

phoned me, hinting about strange goings-on regarding the attitude of the Church of Rome to the event. Once he got back to Rome, the journalist informed me that there had been a deal between the Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs office and the forces of the Russian occupation. Stunned by such news, I decided to ask for an audience in the Vatican. I was received by an expert in Hungarian affairs who told me: 'My dear fellow, . . . Communism will beat us in the world, and therefore the Church which is above politics, must reach an accord.'

Our source continued: "The expert was then-Monsignor Agostino Casaroli."

It was from these events in Hungary that the canvas of Vatican diplomacy in the East unfurled. The latest phase is

that expressed today by Monsignor Silvestrini in Stockholm, urging the "moral mediation of the Vatican" for arms control. In the second half of November 1983, Cardinal Casaroli went to the United States to meet President Reagan, and they discussed raising the presidential interest section at the Vatican to the level of an embassy. But undoubtedly the clever Secretary of State presented a project of his own, as appeared evident when, arriving at Rome's Fiumicino airport on his way back from Washington, he announced a mission to Moscow.

On Dec. 17, before going to the U.S.S.R., the Soviet Ambassador to Rome, Nikolai Lunkov, was received by Casaroli, and the discussion must have been fruitful if, as well-informed sources reveal, "The Italian Communist Party

The structure of the Roman Curia

The Roman Curia is the oldest still-existing bureaucracy in the world, working for almost 2,000 years; more than 3,000 functionaries, laymen and clerics, work in the palaces of Vatican City.

At the pinnacle of this government, which has citizens throughout the world, is the **State Secretariat**, which oversees all the departments of the Roman Curia. Among the most important are the nine Holy Congregations, which are actually ministries.

The head of the State Secretariat since 1979 has been Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, who also directs the Council for the Public Affairs of the Church, the actual Foreign Office of the Vatican. Mons. Achille Silvestrini is its secretary.

Among the most important Congregations are:

The Holy Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, founded in 1542 by Paul III to defend the Church against heresies; in 1908 Pius X called it the Holy Congregation of the Holy Office, of which a special section was the Index Librorum Prohibitorum (Index of Prohibited Books). In 1965 Paul VI reformed it and changed its name. The Congregation functions like a tribunal where actual trials on crimes against the faith are carried out. The Prefect is Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the archbishop of Munich, a conservative; he is said to have been one of the great electors of the Pope.

The Holy Congregation for the Eastern Churches is in charge of bishops, the clergy, and the religious orders and the faithful of oriental rites, in the following regions: Egypt, Sinai, Erithrea and Northern Ethiopia, Southern Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Turkey, Thrace under Turkish

rule, and Afghanistan. The Prefect of the congregation is Cardinal Wladyslaw Rubin, who is also president of the Cyril and Methodius Foundation; together with the cardinals the congregation is run by the patriarchs in communion with the Roman Catholic Church.

Among the Secretariats one of the most active today is that for the **Union of Christians**, founded in the 1960s by John XXIII, who initiated "ecumenicism." The Prefect is Cardinal Johannes Willebrands, a noted exponent of the Dutch heresy and its Jansenist roots, who recently left Utrecht to devote his full time to the project of union with the other churches at the expense of the Augustinian tradition.

Among the Commissions the most influenced by the Club of Rome is the **Pontifical Commission Iustitia et Pax**, created by Paul VI in 1967 with the aim of dealing with questions of development, peace, and justice. Its president is Cardinal Bernardin Gantin, an African who has been responsible

thusian infiltrations and the Club of Rome; up to one year ago Eleonora Masini, the right hand of Aurelio Peccei in the Club of Rome and a fanatical advocate of population reduction, worked there as a consultant. Still working on the commission is Dr. Anthony Chullikal, an Indian who, besides sharing the ideas of his intimate friend Masini, supports the growth of sects and cults. Another collaborator of the commission was the late aristocrat Lady Jackson, Barbara Ward, a ferocious foe of industrial development.

Linked to this Commission is the **Pontifical Council "Cor Unum,"** founded in 1971. This council was supposed to concern itself with the development of the Third World. Instead, it became a nest of zero-growthers involved in programs of reducing Third World populations. Among the consultants to it are Caritas Internationalis, Catholic Relief Services, Misereor, and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.