

The Crucifixion

ILLUSTRATED SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By Alfred J. Boucher

Scripture—Matthew 27:31-56



After scourging, Christ was brought from the guardroom to carry His cross to Golgotha. Seeing that His strength was failing, the soldiers compelled Simon of Cyrene to carry the cross for Him.—Matthew 27:27-34.

Crucified, Christ is mocked by on-lookers while soldiers gamble for His garments. He grants eternal life to the repentant thief; cries out to God as darkness closes upon the earth.—Matthew 27:34-49.

As Jesus dies, an earthquake occurs and the Temple veil is torn from top to bottom. In the confusion, the first Gentile convert, a centurion, declares Him to be truly the son of God.—Matthew 27:50-56.

Jesus is buried in Joseph of Arimathea's tomb and a guard set. Nevertheless, God's will is accomplished and the Resurrection occurred within the predicted time.—Matthew 27:57-66.

MEMORY VERSE:—"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were sinners, Christ died for us."—Romans 5:8.

SCOURGED BY ROMANS

Christ's Humiliating Journey

Editor's note: The following material relating to tomorrow's Sunday School lesson is based on copyrighted outlines produced by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of Churches in the U.S. and is used by permission.

By R.H. RAMSEY The death of Christ was first predicted by John the Baptist in calling Christ the Lamb of God. It was even predicted by Caiaphas (John 18:14); on nine occasions we read of the Jews' determination to put Christ to death; and our Lord Himself spoke many times of His coming violent death, even stating that He would be delivered up to Pilate, He was taken to a

palace guardroom to be scourged. There the soldiers beat and reviled Him, spat upon Him and struck Him with their hands. They placed a crown of thorns upon His head, draped Him in royal robes and placed a reed in His hands, an insulting substitute for a royal scepter. When they had tired of the mockery they brought Him to the street to begin the humiliating journey to Golgotha, the place of crucifixion outside the city walls, so-called because that barren rock was skull-shaped.

All that Jesus had undergone in the past hours had drained His strength, and twice He stumbled under the weight of His cross. Seeing this, and knowing they could not run

risk of killing Him prematurely, the soldiers drafted one of the onlookers, Simon of Cyrene, to bear the cross for Him. The Gospel writers, who waxed eloquent on other happenings in the life of Christ, deal but briefly with His last earthly hours. His crucifixion must have been, even after many years, too painful to remember, for they offer only the barest of details of the actual crucifixion.

To help deaden the pain to come the Jews customarily offered those to be crucified a cup of drugged wine. In honor of this kindness, Jesus tasted it, but did not drink, for He wanted to go to His death clear-headed. Crucified with Jesus were

two thieves, whose guilt was unquestioned. Yet, before the day ended, one of these had entered paradise, his sins redeemed by the blood Christ shed on the cross. Thus, to the very hour of His death Christ was delivering those who put their trust in Him.

After Jesus had been crucified the soldiers cast lots for His garments, then, when this was done, simply sat down to watch the proceedings. Though they knew little of the great event transpiring before their eyes, the soldiers watched Christ rather than the two criminals. Perhaps they unconsciously realized that this Person they had so mistreated was far above anyone they had ever come in contact with in all their years of soldiering, for they could not take their eyes off Him.

Over His head hung a plaque proclaiming Him "King of the Jews." Pilate had ordered it put there over the protests of the Jewish leaders who still refused

to believe He was their promised Messiah. As though the tortures of crucifixion were not enough, our Lord was subjected to the insults of the crucified thieves, of the excited mob of witnesses, and the leading Jewish religious authorities.

Though they were not intended as such, many of the insults were remarkable tributes to Christ. They acknowledged that He claimed to be the Son of God; that He saved others; that He trusted on God; that He was the King of Israel; that He was all this, as He said He was, why not omeed down from the cross? Jesus could have easily, but had He done so, He would not have fulfilled His divine mission and our sons would never have been atoned for.

The three hours of darkness were as if God had withdrawn Himself from the sight of man; and Jesus' fourth word from the cross would indicate that the Heavenly Father was regarding His Son as the greatest sinner to be found on earth, and vented upon Him the whole weight of His wrath. In accepting God's wrath, Jesus atoned for the sins of mankind.

Shortly after the ninth hour Jesus cried aloud once more, then died. He did not die of weakness or unconsciousness brought on by the loss of blood, for the time between His crucifixion and death was abnormally brief. It would seem that Jesus gave up His spirit to God and willed Himself to die.

The miracles which took place at the Crucifixion are well-known. In concentrating upon them, scholars have almost overlooked the fact that the first conversion of a Gentile, the first trophy of our Lord's redeeming sacrifice, occurred when a centurion confessed that the dead Christ was indeed the Son of God.

With His atoning work finished, nothing but honor and respect was offered the body of Christ. Joseph of Arimathea obtained release of the body from Pilate and had it interred in his own unused tomb after a humble funeral. These preparations not only confirmed His death and fulfilled the prophecies, but the embalming, clothes, the stone and seal, etc., allowed for a wealth of detailed evidence of His Resurrection.

The setting of soldiers to guard the sepulchre against the disappearance of His body was futile. It was against the will of God, but they served His purpose. For it was the soldiers who first declared that the body had disappeared from the sealed tomb, though they knew not how, for they had kept the watch vigilantly.

Progressive Views Held By Ministers

TORONTO — Contrary to one of Pierre Berton's statements in The Comfortable Pew, United Church ministers hold more progressive views than laymen on issues such as medicare, dancing in the church hall and civil liberties. These are some of the findings revealed in a survey of United Church of Canada members to be published.

The survey, entitled "The Changing Church in Canada," was directed by the Rev. Stewart O'Sydale, Assistant Secretary of the Board of Evangelism and Social Service and a pastor who combines a concern for people with the disciplined skills of a sociologist. "The Canadian church is fortunate in having his leadership in analyzing our condition and suggesting guidelines for the church's mission in the latter part of the 20th century," says Rev. J.R. Hord, Secretary of the Board, in a preface to the study.

The survey supports Mr. Berton's contention, however, that

there is sometimes a breakdown in communication between the pulpit and the pew. Often laymen do not know their minister's views on current moral and social issues. Mr. Hord believes that as the Methodists, under the leadership of John and Charles Wesley, developed a strategy of evangelism that was effective in the industrial revolution, so the church today must develop strategies of mission which are effective in the urban revolution.

The book is being published as one of three discussion stimulants for the meetings to be held this year and next in connection with a national project of evangelism and social action to begin in 1967 as one of the United Church's Centennial programs. The other resource pieces are: "Why the Sea is Boiling Hot," a commentary on the United Church by leading journalists, and a one-act play by Hilda Benson Powicke called "Coffee House."

CAR FIT FOR PRINCE Apprentices at a British auto factory have made a half-size Landrover for Crown Prince Abdullah, son of the King of Jordan. It runs at 12 m.p.h., powered by batteries.

BIRCHWOOD FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND SABBATH SERVICES 11 A.M. AND 7 P.M. Rev. W. R. Underhay, Minister

St. Peter's Cathedral Anglican Church of Canada The Ven. Archbishop J. R. Davies, M.A., Rector The Reverend Canon E. M. Malone, M.A., D.D. Honorary Assistant Priest Miss Suzanne Brenton, Lic. Mus., Organist Mrs. B. W. Patterson, Choir Director SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK (partial list)

Palm Sunday: 8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist and Blessing of Palms 8:45 a.m.—Mornings 9:45 a.m.—Sunday School 11:00 a.m.—Procession and Choral Eucharist 7:00 p.m.—Evensong Monday: 8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist 9:00 p.m.—Children's Service 7:30 p.m.—Evensong and Address Tuesday: 7:30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist 4:00 p.m.—Children's Service 7:30 p.m.—Evensong and Address Wednesday: 9:30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist 4:00 p.m.—Children's Service 7:30 p.m.—Evensong and Address Maundy Thursday: 7:30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist 4:00 p.m.—Children's Service 7:30 p.m.—Evensong and preparation Service Good Friday: 9:30 a.m.—Children's Service 10:30 a.m.—Mornings and litany 11:00 a.m.—Reproaches and Ante Communion 3:00 p.m.—Devotions 7:00 p.m.—Evensong, Litany and Address Holy Saturday: 10:00 a.m.—Mornings and Litany 4:00 p.m.—Evensong The Rector will be available in the Chapel from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., and from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Easter Day: 7:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.—Mornings 11:00 a.m.—Procession and Choral Eucharist 3:00 p.m.—Children's Service (Bring Lent boxes) 7:00 p.m.—Evensong, Procession and Solemn Te Deum

"It is the duty of every confirmed person after due preparation, to partake of the Holy Communion frequently, and particularly on the greater Holy-Days, of which Easter is the chief." Book of common prayer, pp

The Salvation Army "Home of Evangelism Since 1865" Great George Street 55 Villa Avenue Major Ronald H. Walker Sunday: Directory Class—9:30 a.m. Sunday School—10 a.m. Holyday Meeting—11 a.m. Salvation Meeting—7 p.m. Friday: Young People's Hobby Class—4:15 p.m. A WELCOME AWAITS YOU AT THE ARMY"

SPRING PARK UNITED CHURCH Dunkirk & Kirkwood Minister: Rev. Clayton C. Lewis Organist: Mrs. Ron H. Atkinson Director: Mr. Roy M. Smallman 9:30 a.m.—Sunday Church School 11:00 a.m.—Nursery 11:00 a.m.—"IT IS FINISHED" Choir: "Sanctus" (Franz Schubert) 7:00 p.m.—Adult Study Group "God And His Purpose" "You are Welcome to Worship with Us"

Charlottetown Bible Chapel 23 Cumberland St., at Longworth Ave. 11:00 a.m.—Bible Hour and Sunday School 7:30 p.m.—Gospel Service "Holding fast the faithful Word"

Zion Presbyterian Church Corner Prince and Grafton Streets The Rev. Donald A. Campbell, B.A., Minister Miss Roberts Shaw, Deaconess Mrs. Harvey MacKinnon, L.M.S., B.M.S. Organist and Choir Director 9:45 a.m.—The Church School. Classes for all ages 10:00 a.m.—Bible Class 11:00 a.m. Nursery School 11:00 a.m.—DIVINE WORSHIP THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Sermon: THE TRIUMPHAL MARCH Quartet: Open The Gates Of The Temple —Mrs. J. Knapp Misses: Jane Campbell, Mona MacMillan, Marlene Matheson, Marion Kiely Anthem: O Sons and Daughters Junior and Intermediate Choirs 2:30 p.m.—SERVICE OF WORSHIP, Calvin Church, Mermaid 7:00 p.m.—DIVINE WORSHIP Sermon: IS THE WORLD GETTING BETTER OR WORSE? Solo: Were You There—Spiritual Miss Donna Sutherland VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

St. Paul's Anglican Church Established 1769 by Royal Foundation The Rev. F. Lewis Ellis, L.S.T., Rector Organist and Choir Director George A. Thompson, F.R.C.O., (CRM) A.R.C.M. PALM SUNDAY 8:30 a.m.—HOLY COMMUNION (Corporate Communion for all Fathers and Sons following by Breakfast in the Parish Hall) 9:45 a.m.—SUNDAY SCHOOL, Junior, Senior and Bible Classes 11:00 a.m.—SUNDAY SCHOOL, Primary, Beginners Classes, and Crib Nursery 11:00 a.m.—MORNING PRAYER & Sermon Subject: "L.B. & RIDES ON A BILLION DOLLAR HOPE: CHRIST RIDES ON INEXPERIENCED DONKEY." Anthem: "Ride On! Ride On! by Graham George 7:00 p.m.—EVENING PRAYER & Sermon Subject: "TWO MEN—TWO DESTINIES" N. B. Dime Lent Folders to be offered as a blessing to God on Palm Sunday. Please do not forget to bring them with you. HOLY WEEK SERVICES: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Maundy Thursday Evening at 7:30 p.m. WEDNESDAY SERVICES—7:30 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION sing at 7:30 p.m. 10:00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION GOOD FRIDAY—10:30 a.m.—Commemorating the death and sacrifice of our Lord. YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND OUR SERVICES.

Service of Meditation Good Friday 3 to 4 p.m. Trinity United Church sermon by The Reverend Gordon R. Taylor The Charlottetown Ministerial Association

First Baptist Church Corner of Prince and Fitzroy Streets Rev. Malcolm F. Barlow, B.A., B.D., Minister Mrs. V. L. Dingwall, Organist and Choir Director 9:45 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages 11:00 a.m.—Sermon: "CHRIST, THE TRIUMPHANT KING" Anthem: "The Psalm" (Faure) 7:00 p.m.—Sermon: "THE CRY OF HUMANITY" Anthem: "All in the April Evening" (Robertson) Chorus: "Jesus the Crucified" (Stainer) HOLY WEEK SERVICES—APRIL 12-16 Monday—7:30 p.m.—Lac. Gerald Cole Tuesday—7:30 p.m.—Rev. Edward Britten Wednesday—7:30 p.m.—Lenten Play ("Release") Thursday—7:30 p.m.—Ordinance of the Lord's Supper Friday—3:00 p.m.—Union Service at Trinity United Church A CORDIAL WELCOME AWAITS YOU

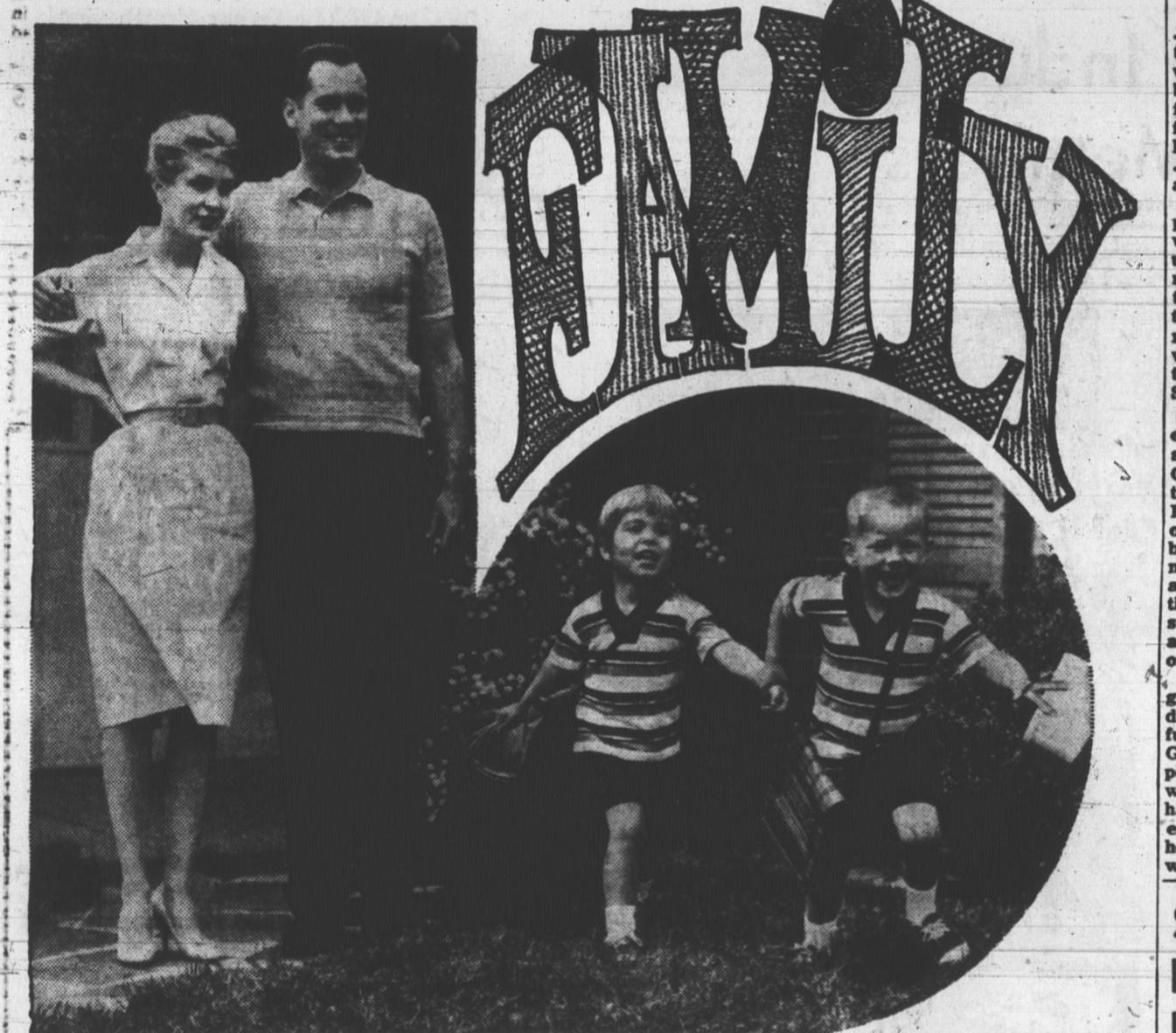
Central Christian Church 229 East Street Charlottetown, P.E.I. MORNING 10:00 a.m.—Bible School for all ages 11:00 a.m.—Worship Service and Communion Anthem: "Open the gates of the Temple" Soloist: Miss Rosena Deane Message: "BEHOLD, YOUR KING COMETH" Evening— 7:00 p.m.—Evangelistic Service Choir "Hymn-Anthem", Crimmond (Descante) Sermon Theme: "Jesus of Nazareth" Minister: William Woad Organist: Mrs. Allison MacLean, A.R.C.M. "A warm welcome extended to all"

CALVARY TEMPLE PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF CANADA Upper Prince Street Rev. C. K. Benn, Pastor L. Perry, Assistant Pastor 9:15 a.m.—Radio Broadcast, Summerside Station 9:45 a.m.—Sunday School, Classes for all 11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship: Rev. A. Thompson, special speaker from Bermuda 7:30 p.m.—GOSPEL BALLY: Rev. A. Thompson 8:00 p.m.—Tuesday, Prayer and Bible Study ATTEND CHARLOTTETOWN'S FULL GOSPEL CHURCH

The Kirk of S. James The Reverend T. H. B. Somers, M.A., S.T.M., Minister Organist and Director of the Choirs Christopher Gledhill, M.A., B.Mus., A.R.C.C.O. PALM SUNDAY 9:45 a.m.—Church School and Minister's Bible Class 11:00 a.m.—Churchtime Nursery and Nursery School 11:00 a.m.—Public Worship The Reverend Gordon R. Taylor, M.A. Anthem: God so Loved the World" (Stayner) "Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord."

PARK ROYAL UNITED CHURCH 13 Christie Drive, Parkdale Rev. J. H. Tye, B.A., B.D., Minister Mr. Leslie Elliott, Organist and Director of Choirs 9:45 a.m.—Junior, Intermediate & Senior Church School 11:00 a.m.—Nursery & Kindergarten Classes 11:00 a.m.—DIVINE WORSHIP Sermon: FOR SOME, TRIUMPH; OTHERS, TRAGEDY Anthem: "Sheep and Lambs"—S. Homer Solo: "Open The Gates of the Temple" (Mr. Donald Hutchison) 11:15 a.m.—Primary Church School 7:00 p.m.—EVENING WORSHIP Sermon: ALL EXCITED Duet: "All in the April Evening" (Miss H. Wilson & Mrs. B. Howe) You are welcome to worship with us.

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH Charlottetown, P.E.I. Ministers: Rev. John G. E. Ball, B.A. Rev. Gerald G. Wyrnes, B.A., B.D. Organist and Director: Mr. J. B. Herdman 9:30 a.m.—Bible Classes, Intermediate and Junior 11:00 a.m.—Nursery, Primary and Kindergarten (under 9) 11:00 a.m.—"PALM SUNDAY SERVICE" Sermon: "THE COURAGE OF CHRIST" —Rev. John G. E. Ball Anthem: "O Love Of God" (Eric Thiman) Solo: Mr. David Hall Recit: "Ye People, Rend Your Hearts Air: "H With All Yours Hearts (Elijah) Mendelssohn Reception of new members 7:00 p.m.—"THE THREE FRIENDS" Rev. J. G. E. Ball Anthem: "O Ye That Love The Lord" (Coleridge-Taylor) 8:15 p.m.—B.C. "A Pilgrimage To Palestine" (Rev. J. G. E. Ball) 11:00 a.m.—"GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNION"



Ever thought about that word — its deep, stirring meaning? We start out as part of a family. And even though we know we are "little" it doesn't matter. We are part of the family—that's important. And what we will become—the family is looking out for that! Then one day we are grownups. And again we are part of a family. But now we are "big." Oh so big! For what the rest of the family will become—that depends on us! How important a part did the Church play in your transition from being little to being big? Well, in this free land, the chances are good that you grew up spiritually as well as physically. But, even if you didn't—it's not too late! Not only can you see your children off to a free and fine education, but you can come with them to church . . . where the "little" and the "big" learn of GOD . . . where the truth of Christ's teaching guides the destiny of THE FAMILY.

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Table with 7 columns: Day, Scripture, Time. Sunday: Matthew 11:25-30; Monday: Acts 16:11-15; Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26; Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 14:20-33; Thursday: Galatians 6:1-10; Friday: Ephesians 2:11-22; Saturday: Hebrews 5:7-14

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Scriptures Distributed In Africa

A letter from A.W. Marthinson, Directeur de Les Societes Bibliques au Congo, in Leopoldville, contains the following information: "You must often wonder how the work of the Bible Societies is proceeding in Congo, Angola, Ruanda and Burundi in these times of crisis. I am glad to tell you that we, by the grace of God, have been able to distribute large numbers of Scriptures during the past year, and at present are carefully watching for every opportunity to circulate the Word of God, particularly in those areas which have been experiencing such dark and tragic days. "Congo is passing through a very difficult time again, and is in great need of our continued prayers and sympathy. In spite of the great transport difficulties, some 325,000 Scriptures were circulated in the areas which are open, during the first three months of our current year. "Sometimes the Books may be on the way for several months, but so far, very few have been lost in transit. It is remarkable how God watches over His own Book!"

DAILY BIBLE READINGS Sunday, April 11: Mark 11. Monday, April 12: Mark 12. Tuesday, April 13: Mark 13. Wednesday, April 14: Mark 14: 1-42. Thursday, April 15: Mark 14: 43-72. Friday, April 16: Mark 15: 1-38. Saturday, Mark 17: Mark 15: 39-47.

ITALIAN REDS DISAGREE FLORENCE, Italy (AP) — Leaflets scattered through this city assert a "Stalin Group," with headquarters in Milan, has been set up as part of the pro-Chinese Communist Youth League. The official Italian Communist Party opposes the Peking line.