

Court Upholds Life Sentence For Cardinal

London — (NC) — The life sentence handed down to Cardinal Mindszenty last February 8 by a five-man People's Court was confirmed here by the National Council of People's Courts, Hungary's highest judicial body.

"There is not the slightest doubt that Mindszenty should have been sentenced to death," the high court said in ruling on an appeal made by the Primas of Hungary. The decision was read by Presiding Judge Peter Janke.

THE NATIONAL Council said it decided to let the original sentence stand because the case had "not its importance with the arrest and sentencing of Cardinal Mindszenty. The people and Catholics masses rallied down and the abominable consequences of the case died away," the tribunal added.

At the same time, the court affirmed the sentences of three of the cardinal's associates and reduced the sentences of three others. It affirmed the sentence of Prince Paul Katerbach, once the richest man in Hungary, who got 15 years; and the Rev. Miklos Nagy, secretary of Catholic Action, three years and László Tóth, Catholic editor, ten years.

Prof. Justin Baranyai, royalist, originally condemned to 15 years in prison, got a reduction to 12 years. The Rev. Ondras Zakar, former private secretary to Cardinal Mindszenty, was reduced to four and the Rev. Bela Tóth, who is the secretary of Catholic Action, his imprisonment, reduced to 15 years.

CARDINAL MINDSZENTY was arrested last December 28 and charged with treason, plotting to overthrow the Communist government, and illegal trading in American dollars. His associates were jailed on similar charges.

In a lengthy legal essay, the National Council of People's Courts concluded that there had been "an organization to overthrow the democratic order and the republic" and asserted that it was a crime, under the law, to attempt to change the present order, even by peaceful means.

A NEWSPAPER FOR BLIND



Governor Paul Dever of Massachusetts reads the first issue of "Listen," bi-monthly newspaper, to blind legislators, State Representatives James Hanson, of Lee, Mass., in the presence of the Rev. Thomas J. Carroll, director of the Catholic Guild for the Blind and Mr. Hanson's Seeing Eye dog, Suzie. The paper is designed to be read aloud to the blind, giving them news concerning the blind. (NC Photos).

Methodist Appointed Dean of Catholic School of Medicine

St. Louis, Mo. — (NC) — Dr. Melvin A. Casberg, a Methodist and one-time physician to Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, has been named dean of the School of Medicine at St. Louis University, a Roman Catholic institution operated by the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

Dr. Casberg, 45 years old, is the fifth dean of the School of Medicine, and the fourth non-Catholic to be appointed to that post. The last non-Catholic dean was Dr. Harold W. Loh, who served from 1914 to 1927. Dr. Loh was succeeded by the Rev. Alphonsus M. Schwilke, S.J., who retired in 1948.

Presently on duty in the office of the Surgeon General of the Army in Washington, D. C., Dr. Casberg will be released in time to accept the appointment here on August 1.

HE WAS BORN in India, where his missionary parents

Eyewitness Reports:

Reds' Heckling Of Archbishop Beran

By DR. FRIEDRICH FUNDER

Vienna — (NC) — The unprecedented events in Prague's St. Vitus Cathedral, where Archbishop Josef Beran was shouted down by communist hecklers, are depicted in an eyewitness account which appeared in the Vienna daily, Die Presse. The account follows:

"ON SUNDAY morning (June 19) Archbishop Beran was to lead the Corpus Christi procession from St. Vitus Cathedral to the four altars on Hradcany Square. However, the communist regime had taken its precautions.

"The entrance of the one narrow street leading up to Hradcany Castle was blocked by an old autobus which had been placed on its side, thus making it impossible for motorcars to proceed.

"Some policemen, guarding the derelict vehicle, showed themselves very willing to explain to skeptical foreigners — the native population does not use motorcars to attend a procession — that the obstruction was not a barricade but the result of an accident, with one fatal casualty and three people injured.

"FURTHER ON, six more policemen barred the road with outspread arms; they picked out some of the passersby and checked their identity cards, and quite a few people, apparently not too anxious to produce their documents, turned away. A similar check was made at the church entrance.

"Those who had arrived at the cathedral about an hour before the beginning of the service were able to notice the entry of a group of stalwart men, 200 strong at least, who marched up the nave and posted themselves on the left side. They certainly did not look like habitual churchgoers. In their laps they wore blue pins. Nobody had ever seen such a badge which could its meaning be?

"The Archbishop, upon his arrival, was greeted with roars of cheers. He celebrated Holy Mass and at first it seemed doubtful whether he would address the congregation at all.

"But finally he mounted the pulpit. Did he realize, at that moment, that his words would soon be drowned in a storm of noise? He began, with a reference to the presence of agents provocateurs, by appealing for silence and calm. Then he turned to the subject that was on everybody's mind.

"However, he had hardly mentioned the camouflaged, communist-organized Catholic

Action and the communist-inspired Katolické Noviny (Catholic Newspaper) before the bearers of that mysterious blue emblem, now easily recognizable as members of the 'Workers' Militia, broke into loud whistling and catcalls.

"No doubt it happened for the first time in the history of Bohemia's national shrine, where the remains of the country's patron, St. Wenceslaus, and of Bohemian kings and emperors found their resting place, that the country's highest ecclesiastical dignitary has been altered by epithets such as 'brigand,' 'traitor,' 'scoundrel,' shouted at him.

"Attempts of the faithful congregation, including members of the diplomatic corps, to restore order were of no avail. The Archbishop could not make himself heard. Slowly, with a visible effort, he descended from the pulpit. He was conducted to the altar, where he knelt down and began to pray.

"THE BELIEVERS, on their knees, joined in. Many women and men, too, burst into tears. One man, who ventured to admonish the provokers, was apprehended by them and handed over to the police.

"Somebody started singing the national anthem and the whole congregation responded with fervor. The anthem was followed immediately by the oldest Czech hymn — a prayer to St. Wenceslaus, culminating in the words: 'Let us not perish, us or our children...'

"THE DEEP meaning of this appeal became clear to all present when the Archbishop, after the last words of the hymn, turned around to the congregation and tried to speak. 'Let at least the children leave the church!' — that was all that could be heard; the rest was inaudible amid the shouting and screaming of the 300 communist agents.

"Anxious to prevent an open clash between the believers and the gang of terrorists, Archbishop Beran gave way. Preceded by priests who opened a narrow passage for him through the dense crowd, he returned to his palace. The procession was cancelled. Many thousands of his faithful flock followed the prelate to the gates of his residence and for about ten minutes the courtyards of the old Royal Castle and Hradcany square reverberated with cries of 'long live our Archbishop!'

MAP GLOBAL COLLEGE UNIT



The role of higher education in promoting international understanding was discussed at a meeting of 100 educators, held at Estes Park, Colo. recently. Plans for the formation of the first world-wide organization of universities were made. Three of the internationally-minded educators are pictured, left to right: Very Rev. Vincent J. Flynn, president of the College of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn.; Dr. Ben N. Cherrington of the University of Denver, and Monsignor Frederick C. Hochwalt, director of the Department of Education, National Catholic Welfare Conference. Photo by Lyle Liggitt.

Editor Urges 'Speedy Action' To Aid Prelate

London — (NC) — Unless people in Britain, and the United States act rapidly they will find it too late to save Archbishop Josef Beran of Prague, warns Douglas H. Le former news editor of the communist Daily Worker now writing for the Catholic Herald.

NO ACTION after the Archbishop has been struck down will save him or stop the Cominform from straining next in Catholic Poland, he adds in an article in the Catholic weekly.

Pointing to the traditional cultural, economic and political ties of Czechoslovakia with the West, Mr. Hyde writes: "A protest movement big enough to reach them now would bring strength and encouragement to many at this pivotal moment.

"The protests will come, the Czech Government hopes, as they came after the arrest of Cardinal Mindszenty. But they aim to ensure that by then the battle will have been already won. Only the West can frustrate their plans and only immediate action will be of any practical help.

"The protests should be in the forefront of bringing the dangers and urgency of the present situation to the notice of their M.P.'s (Members of Parliament) and to the country at large."

Pointing out that the British Government refused an appeal from two Catholic M.P.'s to suspend trade negotiations between this country and Czechoslovakia until religious liberty is restored, Mr. Hyde adds:

"WITH ITS highly developed industry, Czechoslovakia is highly dependent upon British trade. The possibility of a refusal by Britain to trade with countries whose contempt for democracy is a threat to the world would be understood in Prague and would not be without its effect."

The appeals for suspension of trade treaty negotiations were made by Sir Patrick Hannon, Conservative member for Moseley, Birmingham, and D G Logan, Labor member of the Scottish division of Liverpool.

Replying for Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin, the Undersecretary, Christopher P. Mayhew, said that the British Government was "not prepared to suspend these negotiations on political grounds."

Monument to Pius XI
Vatican City — Erection of the monument to Pius XI in St. Peter's Basilica is almost complete. The statue will be placed in the chapel of St. Sebastian where work of preparing a niche has been in progress for more than a year.

Americans To Attend Rome Congress on Religion Study

Washington — (NC) — Representatives of each of the 124 archdioceses and dioceses in the United States are being asked to attend an International Congress of Religious Instruction in Rome in October, 1950.

They will share with Catholics from all over the world their experiences in such work as released-time religious education, street-preaching, discussion clubs, training of lay teachers, parent-educator programs, and correspondence courses.

THE CONGRESS will be sponsored by the Sacred Congregation of the Council, which is the branch of the Roman Curia with jurisdiction over religion teaching as a part of the Holy Year observance.

The collection of materials and direction of programs for the Congress in this country will be under the auspices of the Episcopal Committee of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, with the assistance of the Confraternity's National Center here.

IN HIS LETTER announcing the world wide gathering, which is expected to surpass in scope any Church educational conference held in recent decades, His Eminence Francis Cardinal Maragall, prefect of the Congregation of the Council, asked that preliminary meetings of a diocesan, regional or national character be held in 1949.

To be of greatest value the Rome Congress should be thoroughly prepared on "the actual conditions of religious in-

struction which prevail in each region, and . . . the difficulties which pastors find in carrying out the teaching of Christian doctrine," Cardinal Maragall advised.

Regional meetings which will aim at satisfying this request will be held in ten ecclesiastical provinces of the United States this year. Confraternity of Christian Doctrine leaders from 61 dioceses will get together at those meetings. The provinces involved are Baltimore, Denver, New Orleans, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Portland, Boston, San Antonio, Cincinnati and Philadelphia.

Parish Starts Outdoor Service

London — (NC) — A new plan to increase the attendance of Catholics at Sunday evening services and to attract the interest of non-Catholics was put into operation at Chingford, Essex, by the Rev. John Howell, parish priest.

Canon Howell's experiment, which will continue throughout the summer, is to hold the greater part of his evening service outside the church. At the first such service, Bishop Andrew Beck, Coadjutor of Brentwood, was the preacher. His outdoor sermon followed a public Rosary which was attended by 300. Benediction was given inside the church.

German Priest Lauds Catholics in U. S.

Berlin — (NC) — "American Catholics have established an exemplary system of popular education," says the Rev. Bernhard Stasiewski, who has just returned here from an extended visit to the United States in a report to Petrusblatt, Berlin diocesan organ.

Father Stasiewski refers specifically to America's 8,000 Catholic parochial schools with their 2 million pupils, and the 300 Catholic colleges and universities with 250,000 students. He also speaks highly of the work done by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine and the National Catholic Welfare Conference, the Cans Conference, the Legion of Decency and many other Catholic American institutions, which he has been able to study.

Tokyo Center 'For Poor'

Tokyo — (NC) — A new free dispensary for the poor will soon be opened here by the Benedictine Fathers of St. Anselm's Monastery. Six Japanese physicians, only two of them Catholics, have volunteered.

Archbishop Travels By Foot, Horseback

Granada, Spain — (NC) — Archbishop Balduino Santory Olvera of Granada administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 3,000 people during a three-day pastoral visit through some 30 towns.

Making a large part of the journey on foot and horseback through the mountains, the 62-year-old Archbishop stopped at Spain's highest city, Travelez, where he inspected the reconstruction of a church destroyed during the civil war.

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