

Church in Poland seen Misrepresented

(NC) — Owing to misrepresentations were made by the new Secret of the Warsaw Government concerning various matters given to Kardinal Prus, Polish minister to the Polish embassy in the United States, according to charges appearing in a number of Catholic weeklies in Poland.

Summarizing the whole interview, Tadeusz Powazek, Catholic Study of Cracow, stated that President Bierut touched on (1) the relations of the Polish State with the Holy See; (2) conditions for the Church in Poland; and (3) the representation of Polish Catholics in Parliament.

It was the Warsaw regime that broke off, the Concordat, unilaterally, the Polish paper observed, in connection with these points, adding that Mr. Bierut used of such expressions as "the Germanophilic of the Vatican" will certainly not facilitate the establishment of relations with the Holy See.

In his interview, the paper further charged, Mr. Bierut did not mention the main issue regarding the Church in Poland — lack of full freedom. That paper added: "We cannot close our eyes to the following facts!

Youth Disempowered

The present administration is constantly hampering the activities of Catholic associations, especially those of youth. It even prevents their formation, as far as instances the Catholic Association of University Students.

The government has given buildings belonging to Catholic associations over to secular uses, thus making it impossible for the church to carry on its normal religious and educational work.

The government has clamped a strict censorship on all Papal encyclopedias and the official statements of the Polish hierarchy.

The regime of President Bierut is persistently trying to foist a materialistic ideology into the education of youth.

There are also other grievances," the Polish paper continued. "The private Catholic schools have not yet been given their just rights. And it is also difficult to forget that the reform of the marriage law was made contrary to the teaching of the Church and contrary to the expressed wishes of the Polish hierarchy."

Paris — (NC) — A threat of "more drastic" action against the clerics in Poland was made by Wiktor Bronz, head of the secret and information department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. In a press conference to foreign correspondents, according to a report of the conference received here:

Two Priests Die

In Arkansas Fire

Fayetteville, Ark. — (NC) — A pontifical Requiem Mass was celebrated in St. Joseph's Church here by Bishop-elect Albert L. McCarthy of Little Rock for the two priests who died in a fire at St. Joseph's Rectory, the Rev. Charles A. McCarthy of Fayetteville, and the Rev. Francis X. Doherty of Philadelphia.

Father Doherty had come to Fayetteville to assist Father McCarthy, pastor of St. Joseph's, with Christmas services. He was apparently overcome by fumes as he struggled to aid Father McCarthy, confined to his second-floor room by illness.

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