

Church has its soul. Since neither can exist without the other, the argument runs, each must coexist with the other. The common ground of coexistence is English patriotism, a force still so heavily surcharged with memories of 1939-1945 that practically every Pole, whether Catholic or Communist, continues to fear a re-armed Germany more than Russia.

Thus the argument runs, and there is much evidence to support it. But most of that evidence is drawn from the three or four years following Mr Gomulka's coup in 1956 — years in which he feared any internal crisis which might give Russia an excuse to remove him. Since 1960 his confidence has been growing. He has left the peasants in possession of their private farms, and he has done little to enforce the nominal and ineffective reorganisation of industry into co-operatives. But he has begun to move against the Church.

For the most part his campaign has been cautious and indirect. Taxation of church pro-

functions: of 460 church orphanages operating in 1959, only 30 remain. Church building and re-building (except in the cases of historic churches) has been forbidden. And an executive order in 1960 and a parliamentary law in 1961 have been implemented, cautiously but steadily, to ban religious instruction from State schools and to close down fund-starved church schools.

Early this month Cardinal Wyszynski hit back. The bishops issued a pastoral letter condemning atheism in forthright terms. Two years ago Mr Gomulka might have paused or temporised. This year he retaliated by forcibly closing down a convent school in the Cardinal's own diocese and ejecting the nuns. It is now doubtful whether the bishops will be given visas to attend the Ecumenical Conference in Rome. Once again co-existence is being revealed for what it is—a tactical compromise which will be honoured only if the Communists are able to gain ground against their adversaries.

Aborigines As Citizens

"Something should be done to give full citizenship rights to aborigines if they are worthy of it, and I think they are," said an aboriginal woman, Mrs Betty Bulsey, at a National Aborigines' Day demonstration in Sydney last month. As a matter of observable fact, the tendency towards granting full citizenship rights is strong, and has gathered considerable momentum this year. As a result of legislation passed by Federal Parliament some months ago, aborigines are now entitled to vote at Federal elections, and Western Australia proposes to give them the right to vote at its State elections.

W.A. has amended its legislation, only one Australian State will retain a restriction on the franchise for aborigines. That is, Queensland, where no full-blood or unexempted half-caste can vote at a State election. Almost certainly the Nicklin Government will feel obliged, before long, to follow the Federal and W.A. examples. Then aborigines will indeed have full voting rights. As for other citizenship rights, the N.S.W. and (it is believed) the South Australian Governments have decided to lift present restrictions on the sale of liquor to all aborigines.

Will the Northern Ter-

ritory follow suit? It seems quite possible, after last week's announcement about the proposed change of status for many aborigines there. In future, aboriginal children under 15 and adults over 65 in N.T. will be citizens. As children reach 15, the Administration will decide whether they will remain citizens or be declared wards; welfare officers, in addition, will have to show cause why any person should be made a ward. Clearly, this is another major step towards full citizenship rights for aborigines, and towards ending discriminatory legislation against them.

As such, it is welcome, and will please the growing number of aborigines (even if most of them remain apathetic about their status) who resent discrimination. Yet the new scheme must surely be an interim arrangement, for it contains some absurd anomalies. Why should a 14-year-old aboriginal child be a citizen as of right, but be liable to lose that right on turning 15? Why should a 65-year-old be an unquestioned citizen, but not a 64-year-old? Why should a 65-year-old aboriginal be unable to share his liquor with his 64-year-old friend? Such glaring contradictions cannot last.

to parking offences. One feels proud that the "Herald" has championed the cause of these West Papuans and shown to the world the pathetic weakness of the Australian Government. (Canon) G. G. O'KEEFFE. Double Bay.

In a courteous exchange I pointed out that since coming to Sydney from London—where no such rule then existed—I had never read of its being an offence, but looked on centre lines as a sensible guide under busy conditions. The footpath was almost free of pedestrians on this occasion.

The officer told me that he had been "sent out to do a job" and proceeded to make out an on-the-spot fine for £1. Thinking that the public's goodwill was worth more to the force than a £1 fine I still felt confident that an explanation with my cheque would result in a refund. How wrong I was!

About the same time as the above incident I spent several hours in telephone contact with Hurstville police station and the Water Police reporting the danger to boats of a convoy of steel pontoons and its progress adrift on the outgoing tide on George's River after nightfall and received the thanks of the officer concerned. I don't expect a medal for co-operation—that's civilisation; but I do expect co-operation to be two-way.

RONALD MOORE.
Hurstville.

A Conscience In Children?

Sir,—Over the past two decades and more there has been a rash of so-called child psychologists deploring the use of corporal punishment in the rearing of children. Such people, with some of your correspondents, seem to base their arguments upon the assumption of an innate conscience despite lack of supporting evidence.

It seems more probable that any sense of right and wrong is acquired rather than congenital. From this basis, one can see the necessity for some sort of punishment and reward system to instil society's code of moral behaviour into children. It is not sufficient merely to indicate to a child the "errors of his ways"—such indications have value only when the child already has some moral sense and is able to perceive his actions as a contradiction to a logical extension of his existing morals.

It is in this process of morals acquisition that a form of punishment becomes necessary and for the duration of this process, in, ideally, decreasing amounts, the most efficient form of punishment is the infliction of physical pain as closely as possible sequential to the undesirable behavioural act.

This mode of punishment is psychologically less cruel than its alternatives; at least one of the ideas promulgated by the medieval inquisitions is not without merit.

R. W. M. ISBISTER.
Burwood.

Position Of Figures At Cenotaph

Sir,—The positions of the proposed additional figures of a nurse and an airman on the Cenotaph should be reversed, i.e., facing outwards not inwards.

C. R. RAMAGE.
Epping.

Sir,—With the conclusion of the Indonesian-Dutch agreements on West New Guinea, Australia's prestige falls to an all-time low. Or rather the prestige of our leaders—for none seemed to raise a voice in protest.

A world which once looked upon the Atlantic Charter—with all its legal weakness—as a new path for human endeavour to follow should stand aghast at this cowardly betrayal of the Papuan people who live in the western end of New Guinea, particularly when United Nations pundits are screaming their heads off for immediate self-government and independence for the same race in eastern New Guinea. Free one lot; enslave the other!

Surely, soon the people of the United States will squirm when they learn to what depths their political leaders have fallen by this betrayal, not only of the simple Papuans but of the high principles the American people initiated when they asked that colonisation of any race by another should vanish from the earth.

RALPH RANDELL.
Vaucluse.

Sir,—As a fourth generation Australian, I have always been very proud that this nation has never in the past been intimidated by any country, either Asiatic or Western, that cared to rattle the sabre. It is this background that our great tradition of Anzac has come from.

What is the position now that the Government has been frightened by threats of war by an Asiatic Power to forsake an ally and friend of this country, namely the Dutch?

It is so contrary to the past tradition of the Anzac spirit, which has done so much to form the Australian way of life!

E. J. PERKS.
North Sydney.

Sir,—At last West Irian will be given to those to whom it rightfully belongs. Still the "Herald," the Colonel Blimps, and the old-world reactionaries continue to bleat. Perhaps one of these days they will realise that this year is 1962 and not 1862.

The postwar years have seen the rise of Afro-Asian nationalism, which is transforming the world for the better.

S. B. LIPSCOMB.
Woollahra.

Sir,—The editorial "Aggression Proclaimed Respectable" is a crowning achievement for the "Herald" and its consistent clarification of political issues over the past few years.

If this shameful capitulation before the old dictatorial formula of the late Hitler's pupils is not a classical Munich, there never was one.

I am sure there are countless thousands of hard-thinking citizens in this wonderful country of ours who, like me, are very much afraid that Mr Khrushchev will grin broadly over the pitiful helplessness of the Western Powers.

Our only hope, desperately nursed, is that our future generations will be spared the consequences of the major political blunders committed by our leaders here and abroad.

OLD WAR VETERAN.
Coogee.

affair. Sir Garfield will surely expound the Government's reaction to the many problems which must arise from the enforced backdown by the Netherlands Government to Indonesian aggression. Leaving the long-term effects of the new Australian isolation out of it altogether, Sir Garfield will be expected to give firm answers to the immediate questions arising out of the transfer of West New Guinea to Indonesia after May 1.

Foremost will be the refugee problem, of natives of West New Guinea who will be looking to Australia for asylum. Probably a great number will come under the heading of the "Dutch puppets," so sneeringly referred to by President Soekarno.

Sir Garfield might also be expected to give a firm opinion on Dr Soekarno's quibbling about his agreement to hold a vote on self-determination for West New Guinea in 1969; whether such self-determination was going to be what the Indonesian President called "internal self-determination, self-determina-

PRESIDENT NKRUMAH
'IMMEDIATE'
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PRESIDENT NKRUMAH
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Church. Angry
Church leaders.

But there are protests for the Church as well for Nkrumah in this inevitable clash. It is fairly certain that, sooner or later, there would be trouble over the thing being instilled into young Africans of Ghana and over the chants have been made to let be Marshallled into the Pioneer movement—often described in Ghana

U Thant "Lies" But Not Neutral

"WHOEVER occupies the offices of the United Nations last November, "must be neutral."

This sentence, more than any other he has uttered since, offers perhaps the best possible clue to evaluating the active role he played in bringing about the Dutch-Indonesian agreement on West New Guinea.

It is a tribute to the stature he has achieved as "citizen of the world" in little more than nine months that delegates from the West, the Soviet bloc and the so-called "neutrals" all attest to his impartiality. There is, however, no such unanimity when it comes to assessing his neutrality. Particularly is this so when one relates it to the part he played during the crucial stages of the Dutch-Indonesian negotiations early last week.

Granted that there exist as many definitions of "neutrality" as shades of grey, the question arises: Did the fact that he is Asian in philosophy, political orientation and upbringing make him susceptible to favouring Indonesia's arguments and impervious to Dutch counter-arguments?

The question can never be adequately answered. But there is no denying that Mr Thant exerted strong, if subtle,

From A STAFF
CORRESPONDENT
in New York

pressure on the Dutch negotiators during the 48 preceding the signing agreement.

Why the pressure? why was it necessary to tain the Netherlands Government's approval last Friday? The two questions being asked by everybody that "historic" day an tension that surrounded delegates' lounge as they moved inexorably forward a race, it seemed, with distance telephone calls. The Hague.

The theory advanced in answer to the question and few challenged it—was that President Soekarno, through his Minister, Dr Sularto, made it clear to Mr Thant that he had reached the limit of his patience and the Dutch would not get their approval "by the back door" and not later than the day he would withdraw his gates.

Faced with the prospect of a breakdown of the peace at the eleventh hour would reflect on Mr Thant's ability of "persuasive mediation, the Acting Secretary-General had little to do with the disposition for stalling.

VICE-REGAL

Yesterday afternoon, their Excellencies the Administrator and Lady Brooks returned to Government House, Canberra.

Subsequently, his Excellency received Mr Cleaver, Master Philip Pental and Miss Adele Thomas at Government House.

His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Lady Woodward and attended by members of the personal staff, opened the jubilee congress of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science in the Great Hall of the University of Sydney yesterday evening.

Lady Woodward yesterday received Mrs Dong Whan Lee.

Significantly, Mr Thant, Secretary of State, United Nations less than 48 hours after the signing of the Dutch-Indonesian agreement to discuss the Congo impasse. In view of the complexity of this problem delegates believe that Mr Thant will be able to within the limited time ahead of him. But Mr Thant will be able to do so. Whatever his capabilities, he has been able to bring about a dramatic victory over the Dutch as well as the peaceful settlement of the West New