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U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE VATICAN AND THE HOLOCAUST, 1940-1950

Much has been published chronicling the role of Pope Pius XII regarding refugees, the Holocaust and relations with America during the war years and the immediate post-war period. This publication provides a wealth of unique correspondence, reports and analyses, memos of conversations, and personal interviews exploring such themes U.S.-Vatican relations, Vatican's role in World War II, Jewish refugees, Italian anti-Jewish laws during the papacy of Pius XII, and the pope's personal knowledge of the treatment of European Jews.

Date Range: 1940-1950

Content: 35,023 images

Source Library: U.S. National Archives

Detailed Description:

"In view of reliable reports that Jews in Budapest and other parts of Hungary are threatened with deportation and annihilation…urgently approach the Pope…that he deliver an appeal to the people and clergy to conceal Jews and oppose deportations…"

Stettinius to Taylor Telegram, October 25, 1944

The relationship between Pope Pius XII and the Holocaust has long been controversial, with some scholars arguing that he kept silent during the Holocaust, while others have argued that he saved thousands if not tens or hundreds of thousands of Jewish men, women, and children.

Although Pius XII generally made only muted criticisms of Hitler and Nazi Germany, he was willing to apply direct diplomatic pressure when dealing with Axis satellite states such as Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia where he deemed that doing so could achieve positive outcomes. Similarly, there are many documented instances of initiatives taken by local Catholics under the covert direction and moral support of Pius XII.

With the announcement of the appointment of Myron Taylor as the president's representative to the Vatican, this publication provides a wealth of unique correspondence, reports and analyses, memos of conversations, and personal interviews exploring such themes U.S.-Vatican relations, Vatican's role in World War II, Jewish refugees, Italian anti-Jewish laws

during the papacy of Pius XII, and the pope's personal knowledge of the treatment of European Jews.

This collection consists of telegrams, despatches, reports, and letters between Taylor and his staff, the State Department, other U.S. government agencies, the Vatican, and the Italian government. There are materials on political affairs, Jews, refugee and relief activities, German-owned property in Rome, property rights, and the Vatican Bank. In addition, there are materials on Axis diplomats, war criminals, protocols and religious statements, and records of the peace efforts of the Vatican.

Research Topics include:

• Refugee relief activities and organizations

• Axis diplomats at the Vatican

• Italian concentration camps

• Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Eastern Europe

• Vatican Bank activities

• Emigration

• War crimes

• Bombing of cities

• Cultural artifacts and war

• Croatia-Vatican relations

• Protestant-Catholic relations

• Provisional Italian government

• Ecclesia

• Italian Fascism and the Church

• Representation for prisoners of war

Publisher's Note: This collection comprises, in its entirety, the Primary Source Media microfilm collection entitled *U.S. Relations with the Vatican and the Holocaust, 1942-1950.*