

He gave me Communism yesterday  
in Old St. Mary's 5/18/53

# Chinese Priest Tells Need to Hold Quemoy

By JOSEPH CARROLL

A fiery little Roman Catholic priest declared here yesterday that the Nationalist Chinese government on Formosa is determined "at all costs" to defend the Quemoy and Matsu islands.

"Those islands are our eyes and the Communists would like nothing better to take them and make us blind," said the Rev. John T. S. Mao, exiled chancellor of the Archdiocese of Nanking.

Father Mao, who for the last five years has made his headquarters in Simpeitow, a suburb of Taipei, is on the first leg of a mission that will take him through all the forty-eight States.

## WORD TO STUDENTS.

As a member of Chiang Kai-shek's advisory committee on educational and cultural affairs, his job will be to persuade nearly 5,000 Chinese students now attending American colleges to go back to Formosa when they finish their schooling.

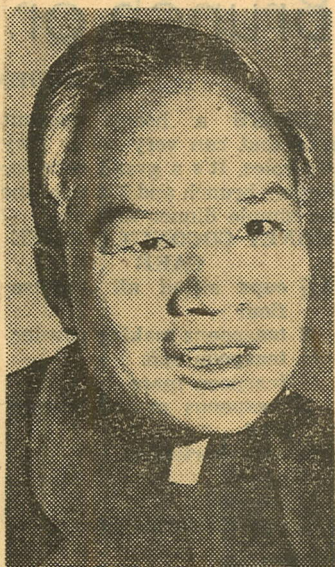
"Most of the students studying in America came here from their homes on the Chinese mainland," Father Mao explained. "The Communists, who control the mainland, want them to return there."

"My job is to show them that they must not return to the mainland and run the risk of being absorbed into the Communist life. I must convince them that they are needed on Formosa, where they can help plan for a free China."

## MORALE EFFECT.

Regarding the offshore islands, Father Mao was emphatic in stating that the morale of the people in Communist China and on Formosa depends on the defense of the islands.

"Morally speaking, if Quemoy and Matsu fall to the Communists, the 450,000,000



REV. JOHN T. S. MAO  
*"Islands Are Our Eyes"*

Chinese people who hope and pray that we will deliver them from the Communist conspiracy will become desperate," he said.

Father Mao stressed the military importance of the offshore islands in the defense of Formosa. He said the radar warning system on the islands alone necessitates their defense.

## RADAR SITES.

"The islands are about 100 miles off the Formosa coast," he declared. "If the Communists had them, we, the people on Formosa, would be without the 'eyes' which we need to warn us of air attacks. By the time the radar system on Formosa detects the aircraft it will be too late."

The 42 year old priest said it is the hope of Chiang's government on Formosa to "one day return to the mainland and liberate our people."

In addition to his duties as chancellor, Father Mao serves as pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Simpeitow and as director of the Catholic News Service on the island.

## FLED NANKING.

He said he is one of the few priests who were able to flee Nanking when the Communists took over. At least three of the priests in the archdiocese have been executed and most of those remaining have been imprisoned by the Reds, he said.

Before the evacuation from the mainland began, there were only about twenty-two Catholic priests on Formosa. Today there are over 400 priests, Father Mao said. Most of the priests are missionaries who escaped the Reds.

Father Mao will visit several Bay area colleges and speak to the Chinese students in the next few days.