

THE ROMANIES ("GYPSIES"):

(Magazine reprint from "Eastern Times", now "World Times", the only British World News Magazine!)



To fight discrimination, civil rights movements have grown.

Reviled, Feared & Persecuted They Now Seek Justice!

Geneva: The Romanies of the world are preparing to take the bitterness of a thousand years of oppression to the United Nations. They aim to set up a permanent organisation linked to the United Nations which would put the case for Romany rights ("Gypsies").

A second world conference, held in Geneva, has also considered such issues as education for Romany children, and a standard alphabet for the Romany language, which is based on Sanskrit. The conference also considered such matters as reparations from the West German Government for the relatives of the 400,000 Romanies believed to have been murdered in Nazi concentration camps.

Romanies are thought to have come from India, probably from the

Punjab, and by AD 1000 had migrated as far west as Persia (Iran). There, some historians believe, they split into two branches: one going into north Africa, the other into Europe.

Throughout Europe, wandering Romanies have usually been reviled, feared and persecuted. Half a million of them gained freedom from serfdom in Romania only in the last century. The Dutch called them "heathens" less than a century ago.

Because of their lowly position in society, they usually have had to make do with jobs nobody else wanted—they were hangmen in Bulgaria, dog-catchers in Romania, slave-traffickers in Brazil and even today, in Britain they work as scrap metal merchants and seasonal

labourers.

Most of Europe's Rom—the group name they prefer to be known by—live in Eastern Europe (750,000 in Yugoslavia, 660,000 in Romania, 600,000 in Hungary, 500,000 in the Soviet Union) but there are also large communities in France, Italy, West Germany and Britain. They still live mainly in the traditional way—as nomadic travellers.

Some countries are trying to put right centuries of neglect: Yugoslavia now recognises and helps them; the Netherlands has provided caravan sites with facilities for half its nomads, a lead which is being

followed by Britain; Sweden has rehoused and trained Rom who lived in slums around Stockholm.

Many Rom are illiterate, and there is no tradition of writing in their language, which has a purely oral history. Of their language, the Minority Rights Group, an international research unit based in London, has reported: "It is hoped that this beautiful language, a living heritage of India, will not die out. (Editor: For a more accurate and in-depth history of the "Gypsies", please see the amazing & revealing "Abraham" series by Father David—Letters no. 296, 298 and 301!)

INSIGHT INTO TWO SOCIALIST LEADERS!

Newspaper Reprints

A MIRACLE!

Yugoslav President Tito relived moments of terror when he visited the site, near Tjentiste, Yugoslavia, where shrapnel from a German bomb wounded him 35 years ago.

"We barely left a ravine that was heavily bombed when another assault of bombers came," Tito remembered. "And the forest was shaking, as if the earth was burning." In a nearby valley, more than 7,000 Yugoslav guerrillas were killed in that battle on the Sutjeska River.

Tito recalled that during the battle a bomb whined overhead. Everybody hit the ground. "I covered myself behind a fallen beech log. When the bomb fell near me and everything became dark, I thought I was a dead man."

"My dog, Lux, which had covered my head with his body, was strewn about in bits." A piece of shrapnel, as large as a finger, lodged

in Tito's arm. It was removed in 1952. A small monument, with "June 9, 1943," etched in marble, now marks the battle site.

(from "Herald Tribune")

CASTRO ON CHRIST!

Mexico City (AP)—Cuban President Fidel Castro says Jesus Christ was "a great revolutionary" and that he sees no contradictions between Christianity and Cuban "socialism".

"I would say there is much similarity between (Christ's) teachings and socialism," Castro said Thursday night in a Havana-dated dispatch from Prensa Latina, the official Cuban news agency. "There are no contradictions," he said.

There were some conflicts with the Roman Catholic Church after the revolution that brought him to power in 1959 because the church "had become the church of the

rich," Castro added.

Castro said he was well aware of Christian precepts and that it was his belief "Christ was a great revolutionary and his teachings were dedicated to the poor; and that he fought the abuses, injustices and humiliation of being human."

(Article from "Japan Times")

(Editor: Within the last couple of years, Fidel Castro has received from some of our friends, catcombers and fish, copies of the Words of David, including "Battle for Africa!" PTL!)

More from CHILE:

A "Change the World!" Testimony by Francisco Sol.

Upon our arrival here in Chile six months ago, we were helped out a lot by V., a former disciple, and her husband R. At 33, R. has many holdings and assets from his father which has allowed him to live a comfortable and very lazy life. In fact, in spite of his wealth and beautiful wife, he was a miserable 240-pound alcoholic who easily drank 1½ bottles of whiskey a day. The Lord really gave us a burden to help him and this made our up-and-down relationship with him much easier, as we knew that love never fails! PTL!

Recently, through V., I learned that R. was actually sexually impotent and that they had never been able to make love in their three years of married life. I knew the poor guy must have been suffering terribly over this, as I myself was

once impotent until Jesus and the Words of David set me free from those fears! Praise the Lord!

One day I went to see R., who was at his lowest ever. His wife had gotten a lover and was going to leave him. Meanwhile, due to the abuses of alcohol and cigarettes, plus the worry about his sexual impotence, he was a total physical wreck. His nervous system was now so shot that he could hardly walk. It was a real fight at first, as he wouldn't even see me, but I just stuck around the house (encouraged by the Lord and V.) and finally he came out reluctantly from his room.

I shared with him how I myself had once been in his shoes. At first he acted like it didn't really matter, but little by little he began to open up. It was a real victory as he finally shared his fears and needs with me for the first time in our six-month friendship. I told him I knew Jesus was the only Doctor who could help him.—He had seen a multitude of psychiatrists, psychologists and M.D.'s seeking help. Then he prayed with me to receive the Lord!

Now a month later, R. has quit drinking and is regaining his health. V. has left her lover and wants to try to make the marriage work again, and R. has forgiven her and also wants to give it another try. Of course, there are still lots of battles ahead, and by God's grace we'll be here to help them along the way day by day.—Working patiently, waiting and watching as the Lord's Love works daily in their and many other lonely lives here in Chile. Viva Amor! Francisco Sol.



AUSTRALIA:

"...one of the richest disciples..."

The story of Noel, our 70-year-old Catacomber!

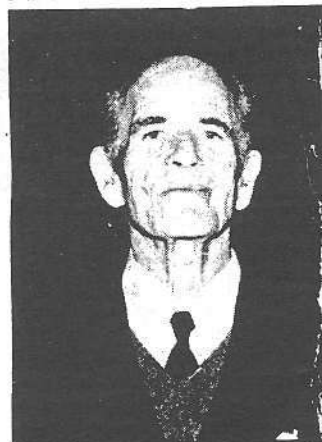
by PAUL.

(Maria: Hope this inspires everyone to have more love, concern and compassion for the Catacombers!) Dear MO & Maria,

God bless you, we love and pray for you! I wanted to tell you about a beautiful older brother in the Family who remains loyal and true, very helpful to all in this part of the world.

His name is Noel and he's in his 70's. He met the Family about four years ago and has been a Catacomber ever since! I think he's more full-time though, certainly a full-time witnesser! He always sends letters to many brothers and sisters in the Family and encloses a dollar or two in each one. He visits the Homes whenever possible, though now it's harder for him since the nearest Home is now far away from him.

Noel is one of the closest persons to Jesus I've ever met. It's really marvellous to talk to him. He was born



Noel has been a faithful Catacomber since he met the Family four years ago!

in India of British parents and got saved at 20 years old. He married a missionary and the Lord gave them an orphanage or church there where