

# ALL GERMANS GUILTY, NIEMOELLER ASSERTS

STUTTGART, Germany, Oct. 18 (Religious News Service)—The German people themselves are to blame for their present sufferings and the "horrors of the past twelve years," the Rev. Martin Niemoeller asserted here at the first meeting of the newly created Council of the Evangelical Church of Germany.

The former U-boat commander warned that the Christians in Germany cannot escape responsibility by blaming militarists and Nazis. He said that if the Church had "seen clearly and acted unitedly, this terrible war would never have arisen."

"No Christian in Germany has a clear conscience," Pastor Niemoeller said. "When we repeat the words of the Bible, 'Bear ye one another's burdens,' it reaches further than just our German grief and desolation. It points to our titanic responsibility toward the nations of Europe which we occupied."

Pastor Niemoeller sharply criticized German anti-Nazis who complain about "injustices" of the Allied occupation, declaring that only after his liberation by American troops in Italy did he realize the full extent of "the world's revulsion against nazism."