

# Writer Sees Chance That Dr. Tiso May Escape Death Penalty Verdict

By JAN MAUTNER  
 Bratislava — (NC) — While Slovakia and the world await the court's decision on the case of the Rev. Dr. Joseph Tiso, war-time president of Slovakia, and of two of his ministers, these three questions are constantly being asked by people who want an overall picture of the trial:

1. Was the trial truly objective?
2. Why did it last so long?
3. What will the verdict be?

I sat in the first row of the press box during the entire 71 days of the trial, following its every word. I spoke with the Slovak and Czech reporters during the recesses; interviewed the prosecution and defense; talked with the jury, military experts, Dr. Tiso's sister and also with the president of the court, Dr. Igor Danner, and I believe that the trial as it finally developed was objective, though only after there had been a marked change from the attitude the court displayed during the first few weeks.

At the beginning of the trial, the court, through the material it permitted to be introduced, seemed intent on undermining the influence of the Catholic clergy with the Slovak nation. But in the later weeks, it seemed to lean over backwards to show it was not hostile toward the clergy. An instance of this was the reading of the encyclical of Pope Pius XII against Nazism. Toward the end of the hearings, the court also tried to draw a line of distinction between the dignity of Dr. Tiso as a priest and his political activities.

In his final defense, Dr. Tiso spoke for many hours and touched on issues which had not been brought out previously in the trial and which the court certainly did not care to have mentioned. He was not interrupted by the president of the court.

Another instance of the change of attitude by the court was that in the initial stages of the trial, it refused almost all the requests of the defense, but later admitted a great number of witnesses for the defense. Among these were three Slovak Bishops and six priests.

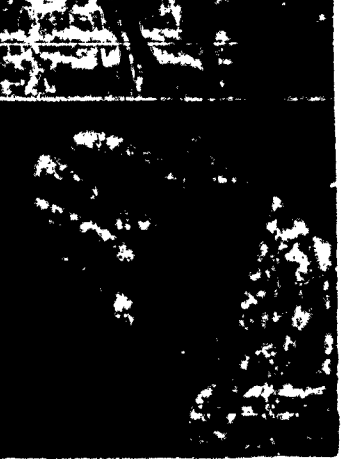
The biggest question of the trial is that of the verdict. Despite the fact that the death penalty has been proposed for all three defendants—Dr. Tiso, Dr. Dzurcany and Alexander Mach, former Slovak minister of propaganda—the general opinion is that not all three will be condemned to death.

It is extremely difficult to predict what the verdict for Dr. Tiso will be. However, the original belief that he will be condemned to death is now not so general in Slovakia. The trial brought out much mitigating evidence in his favor. The communist propaganda allegations that Dr. Tiso has lost much of his popularity during the trial are proved false by a number of facts. Right after the end of the trial, some 1,000 persons demonstrated in the Stalin square of Bratislava, crying, "Let Tiso go free." I also learned that during the last days of the trial, the mail bags of the carriers were actually too small to carry all the letters and telegrams sent to Dr. Tiso. Conscious of such phenomena, the judges undoubtedly realize that the future political developments in Slovakia will depend to a large extent on their verdict.

## A LIVING CALVARY OF OUR TIME



From the Capuchin Monastery on San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy comes this picture familiar to thousands of American G. I.'s who participated in the American Red Cross tours there. Again on Good Friday, the hands of the stigmatized priest, Padre Pio, who has suffered the pains of Christ's spiked wounds for 23 years, beside up the crucified Crucifix as the symbol of life to all the world. Lower photo a close-up of the pierced and blood-crusted hand of Padre Pio. Photos by Federico Abresch, courtesy of William M. Carrigan, of Washington, D. C. (NO Photos)



## AP War Correspondent, Once Lost In Jungles, Converted by Msgr. Sheen

Belleville, Ill. — (NC) — May 4, the day of the beatification in Rome of Mother Allice LeClerc, foundress of the community now known as the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

A large oil painting of the vision of Allice LeClerc, in which the Blessed Virgin appeared to the French woman in the religious habit of Notre Dame and presented to her the Child Jesus with the commission: "Take the Child and foster His growth," will be displayed in the college chapel during the observance. This painting was done by Sister Mary Villanova, of St. Louis, for the college.

After the beatification ceremonies the college will receive from Rome a relic of the veil worn by Mother LeClerc.

Allice LeClerc was born at Reims, France, in 1876, of well-to-do parents and had never indicated a desire to enter the religious life until during an illness a relative brought a book on "Conversion" to her attention. She read it and decided to change her life. Her first step was to take a vow of virginity, and after this followed the series of visions of the Mother of God which culminated in the foundation of the Congregation of Notre Dame.

Allice LeClerc, with four companions, dedicated herself to a life of perfection under the direction of St. Peter Fourier, pastor of Mataloncourt, France, in 1898.

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## Missioners Held by Reds In China Promised U. S. Aid

Washington — (NC) — A promise to "extend assistance" to some 40 Benedictine missionaries, including a Bishop, now detained by the Chinese Reds near the Korean border has been made by Dean Acheson, Acting Secretary of State, in a letter to Msgr. Howard J. Carroll, General Secretary of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Mr. Acheson stated that the aid would be given through the office of the American Consul General assigned to Harbin but added that it is "impracticable under present circumstances" to do so.

In the absence of any means of communication with areas under communist control.

In a letter to Mr. Acheson, pointing out the plight of these missionaries, headed by Bishop Theodor Herman Prober, O.S.B. of Yenki, China, Monsignor Carroll had stated that in May 1946, Communist forces confiscated the Abbey at Yenki and placed the priests, Brothers and Sisters in detention at Nam Ypyeng, near the Korean border.

During the summer one priest and one Brother were killed, he said, adding that in September, Bishop Prober, and a number of priests who were seriously ill, were returned to their mission stations, but kept in close confinement and left without food and clothing.

## Near East Missions

Francis Cardinal Spellman, President  
 Very Rev. Thomas J. McElhannon, S.T.D., National Secretary  
 Rev. Andrew M. Regan, S.T.D., Assistant Secretary

**Allicia!**

The Easter joy of Near East missionary priests, brothers and sisters, as well as their poor, comes from your generosity. Gratefully they wish you a happy Easter.

### CHILDREN ABANDONED, SISTERS BEG HELP

On the little island of Tinos, off the coast of Greece, the Ursuline Sisters have just opened an orphanage for eighty little children. The town was picked off the streets of Athens, where they had been abandoned to die.

We need the Sisters a little from our fund for "Orphan's Bread" last month, so that they could get things ready and give new hope to the poor children. Now comes the harder task of feeding and clothing them.

Won't you adopt a starving child and delight their guardian angel? The Sisters write that they can provide everything for the small cost of a hundred dollars yearly for each child. Please do help. Here is one of the neediest cases we have received.

### THREE APPEALS

We received three appeals to build schools this week, but we can't answer them. A little Near East school costs \$750. If you cannot give one, perhaps you will want to join the **BABYLAND**, our School Club, and give a dollar monthly to help our work. The school is more important than the church.

### ETERNAL LIGHT

In far off Egypt, you can have a sanctuary lamp burning night and day for loved ones and your intentions, in a new little chapel. This can be given for twenty dollars.

### MOTHER'S DAY

You will be thinking of the queen of your heart as her Day approaches. Write for information on our lovely **MOM** Card.

### WHITE PLAGUE

"Sister has just returned to the convent after six months in the hospital. Privation is taking its toll of the health of all here," writes Sister Graciana, Superior of the White Sisters at Tripoli, Egypt. What can you do for these daughters of Mary, who guard two thousand orphans?

### SPECIAL CHALICE

A week ago we speeded chapel offerings all to Father Francis de Sales of Thovart, India. Would you like to place a beautiful chalice in his new house of God? It will cost fifty dollars.

### ADOPTED SON

In the land of China, looking down on St. Peter's Chinese youth, refugees from Soviet persecution, are studying for the priesthood. Of some, two have been adopted by American benefactors. Can you give six hundred dollars for the six years' training of one of them? What a proud boast to have an adopted son in Christ!

### FAITH AND BLOOD

Tom casts for the missions and brings you **FAITH AND BLOOD**, our new pamphlet on the Church in Russia, which is now so threatened by the Communists.

Send all communications to

Catholic Near East Welfare Association  
 480 Lexington Ave. at 46th St. New York 17, N. Y.

## Little Colonel



MARY A. HALLAHAN

## Catholic School Asks New WAC

Bratislava — (NC) — The Catholic school in Bratislava, Slovakia, is asking for a new WAC (War-time Allocation Certificate) for the school year 1946-47. The school is asking for a new WAC because the old one expired on June 30, 1946. The school is asking for a new WAC because the old one expired on June 30, 1946. The school is asking for a new WAC because the old one expired on June 30, 1946.

## Czech Bishop Hits School Move

Prague — (NC) — An article attacking the proposed relocation of Czech schools has been written by Archbishop Joseph Beran of Prague.

The Archbishop recalls the repeated assurances of President Benes that Catholic schools would enjoy absolute freedom of religion, and declares that any suggestion about school relocation is a violation of the promises made by the President.

A State monopoly on Catholic schools, a copy of the proposed relocation plan, is being distributed to all Catholic schools.

## Archbishop's Good News

Meanwhile the Catholic who acted central of the schools in Bratislava, speaking at the Catholic school and placing them under the WAC, is asking for a new WAC because the old one expired on June 30, 1946. The school is asking for a new WAC because the old one expired on June 30, 1946. The school is asking for a new WAC because the old one expired on June 30, 1946.

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