

# END OF HATE URGED BY DR. NIEMOELLER

## German Clergyman Addresses 6,000 Persons in His First Appearance in New York

A plea for the ending of national hatreds and denominational animosities under "the totalitarian rule of our Lord, Jesus Christ" was advanced last night by the Rev. Dr. Martin Niemoeller. He made his first public appearance here before nearly 6,000 persons in the St. Nicholas Arena, 53 West Sixty-sixth Street.

Dr. Niemoeller, who spoke under the joint auspices of the Protestant Council of New York, the Federal Council of Churches and the American Committee for the World Council of Churches, declared that the Confessing Church of Germany had successfully resisted a great temptation after the overthrow of Hitler. He said it would have been easy for the church to declare its innocence, but instead that it had declared its "solidarity of guilt" with the starving German people.

The Lutheran clergyman said the most moving experience in the eight years he spent in Sachsenhausen and Dachau concentration camps by order of Hitler, came on Christmas Eve, 1944. He said that by special permission of the SS commander of Dachau, on that occasion he was permitted to hold a Christian service for six of his fellow-prisoners—a Dutch minister, two Norwegian ship owners, a Yugoslav diplomat, a Serb and a Macedonian journalist.

"Adolf Hitler never succeeded in silencing the church in Germany," he said. "The loss of our peace was worth more to us than peace with Hitler would have been.

"Among thinking people Christianity has gained in esteem, because under Hitler's totalitarian rule, the Christian churches stood firm when confronted by a hard and severe test. They came out of this test strengthened."

C. Montieth Gilpin, secretary of the Society for the Prevention of World War III, issued a statement yesterday condemning Dr. Niemoeller's appearances here as "another effort on the part of apologists to make the world forget Germany's crimes against humanity."