

COMMENTARY - "ICM" Missiles in Latin America

Now that we have all relaxed because the Cuban crisis has been relaxed, although far from resolved, we might consider turning our attention away from Latin America once again, to so-called "more important matters" (whatever they may be). But we cannot! There are new warnings (actually they are old, but we have not seriously listened to them). New warnings that the Soviet Union has exported missiles to every country in Latin America. Missiles which may be more effective than were those found in Cuba. Missiles which do not take lives or reduce industry and resources to rubble. Missiles which are not aimed at the United States but are aimed inwardly at the country into which they have been exported. Missiles which we cannot prevent from reaching their destinations by setting up barricades on the high seas. Missiles that we cannot photograph from the air, let alone find by scouring the ground. But they are there, these "ICM" Missiles. "International Communist Movement" missiles. These are aimed not at killing a country's citizenry, but at attracting those citizens to its cause. These are not missiles that will level capitols, but they are aimed at subverting and destroying governments. The effects of their fallout are not radiological, but ideological.

The ground in Latin America is ripe for setting up these missiles. Yes, for setting them up, and for setting them off. The conditions of men in these countries is an attractive target. The disproportionate distribution of wealth finds poverty running rampant. The economies are stagnant and stagnancy breeds disease. Health, welfare and education are far behind meeting the needs. And the governments, for the most part, remain aloof from these problems until they are forced to face them. All of these things provide fuel for these missiles too.

Probably the best anti-missile missile that we have at this time is the Alliance for Progress initiated by our government. The problem with this weapon though is that it is unable to get off the ground. Expressions of active concern and support by us, the citizens of the United States, are necessary to start the rockets. The question is, "Have we got the courage and desire to eliminate these 'missiles' from all of Latin America that we hastily exhibited with regard to those in Cuba?"

Phil Jurus

TO THE EDITOR:

Re: Mr. McIntyre's "THE STATE OF GOD"

Mr. McIntyre's article is an example of outdated speculation which is in poor repute even among the philosophers of today, for it is "meaningless"--unverifiable. Of course, Mr. McIntyre could point to Christianity and say, "Apply your criterion of verifiability to that", but we must point out that we have God's revelation, the record of his activity with men-- and with us. Furthermore, Mr. McIntyre's syncretistic pantheism is incompatible with that revelation. Or perhaps this "State of Godness" which neither exists nor doesn't exist has spoken to him through a voice of thunder--but isn't that inconsistent with his system? No, let us dismiss the article as a wiseful attempt to be God, and welcome our brother back into the fold of those who know that the Holy Other Creator has reestablished fellowship with them.

Thomas Keener

FOOTNOTES

It's final time again.

Say, what kind of questions does Prof. X ask?

Oh, he just wants his notes thrown back at him; whatever you do don't quote the text.

How about Prof. Y?

Well, he doesn't teach anything anyway, so just BS for awhile.

Boy, it's bad enough that future ministers have to take tests at all (don't they trust us?!) and then the ones we do take are silly. What's the Church coming to?

Whether you like it or not, buddy, you better play this little game if you want to get through this place.

I'll tell you one thing: I didn't expect Seminary to be like this.

What did you expect, heaven?

Not exactly, but I thought that everybody would sort of learn this stuff naturally. You know, have a lot of intellectual bull-sessions, learn a few sermon tricks, read some book that has all the Lutheran answers in it - and then learn how to act holy.

Surprise!

It's more like a shock.

All this bitching isn't getting any studying done, you know.

Well, I'm not sure I'm going to stay here anyway.

Just get to work and decide whether to stay, later. I think you're just trying to blame something for your own laziness.

Hey, save your preaching for the pulpit!

But tell me, is it true that it gets worse every year?

G.W.

REFLECTIONS:

This is the time when many of us realize that what we would do we do not, and what we should have done we did not. We look back with regret upon the wasted moments and opportunities of the past nine weeks, and try to cram an entire quarter into one week (or less).

Is this not like life itself? Will we not someday stand at a point where we can look back over life and behold what we might have done but did not? As some are more diligent in studies, so some will accomplish more in life. This will not alter the "looking backward", for those who have accomplished more will have a broader perspective and will see all the more that they might have done. This is the frustrating quality of life, that the more we do the more we will see which we would do, and which deserves to be done.

It is also the most wonderful aspect of life that there need never be a lack of useful activity. In the vocation to which we have been called there ought never to be a lack of challenges. We will always feel the frustration of not being able to do all which we would; but we will always have the joy of spending all that we are and all that we possess in loving service.

There are those among us who are a blessing to the community; those who have talents and use them freely for our inspiration; those who by their conduct and conversation inspire us. Who are they? Perhaps you, dear reader, have been such a blessing to your brethren; you would be the last to realize it.

Henry Ireland

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT -

This issue is the "Tapering-Off" Issue. Last week we hit the jackpot with reams of material. This week - two pages. Next week - NO ISSUE.

Because we do have to study once in a while and be examined in our knowledge, we must put aside the pleasant adaphora of student life and don the mantle of the scholar. C'est la vie!

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Staff: Fred Myers, Editor; James Bresnahan, Wesley Hanlin, George Weckman, Gregory Shannon, Henry Ireland.