

Polish Orphans Leave Mexico for Chicago

Chicago — (NC) — Arrangements to bring a large group of Polish orphans here to be cared for in Chicago institutions are being made by the Rev. Francis Ruzicki, superintendent of St. Hedwig's Orphanage, at Niles, Ill., who currently is in Santa Rosa, Mexico, where the youngsters are quartered. The plan is sponsored by Catholic authorities and the Polish War Relief Commission. The Polish orphans were brought to Mexico in 1943 for care and education.

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Slovak Catholics Renew Fight On Nationalization of Schools

Prague — (NC) — Catholics in Slovakia, comprising almost three-quarters of the total population, will never become reconciled to the nationalization of their schools, decreed on May 16, 1945, by the Slovak National Council, the autonomous executive organ of that region of Czechoslovakia.

They insist that these schools, including 1,800 elementary schools, 23 high schools and 20 vocational schools — about 70 per cent of all the schools in Slovakia — be returned to Catholic control. At the same time they demand the revocation of the oppressive measures taken against purely religious and non-political Catholic organizations, more newspaper for the Catholic press and immediate release of those Catholics who have been unjustly interned.

These demands were brought to light through a survey of the position of Slovak Catholics, particularly with regard to Catholic education, since the end of the Nazi-sponsored puppet regime in Slovakia.

Question Unsettled
Although, as the result of many protests by the Bishops, there appears now some inclina-

tion on the part of Slovak authorities to respect the fundamental rights of Catholics, the school question still remains unsolved, the survey points out. The nationalization decree continues to be enforced, and no steps have been taken to alleviate the just grievances of Catholics arising from the confiscation of ecclesiastical property.

Archbishop Karol Kmetko, Bishop of Nitra, the dean of the Slovak Hierarchy, has called upon all Slovak Catholics to participate in the campaign for a betterment of the present and conditions.

Only a week after the nationalization decree had been promulgated Archbishop Kmetko issued a pastoral in which he protested against the measure and pointed out that in Slovakia the Church has a special right to her schools, which she had founded and maintained for centuries.

Soon after the issue of Archbishop Kmetko's pastoral, Slovak Catholics organized a drive to obtain signatures for a similar protest against the nationalization decree. This drive, branded by government officials as a manifestation of "disloyalty" to the Slovak State, was suppressed by the Slovak Security Police.

Second Pastoral
In a second pastoral, issued October 2, 1945, Archbishop Kmetko repeated his protest against the school nationalization, pointing out that support of the drive for signatures to the petition was, from the viewpoint of the

No Czech Church Separation Seen

Prague — (NC) — An assertion that "there will be no separation of the Church from the State in Czechoslovakia" made by Prof. Zdenek Mejstly, the Minister of Education in the Prague Government, is doubly important in view of the announced plan for the nationalization of all private schools in Bohemia and Moravia.

Professor Mejstly, who is regarded as a radical by Catholic observers, made the assertion during the course of an address before the cultural committee of the Czechoslovak National Assembly in Prague. Touching on matters pertaining to the Churches in the course of his address, the Education Minister said:

"I do not plead for the separation of the Church from the State for the reason that the new Czechoslovakia is to be a national people's State for all, so that the clergy also is to be embodied in the State's structure. This the more so, as no one can contradict the fact that the clergy have a special, not a small, significance. In the first place we have tried to rebuild the churches insofar as they have suffered in war time."

"As regards the Catholic Church, we have improved the situation, or priests' salaries for attending to registrars' duties because we have known the terrible misery of a priest working in a remote place with a small local population; we have also increased the salaries of professors in priests' seminaries. As regards other churches we want to give equal rights to all of them."

Slovak Bishops Start Catholic Daily Paper

Bratislava, Czechoslovakia — (NC) — Publication of a Catholic daily here is projected by the bishops of Slovakia, who have filed an application with the Slovak National Council on behalf of Slovakia's Catholics. The paper would be strictly non-political in character and under-

Church, the inescapable duty of the Bishops.

The school question is still far from a solution as ever, the survey reveals. In many schools where the pupils are Catholic the teachers are non-Catholic. Teachers belonging to religious communities are systematically transferred to remote posts where they cannot live according to their religious rules. No official steps have been taken to forbid the removal of crucifixes, to permit class room prayer and the use of the traditional Catholic form of greeting, "Praised be Jesus Christ."

Demands Outlined
On the basis of these conditions the demands of Slovak Catholics can be formulated as follows:

- (1) Schools operated by Religious Orders should be returned to the communities.
- (2) Teachers, including nuns and Brothers, who have been transferred by Slovak school authorities to remote places should be reinstated in their former posts.
- (3) Permission should be given to place crucifixes in all classrooms of those schools where the parents or the pupils ask for it.
- (4) All teachers should be instructed not to prevent pupils from praying before and after

classes and from using the Catholic form of greeting.

(5) All religious and non-political organizations of Catholics, such as the Association of Catholic Young People, should be permitted to reorganize and their confiscated property should be returned.

(6) Catholic "internats" particularly the dormitories for Catholic students in Bratislava, orphanages, and the Caritas buildings, should be returned. They have been built through Catholic contributions, many of which came from Catholic Slovaks in the United States.

(7) More newspaper should be allotted for Catholics newspapers and magazines.

(8) Catholics who have been unjustly interned should be released at once.

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