

# Hungary 'Kremlin Showcase' In New Red 'Leniency' Policy

By JUDITH LESTOWEL  
(Written for N.C.W.C. News Service)

The startling changes in the Hungarian communist regime are part of a great gamble risked by Moscow in an effort to split up Western unity, to halt rearmament and to use the economic sanctions against Iron Curtain countries.

Hungary, so it seems, has been chosen by Moscow as a show window to display the wares of the new trade mark of Communism's "sweet reasonableness."

THE PIERCE DE resistance in this attractive display is a new policy toward the Catholic Church in Hungary, featured by signs of leniency toward imprisoned Cardinal Mindszenty and Archbishop Joseph Groves, greater facilities for religious instruction and non-interference with religious celebrations.

According to reports circulating in London, this complete change of Communist tactics, to be first illustrated in Hungary, had been fathered by Donald Maclean, former high official of the British Foreign Office who a couple of years ago disappeared mysteriously. He is generally believed now to be advising the Soviets.

SOME PHASES of this carefully thought-out maneuver — to advertise Hungary in general and the Church in Hungary in particular — as Exhibit A of Communism's "new look" have already been revealed.

Cardinal Mindszenty was some weeks ago reported to have been transferred from prison to a villa where — those are the instructions of Moscow — he is to be looked after with utmost care. His former secretary, Father Andrew Zakar, was also released from prison. Father Zaker, it is reported, was allowed to visit Cardinal Mindszenty and had a long talk with him. Several Hungarian Bishops have also called on the Cardinal.

The new attitude toward the Church was made official by Prime Minister Imre Nagy, who succeeded Matyas Rakosi, Hungary's top Communist. Addressing the parliament, Nagy solemnly proclaimed that "we must display a greater tolerance in religious matters." He declared that the "use of administrative methods," meaning such things as arrests by secret police, deportation to internment camps, and imprisonment without trial, was "inadmissible" since the government "condemns the means of coercion."

Detailed instructions for the new policy toward the Church are believed to have been brought to Budapest by Metropolitan Nikolai of Krutitsky — known in high Soviet circles as the "Red Rasputin" — when he visited the Hungarian capital last month for the Communist-sponsored World Peace Council.

IN ADDITION to the better treatment of Cardinal Mindszenty and Archbishop Groves, he gave instructions that sale of devotional articles was to be permitted again. A few days later, booths and stalls where prayer books, rosaries and candles were sold reappeared around churches.

Also in accordance with Moscow's instructions, the Hungarian Communist ministry of education issued a circular stating that on June 26 and 27 at all grade and middle schools parents could register their children for religious instruction. Priests were told that they would be granted facilities to hold religious classes, and school principals were instructed to arrange schedules to accommodate religious classes. Priests were informed privately that there would be no more interference with religious celebrations.

## How Moscow Designs Communism's 'New Look'

These are the Moscow-decreed measures aimed at demonstrating the policy of leniency toward the Church in Hungary:

- (1) Cardinal Mindszenty is to be looked after with utmost care.
- (2) Imprisoned Archbishop Groves is to be transferred to a villa.
- (3) Father Andrew Zakar and other priests imprisoned for "Treason" or other anti-state crimes are to be released.
- (4) Imprisoned prelates are to be permitted to receive visitors.
- (5) The public sale of devotional articles is to be resumed.
- (6) Parents can register their children for religious teaching.
- (7) State schools are instructed to provide facilities for religious classes.
- (8) No more interference with religious celebrations in public.

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## Yank Airmen Share Role In England's Catholic Life

London—(NC)—No public demonstration of any sort appears to be complete in England these days without its complement of United States airmen. And this seems to go double where Catholic pilgrimages or other Catholic religious events are concerned.

Accompanied by their chaplains, American Catholic airmen are bringing the Mass to country places where the Faith has been forgotten, or perhaps has never been known since the Reformation. More than that, they are enthusiastically supporting local Catholic events in towns and cities where their participation serves as an advertisement of the universal nature of the Church.

AMERICAN TROOP were

## Plane Blessed For New Guinea Missions



Techny, Ill.—A plane to be used by members of the Society of the Divine Word in their far-flung mission areas of New Guinea was blessed here by Bishop Adolph Noser, S.V.D., Vicar Apostolic of Alexandria, N. G. (second right). Present at the dedication ceremony were: Thomas Apostollo of Alexandria, N. G. (second left); the Rev. William Cardinal Tien, S.V.D., exiled Archbishop of Peking, China (left); and the Rev. Henry Hoff, Hunter, S.V.D. of Fort Madison, Iowa, Mission Procurator (left); and the Rev. Henry Hoff, S.V.D. of St. Louis, Mo., a priest pilot of the New Guinea mission for five years. Following a stay in this country, Bishop Noser, whose home is in Belleville, Ill., and Father Hoff will return to New Guinea. (RNS Photo)

## Editor Clarifies Catholic Position On Church-State Separation

### Catholic Position On Church-State Separation

New York—(RNS)—American Catholic theologians believe that the "Church will be hampered rather than helped by a union with the State," the Rev. John B. Sheerin, C.S.P., editor of the Catholic World, said here.

Addressing members of the New York University Catholic Center, Father Sheerin said there were two schools of thought among Catholic theologians regarding Church and State—the Spanish and American schools.

The Spaniards say that religion will prosper, Father Sheerin declared, "when the State does everything possible to honor and protect religion, and this is to be achieved through a union of Church and State."

"THE AMERICAN view is based on the success of the Catholic religion in the United States and on the sad history of those nations which maintained an established Church."

"As Cardinal Gibbon said, 'American Catholics rejoice that Church and State are separated in America. . . it gives us liberty and binds together priest and people.'"

Father Sheerin said that when the Church was united to the State, "the clergy were regarded by the people as a class apart because they were supported by the State and expected to take the side of the State in quarrels."

Referring to "distressing" tensions between Protestants and Catholics at the present time in this country, Father Sheerin said that "much of the anti-Catholic bigotry is emotional, based on nothing more than the superficial and spurious studies of Catholicism."

"But there is also a small core of sincere Protestants," Father Sheerin added, "who are worried over the question of Church-State relationships."

HE SAID THAT such Protestants wonder if the Catholics become the majority group of

## Red China Shifts Name For 'Church'

Hong Kong—(NC)—The Chinese Communists in Chengchow have changed the "Independent Church" movement into the "Anti-Imperialist Church" movement.

This information was brought here by Father Giovanni Callatto, a Parma missionary from Vicenza, Italy, who was ousted by the Reds.

Red officials informed the missionary in China for 20 years that they will purge from the Church "all imperialists who do not love China." Father Callatto was ousted on the excuse that his visa was invalid because it had been granted by the Nationalist Government.

The priest reported that at the present time there are still 11 foreign and five Chinese priests in the Chengchow diocese. None are in jail.

"I want peace because I am a Christian," Archbishop Capik told the delegates. "The love of peace, which is natural to man, is elevated by Christianity to a profession of faith. The history of Christianity shows that the song of the angels announcing peace was heard at the manger of Bethlehem. On Easter Day when Christ had accomplished our salvation, His first greeting was: 'Peace be with you.'"

"THE CHURCH addresses the following words to the new Christian at the baptismal font: 'Go in peace and the Lord be with you.' The same wish is expressed at the edge of the grave for those who have reached the end of the earthly road: 'May you rest in peace.'"

"Many pages of the Gospel

## Red Delegates Told Christianity Always Works For Peace

(N.C.W.C. NEWS SERVICE)

Budapest (Delayed)—A Catholic Archbishop gave the World Peace Council delegates a pointed reminder that peace has been a foremost Christian aspiration since the angels sang "Peace on earth . . ." at the very birth of Christ.

Archbishop Julius Capik of Eger, acting chairman of the Hungarian Board of Bishops, addressed one of the sessions of the giant peace meeting here. Other high Catholic prelates attending were Bishop Andrew Hamvas of Osnad, who also is apostolic administrator of Esztergom (the see of His Eminence Josef Cardinal Mindszenty), and Bishop Colman Papp of Gyoor.

(The World Peace Council meeting held in Budapest last month was one of a series of international peace congresses sponsored by the Kremlin and its satellites. Church leaders behind the Iron Curtain have been under severe pressure to support the aims of the Peace Council, which usually have an anti-Western slant.)

Careful not to be maneuvered into the position seeming to oppose peace, Catholic leaders behind the Iron Curtain, especially in Hungary, have given qualified endorsement of the Communist-inspired peace movement. But at the same time they have taken pains to point out that work for peace has been the ceaseless endeavor of Christianity for almost 2,000 years, and is not something originated by an economic and political system based on class struggle.)

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## Ireland Launches New Comic Book

Dublin—(NO)—Irish religious and educational authorities—long concerned about the low tone of imported "comic" books—united to greet the appearance of "The Loughran," a new and distinctly Irish production.

The origin of the native comic book goes back six years, to the day when Father Benno Stuenkel of the Society of St. Paul came here from Italy to seek vocations for his congregation. The society has as its chief work the apostolate of the press and the movies—and as the first fruits of Father Stuenkel's mission, six young Irishmen are now studying at headquarters in Rome.

But while seeking vocations, Father Stuenkel inspired a new turn in the "comic" book field itself, and the result is "The Loughran," which while primarily aimed at amusing children also plans to provide religious instruction and further the knowledge of Ireland's history and language.

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