

zeal one once became the pillar of the Legion section in Lama, the Marian sanctuary in the diocese of Vinh-long.

The Communists, past masters at fishing in troubled waters, publicly took up the defense of Buddhism, speaking in the name of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam), where almost all the pagodas have been destroyed and the bonzes assassinated or reduced to the state of slaves by the Communists.

The Committee for the Defense of Buddhism, making use of methods that escaped censorship, sent out calls for help, based on calumnies, to the World Buddhist Organization. This organization used its influence with

the governments of Buddhist countries, such as Ceylon and Cambodia, which in turn appealed to the United Nations. Most of the international press services outdid each other in repeating these same calumnies.

International adventurers, furious that President Diem refused to obey them blindly, found the occasion favorable for provoking a *coup d'état* under the pretext of protecting Buddhism, but in reality attempting to set up a Vietnamese government subservient to their ambitions, thus playing the same game as their enemies, the Communists. According to the press, the *coup d'état* was to have taken place on the 21st of August. The state of siege, proclaimed

just in time, cut the ground out from under these troublemongers.

In what way is the Catholic Church in Vietnam responsible for these troubles? In no way at all. But the bonzes, by means of secret propaganda among the people, accused the Catholics of being guilty of the massacres of Hué. The non-Catholics believed the affirmations of these holy personages and were preparing to massacre the Catholics in at least the two provinces of Hué and Quang—of which I am Archbishop—as soon as the *coup d'état* took place. Fortunately it was frustrated.

Who, then, are the persecutors? It is for you to judge. My job of providing information has been completed.

Notes of a New Nation

JUSTUS M. VAN DER KROEF

We can expect Sukarno and his Communist allies to throw everything into the battle against Malaysia for one reason: Malaysia is anti-Communist.

Singapore
As Indonesia mounts its offensive against the infant Malaysian Federation, doubts are being openly voiced here on the ability of Premier Tunku Abdul Rahman to lead Malaysia to victory against the overt and covert forces of Bung Sukarno. The Tunku gambled on being able to persuade Sukarno to drop his opposition to Malaysia at the little three summit at Manila in August by allowing the UN to "ascertain" the wishes of the population of Sarawak and Sabah (North Borneo). But the primary result has been a diminishing of the Tunku's own political stature. Singapore's tough, avowedly anti-Communist Premier Lee Kuan-yew, or Sabah's ponderously obstinate chief minister-designate, Donald Stephens, are increasingly being considered here as more likely to supply the self-reliant and uncompromising determination which Malaysian leadership needs. Even among his close followers the Tunku is being faulted, these days, not only for having jeopardized the creation of Malaysia at the Manila summit, but also, and more significantly, for not seeing

through Indonesia's current tactic of playing "Maphilindo"—the confederation of Malaya, the Philippines and Indonesia—against Malaysia.

For Sabah and Sarawak the Tunku's concession at Manila amounted to an indignity difficult to forget. Last December and January extensive local elections were held in Sabah with Malaysia the major issue. The Sabah Alliance Party, an interracial coalition

of the five principal political groupings favoring Malaysia, won more than 90 per cent of the votes and by early May had formed a government ready to take over from the British on "Malaysia day." Elections in Sarawak were held the following June and here the pro-Malaysia elements (like the Sarawak Alliance Party, Party Negara and various independents) got nearly 70 per cent of the votes cast and about the same percentage of seats in the new legislative council. In light of all this it is remarkable that the expressions of exasperation and indignation in the two Borneo territories after the announcement of the United Nations' "ascertainment" remained as restrained as they were.

The face of the UN "ascertainment" undertaking was felt all the more keenly throughout Malaysia because the United Nations had, in fact, already verified the strong preponderance of pro-Malaysia sentiment in the Borneo territories. Earlier this year, U Thant sent UN Under-secretary for Special Political Affairs, C. V. Narasimhan, on a look-see tour through the Borneo territories, and



Sukarno