantity, and remove many unjust restrictions governing entry to the United States.

Bishop Welcomes Vatican Action

NEW YORK, N.Y.—The president of the National Council of Churches, Bishop Thomas C. Mueller, welcomed the statement on anti-Semitism adopted by the Ecumenical Council in Rome on October 15.

In a brief message, the bishop said: “The news that the Vatican has added its voice to those of other Christians who have deplored anti-Semitism as un­warranted and un-Christian causes us to rejoice.”

Although the Vatican statement “did not say everything one might have desired,” said Bishop Mueller, “this should not be permitted to obscure the sweeping importance of the declaration.”

The stark statistics of misery and need caused by the war in Vietnam, border clashes in India and West Pakistan, and drought, famine and flood in other world areas were presented to the Assembly. To them were added the needs of victims of the eruption of the volcano Taal in the Philippines.

Under the proposed plan to aid refugees in Vietnam, CWS reported it will recruit immediately 30 Christian doctors, nurses and other specialists “to mount a dynamic, humanitarian American presence among the Vietnamese people.”

An emergency fund of $250,000 is needed, said CWS, to strengthen existing aid programs (for tight watches the Pope’s visit on TV with Miami Ga. anticipation of handling a heavy caseload of arrivals.

President Johnson signs the new immigration bill, which churches long worked for, as the First Lady and Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey look on. Standing a right is Mrs. Mike Mansfield, wife of the Senate majority leader, at Liberty Island ceremony.

CWS Reports New Relief Programs For Vietnam

NASHVILLE, TENN.—A comprehensive program to aid refugees in South Vietnam was one of a broad spectrum of relief programs reported by Church World Service to the First Church World Service to the First Annual Assembly that (1) a major program to aid refugees be sent to aid the war victims; (2) the churches cooperate with the government representa­tive in Saigon to “engage in dialogue with the Vietnamese”; (3) a team of key American churchmen meet with representatives of the East Asian Christian Conference to “seek to bridge the chasm of misunder­standing,” and (4) that the refugee crisis has helped produce between Chris­tians of East and West a better understanding.

“The complexity of understanding takes place,” said Dr. Row, “points up the urgency of the churches’ effort to match the amount already sent to West Pakistan by Church World Service.

CWS also welcomed the Assembly that CWS is now on a 24-hour alert to meet the new wave of refugees expected from Cuba following Castro’s permission for them to leave. Interviews had already begun, he said, to increase the agency’s staff by the recruitment of an additional 300 specialists by the U.S. church voluntary agencies to serve in South Vietnam.

Announcing the program, CWS executive director James MacCracken emphasized the churches’ concern to aid war victims on both sides of the conflict. In the North, he said, it was hoped that the East Asia Christian Conference could set up relief operations which CWS was prepared to help financially.

A report from the Division of Inter-Church Aid, Refugee, and World Service of the World Council of Churches showed that at least $20,000 is required for immediate needs for medical supplies, food, bedding, and Christian mission hospitals in Pakistan and northern India. Initial funds have already been forwarded, the report said, including $2,250 to India to match the amount already sent to West Pakistan by Church World Service.

“Seeking to bridge the gap between the East and the West,” said Mr. MacCracken, “the CWS executive committee has requested that the committee set up a new program to help the refugees in South Vietnam, and has called for a major program to aid refugees in the Near East. The committee has also called for a major program to aid refugees in the Near East.

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