

Vatican by Augustinus

False pacifists march on Assisi

Neo-Malthusians, masons, oligarchs, and Russian Orthodox prelates conspire to sabotage the Pope's intentions.

On Jan. 1, 1986, the Pope, addressing the world from St. Peter's in Rome on the World Day of Peace, denounced the "false pacifists" saying: "There are false proclaimers of peace in the world. They say peace, but they do the opposite." He added: "We must be certain that the same desire for peace be present everywhere, and the same relationship toward it."

A few days later, at St. Paul's basilica, the Pope announced his proposal for a Prayer Encounter for Peace with representatives of all the religions of the world, to be held in Assisi next Oct. 27.

For many observers, the Pope's initiative represented a project to claim for himself all serious discussions on peace and to thus put an end to the hegemony exerted by the communist camp on this topic.

It was no accident that the city of Assisi was selected as the site of the historic meeting. There, perhaps, more than any place else, the word "peace" has been abused. In Assisi in October 1983, the keeper of the Monastery of St. Francis, Father Vincenzo Coli, invited the leader of the Italian Communist Party, Enrico Berlinguer, to dinner.

It was not the first time that the enterprising Franciscan used religion to promote dubious ideological projects. A few months earlier, Father Coli, together with such neo-Malthusian entities as the Club of Rome, had drafted the famous Gubbio Charter, with an explicitly anti-life philosophy. In 1984, a delegation of Franciscans left Assisi to bring a peace mes-

sage to Ronald Reagan, by whom they were received, and to Yuri Andropov, Soviet party chief.

In Moscow, the Franciscans got a rather chilly welcome; Andropov had died, and they were not received by then-Soviet party chief Chernenko, so they celebrated a mass and went back home. Next, on May 17, the Franciscans invited to Assisi the Soviet ambassador to Italy, Nikolai Lunkov, and the number-two man in the U.S. embassy in Rome, William Holmes, and had them sign a joint document in favor of peace.

For the Pope, Franciscan activism had gone off the religious track. John Paul II sent a papal observer to the "General Chapter" of the Franciscan order with a letter to the 135 delegates, calling the Order to "a revision of theory and practice." Moreover, many of the more moderate sectors of the Order did not share the ultra-radical line of the general superior, the Californian John Vaughn. But Vaughn, promoter of monastic-Marxist dialogue, turned a deaf ear.

This time, the solemn initiative of the Pope, the Prayer Encounter at Assisi, seems to have created fear among the "false pacifists." This may be what prompted the minor friars of Assisi to organize a march from Assisi to Rome, together with the ecologist Prince Nicola Caracciolo; Edoardo Agnelli, the son of financier Giovanni Agnelli; the ex-leader of the Maoist gang "Lotta Continua" Alexander Langer (known for his pro-terrorist stance); and a director of the Communist Party's recreation association. ARCI.

The little squad was led by about 10 people in all. Among them was a young Franciscan, Friar Domenico Dominici, and four Ethiopians. Brother Domenico in fact, when not marching, takes care of Ethiopian refugees in Italy. The band set out on Aug. 3 and reached the capital after a few days. There it was received by the premier's undersecretary, Giuliano Amato, who, after listening to their proposals, pronounced himself perplexed. No one received them in the Vatican.

Despite the miserable outcome of the "anti-nuclear pacifist march," it got huge attention from the media, especially the pro-communist media. The real aim of the march was to brand Assisi, weeks before the meeting organized by the Pope, as the site of Catholic-Marxist dialogue, a center of the anti-nuclear pacificism dear to Moscow's demagogues. Confirming this plot is the plan of the international World Wildlife Fund to hold its own conference in Assisi on "Conservation and Religion," from Sept. 24 to 29. Among the participants are Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, a noted freemason, and the Aga Khan. The sessions will be coordinated by the World Council of Churches, known for its close ties with the Russian Orthodox Church and Soviet intelligence.

In recent days, it became known that the Russian Orthodox Church will send Metropolitan Filaret to the Pope's Assisi Encounter. Filaret has distinguished himself for the interviews he has given to Italian dailies attacking the Pope and President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative.

Neo-Malthusians, masons, oligarchs, and Russian Orthodox prelates seem to be in cahoots to try to turn the Encounter at Assisi into an event totally opposed to what the Pope had in mind.