

**GOD'S SECRET ARMIES.** By Joseph Johnston. (Museum Press; 12s. 6d.)

It is an open secret that forces of believers are fighting militant atheism in Russia and the satellite countries. During Holy Year, Mr Johnston, an American journalist, accompanied a pilgrimage to Rome. It was then that he 'stumbled on the trail of the secret armies through the chance remark of a Jesuit priest that certain of his order were engaged in what he termed "the Russian work".' His keen journalistic sense made him realize that here was a possible story of world-wide interest. He had, inevitably, to go carefully for imprudent talk would endanger the lives of innocent people.

At first Mr Johnston received little encouragement, but after three years of persistent and meticulous investigation and the interviewing of more than sixty people intimately connected with the secret armies, he was able to break his self-imposed silence and tell the story of this courageous work. Even so, there had to be an element of cloak-and-dagger because the identity of many of the people involved must be kept secret. Others beside Christians are taking part in the heroic struggle to restore God's kingdom in Russia. Jews are making a notable contribution. The Moslems, too, are sharing in this secret holy war.

The author tells many dramatic and moving stories of the heroism of the intrepid leaders of the secret armies. He is confident, in the light of his painstaking investigations, that the secret army will be victorious in God's name and in 'God's moment'.

KIERAN MULVEY, O.P.

**AMBASSADOR IN CHAINS.** By Raymond A. Lane. (Peter Davies; 15s.)

It was one Sunday night in Seoul that I first made the acquaintance of Bishop Patrick Byrne. Mgr George Carroll, superior of the Maryknoll Fathers in Korea and representative of the American Catholic War Relief Services, had come along to the Columban Fathers' mission house where I was staying, bringing for my especial benefit a cinematograph projector and some rolls of film he had taken several years earlier.

Alone in a darkened room I sat for perhaps some ten minutes viewing scenes and episodes which were frankly of the type most likely to interest the person who took them. Then suddenly a smiling priest came into the picture. Shortly after there came a succession of shots of his consecration by Bishop Ro of Seoul. It was Bishop 'Pat' Byrne, 'the Bishop with the light touch' of whom I had heard so often since my arrival in Korea.

It was easy to see how he had come to earn that title. On his face there was a permanent and kindly, slightly quizzical smile which from