

C246393

-4-

she says in this respect that in South Africa, as well as in Australia a prevailing lack of shipping facilities still continues. Although the available freight is still the same, it is very difficult to find any ships at all for its transportation.

With respect to the condition of the Catholics in Poland, there have appeared in the anti-German press recently the most unbelievable lies. No one who knows the tactics of French propagandists however, can deny that the real situation has been most grossly misrepresented. In order to make clear the facts, Germany is presenting her side of the story thus:

(1) The German Governor in chief permitted the celebration of the foreign -- mass by the Polish population without hesitation. Also, among other things, the gift of the Pope to Catholic Poland, as well as that of the American Red Cross were distributed among the people.

(2) A measure of the Polish Catholic army and , governed the actions of the Polish prisoners of War. Above all this policy will be adhered to most rigidly in accordance with international agreements respecting the treatment accorded prisoners of war. It has been guaranteed in all cases.

(3) Religious services and customs have been fundamentally preserved.

(4) In the Reichsgau, Warteland, the Sunday Services had to be restricted to special hours, in order to maintain any control. Such control measures were necessitated when Polish spiritual leaders attempted to misuse the religious services for sheer political ends.

(5) It is not reasonable that in the district of Kuln alone, 620 priests were put into Concentration Camps. The charges that 5,000 priests in Danzig were held in bonds are just as unfounded. Those who laid any weight in the accounts of Bishop Splitt of Danzig, may note that he has recently denied these assertions himself.

(6) The and treasures of the Church, which were mislaid in packing at Kinsen by the Polish Bishops before the beginning of hostilities, when they were transported to the Eastern territory of the country, were restored safely and intact, by the German police.