

Cardinal Mindszenty's Conviction Seen As Attack On All Human Freedoms

'Trial' Bars Press; 'Confessions' Scored

Washington—(NC)—The strange case of the "trial" of His Eminence Josef Cardinal Mindszenty by a Communist dominated People's Court is so bizarre that it calls for a background statement from the NCWC News Service. The basic facts are these:

News censorship of a "star chamber" variety surrounded the proceedings.

The "guilt" of the Cardinal derives solely from his opposition to the Communist regime.

The "trial" with its "confessions" and "subject expressions of regret" bore all the earmarks of totalitarian methods of "justice" and recalls the farcical Moscow "trials."

The obvious aim of the Communist regime, to discredit the Cardinal in the eyes of his people and of the world, utterly failed.

CLOSE RESTRICTIONS on the news coverage of the trial barred all but one American representative of U. S. news services. The United Press alone was represented by an American citizen.

All other reporters for the American press were Hungarian nationals who, despite a statement their dispatches were not censored in any fashion, were considered by U. S. journalists as under pressure of fear from the Communist authorities.

When the "trial" was announced, the NCWC News Service promptly applied for visas for accredited correspondents. This request, as was a request by the U. S. legation for an observer, was refused.

THE "CONFESSIONS" of the Cardinal to all charges were so contradictory of his character as an outspoken enemy of Nazism and Communism, that persons in Austria and Switzerland, who heard broadcasts of the "trial" declared the prisoner was "obviously under the mentally paralyzing influence of some drugs and hypnotic force."

The Cardinal has emphatically denied he engaged in any "plot" to restore the monarchy, or to overthrow the Hungarian regime.

WHAT NOW? APPEALS as the submission of the "travesty of justice" was the statement of the Cardinal's "defense" counsel — that there was no attack on freedom of religion in Hungary and that "this people's democracy, when it made religious teaching compulsory in the schools, went further in this respect than countries of the West."

Budapest dispatches describe the defense counsel's plea as "weak and apologetic." He praised the "people's democracy" and agreed with the prosecutor that his client's actions had "harmned the country immensely."

Church Leaders See Red Menace To Religions

Washington—(NC)—The mounting outcry against the injustice of Cardinal Mindszenty's "trial" was vividly demonstrated that representatives of all churches recognized the attack on religion freedom which was disguised in the Budapest "treason case."

Protestant and Jewish spokesmen in scores of communities supported Catholic demands that the Communist injustice be exposed and challenged.

Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, called the trial "fundamentally an attack upon the right of religious leaders to apply the moral law to acts of government."

In Washington, Dr. Frederick Brown Harris, chaplain of the United States Senate, declared: "The Cardinal was really on trial for defending the things which every Christian steadfastly believes. Every Christian minister who has eyes to see the sinister significance of the Cardinal's trial stands with him and for him."

Three national Jewish organizations, the American Jewish Committee, the Jewish Labor Committee and the Jewish War Veterans condemned the Budapest trial: "It is difficult not to conclude that the Communist government has embarked on a program of religious persecution which it is seeking to disguise as prosecution on political grounds."

National CWV Send Protest to Acheson

Washington—(NC)—Protesting the treatment of His Eminence Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, Primate of Hungary, by the Red-ruled Hungarian regime, the Catholic War Veterans forwarded a sternly worded resolution to Secretary of State Dean Acheson.

The resolution urged: "I. That our Government, through its Secretary of State, express to the Government of Hungary, its anger at such flagrant violation of the Hungarian Peace Treaty which guaranteed religious liberty.

"2. That the Secretary of State demand that the Hungarian Government release Josef Cardinal Mindszenty and that religious persecution in Hungary be brought to an end."

British Protest At Giant Rally; Bevin Appeals

London—(NC)—In a nationwide demonstration of both devotion and outrage, Britain's Roman Catholics voiced a protest against the imprisonment and trial of Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, of Hungary, at a mass meeting in historic Albert Hall.

The Cardinal's fate was denounced by Foreign Secretary Bevin as being utterly repugnant to the British conception of human rights and liberties.

SIX THOUSAND Catholics who filled every seat in London's largest concert hall unanimously called upon the Government to exercise its rights under the peace treaty with Hungary. More than 20,000 others sought admission but were turned away.

Nearly one-thousand women knelt in an evening rain outside the Hall and, led by an elderly man, recited the Rosary for Cardinal Mindszenty.

Among those present at the rally were five Archbishops, 12 Bishops, 12 Members of the House of Lords and 15 of the House of Commons. His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster, who was prevented from attending the meeting, sent a message.

In his prepared statement Cardinal Griffin declared: "This criminal action is an attack on the individual freedom of every man. Cardinal Mindszenty stands before the world as a champion against those who would seek to destroy not only the liberties of individuals but the rights of families and the Church."

Miss Barbara Ward, author and governor of the British Broadcasting Corporation, said that "Cardinal Mindszenty was tried because he stood for fundamental human rights. Whether you compromise with communism or not, you end in the same position."

A deputation of members of Parliament called on Mr. Bevin to express their horror and disgust at the trial of the Cardinal and to urge the Government to make its views known to Hungary.

Pope's Letter to Bishops Expresses 'Profound Grief'

Vatican City—(NC)—The Vatican made public Wednesday a letter dated Jan. 2 from Pope Pius XII to the Bishops of Hungary condemning the arrest of Josef Cardinal Mindszenty.

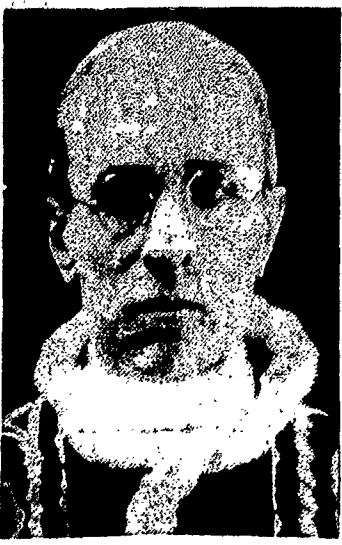
Sent eight days after the Cardinal was arrested and before he was tried and sentenced to life imprisonment, it exhorted Hungarian Catholics to have courage. The letter said in part:

"The news that Our beloved son, Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, with rash daring has been arrested and removed from his See, has stricken us with profound grief, because we see in this a serious offense against the sacred respect due to religion and human dignity.

"Therefore conscience and duty impel us to express publicly sorrow and lament at what has been perpetrated against the right of the Church and to protest solemnly against the grave offense inflicted upon the whole Church.

"We desire therefore, Venerable Brothers, to take active part, with paternal spirit, in your sorrow and grief; and we also desire to address to you, in the Name of the Lord, Our exhortation that, as always you have done, in this very particularly grave event you will continue to follow your pastoral ministry with untiring vigor and unity of mind, heart and strength, remembering that for the liberty of the Church and its sacred and holy rights, one must endure not only labor and pain, but also the privation of life, when this is necessary."

"Do not let yourselves be led astray by those fallacious appearances of truth through which, with frauds and enticements, souls are deceived. Your forebears, who in times past had to resist every kind of error and overcome the greatest difficulties, will teach you brilliantly that the Christian religion can be unshaken and fought, but not overcome."



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New York—(NC)—"A new crime has arisen in the world—the crime of believing in God," declared Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen, in a reference to the trial of Josef Cardinal Mindszenty in his Catholic Hour broadcast, carried nationally on NBC on Feb. 6.

The Catholic University of America professor said that when the Hungarian Cardinal was in the United States in 1947, the prelate said to him: "I am going back to be crucified."

HE ALSO SAID that when Cardinal Mindszenty was elevated to the Sacred College in 1946, the Holy Father told him: "You will be the first to see these blood red colors turn to red blood."

"By our prayers and protest," Msgr. Sheen said, "we can save the memory of another Christ, suffering under Pontius Pilate."

"We can save our beloved America from communism by being Americans, by resisting all who are working to take the innocent white and the loyal blue out of our American flag, to leave there only the red, which would then stand for our servitude to Red slavery."

"WE CAN SAVE the world by raising again in the United Nations the question of Poland, Hungary and all Eastern Europe, that fell from the frying pan of nazism into the more terrible fire of communism.

"If the new crime be to believe in God," he concluded, "let us all be criminals! If the new treason be to betray Red nazism, let us all be traitors! If the new revolutionists be those who revolt against the Red revolutionists, then onward to the revolution!"

"You have nothing to lose but your chains! I beg you, bend your knees to God and you will never have to bow your necks to tyranny!"

Belief in God Called Crime Of 'Treason'

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New Polish Prelate Cheered, Snubbed

Warsaw—(RNS)—Poland's new Roman Catholic Primate, the Most Rev. Stephen Wyszynski, was cheered by upwards of 50,000 persons here as he was enthroned as Archbishop of Warsaw on Feb. 6.

Neither President Bierut nor any representative of the Communist-dominated government attended the ceremony, during which thousands of Poles massed in the streets outside the cathedral and sang the hymn "God for Poland." But instead of singing "God preserve our freedom," they sang "God give us back our freedom."

ADDRESSING THE crowd after his enthronement, the new Primate declared that the spirit of the Catholic religion must be made to prevail everywhere in Poland. The Catholic religion, he said, "must continue to reign in our schools, in our homes, in the Polish army and even in prisons."

Succeeding the Late August Cardinal Florid, the new Primate said in his first pastoral letter: "I am not a politician, not a reformer, not a man of action. I come as your spiritual father."

AT THE WARSAW ceremony Archbishop Wyszynski was introduced by Bishop Zygmunt Chorzajski of Warsaw, who offered the cooperation of the Church to the government in the establishment of good relations.

"The Roman Catholic Church will collaborate with the Polish State," Bishop Chorzajski declared, "and there is no better collaboration than that which the Church is able to offer against such evils as crime, disorder and anarchy. However, the Church will fight any obstruction which may be placed in the way of maintaining the faith of the people."

THE ABSENCE of government representatives at the ceremony here was interpreted as a demonstration of the regime's determination to effect a final division between Church and State, as well as an indication of possible new pressure to be brought on the Catholic hierarchy in the near future.



ARCHBEP. WYSZYNSKI

CATHOLICS END HUNGARY UNIT

Budapest—(RNS)—Immediate dissolution of the Hungarian Democratic People's Party (Catholic) was voted here by the group's political committee.

The end of the party came a few days after Istvan Barankovics, its leader, had fled the country after refusing to lend the party name to a statement against Josef Cardinal Mindszenty.

BARANKOVICS, a well-known Hungarian journalist, made the decision to leave his country following a meeting with Communist leader Matyas Rakosi.

When Barankovics stated that the party would refuse to issue such a declaration Rakosi asked him whether he had given consideration to his own future. This and subsequent threats, Barankovics said, convinced him it was time to get out.

Attack on Pope, 120 Arrests Mark Rumanian Church War

By REV. JOSEPH J. SULLIVAN

Rome—An attack on His Holiness Pope Pius XII by Patriarch Justinian Marina of the Rumanian Orthodox Church and the imprisonment of at least 120 Greek Catholic priests in the city of Cluj are recent developments highlighting the war on the Catholic Church in Rumania.

The Patriarch's attack on the Pontiff was broadcast by the Rumanian radio and given wide publicity in the communist-controlled press.

After declaring that some Christians had put themselves at the service of those who sow hatred and discord among peoples and impede peace, the Patriarch said "At the head of these Christians in name only

is the Bishop of Rome, who calls himself Pope, and his numerous followers who usurp the image and cross of the Saviour to serve the interests of the enemies of peace."

He was overjoyed, he said, to see that the present leaders of the country recognized the "injustice done to the Rumanian Orthodox Church and people ten years ago by the Vatican Concordat . . . and that they have denounced this Concordat, thus freeing some of our brethren from the chains in which Papi Rome held them."

Of the 120 priests imprisoned in Cluj, according to SICO, 93 were judged by a military tribunal and 28 by a civil court.

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