

Cardinal Mindszenty Seen Valuable Pawn For Reds; Mother's Visit Relates

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to get very ill. "Something is bothering my heart; it must be a serious trouble," he added. The detective looked up at him sharply.

"HAVE YOU seen a doctor?" Mrs. Pehm asked. "Yes, but he only looked me over perfunctorily. Yet I have the right to a proper medical examination. That is in the prison statute. You see, Mother, I have been sentenced to life imprisonment," he said. This was the only sentence he made to the "trial" of the course of the 11 meetings.

Mrs. Pehm had the impression that he thought that she did not know of his sentence—in other words that he did not remember the circumstances of the trial. She had sat in the front row.

The aged mother, an intelligent and courteous peasant woman, argued sagaciously to the detective.

"Why does my son not receive the same medical treatment?" she asked. "If you cannot or will not send a good doctor to him, I shall be glad to pay a specialist to attend to him."

The detective shrugged his shoulders. "We are looking after him as we should," he replied. "Anyhow, it is time to end the interview."

THE CARDINAL left the room as Mrs. Pehm as he had come in. On July 2 and August 25, 1949, Mrs. Pehm was refused permission to see him. No explanation was given. On September 25, she was allowed to see him and found him in better spirits and health than in June.

Although she had thought up some questions to find out whether he had received proper medical care, she could not extract any information from him. From then until the following June all her requests to see him were turned down.

It can be imagined what Mrs. Pehm felt when, month after month, she was given the same stereotyped answers that the interview could not take place. All her efforts to find out why met with silence.

She began to fear that he had been deported to Russia, or that he had died, or that Moscow had decided that she should never see him again. In her distress she prayed to the Sacred Heart Our Lord if only He would help her.

SHE WENT TO Budapest and commissioned a Catholic sculptor to make a statue of Our Lord in wood, which she wanted to give to the church of her village—Mindszenty. His fee was over one thousand forints (officially \$100)—an enormous sum for a peasant woman. She did not know how she would raise it. The first thing that happened was that the gifts she had sent to Esztergom when her son became Primate of Hungary were returned to her: a pig, which had grown into a sow, a calf which had grown into a cow, and so on.

She sold these, and with the proceeds paid the sculptor and the transport costs. She prayed ardently and thousands prayed with her. On June 16, 1950, the statue was blessed in the village church. It was a beautiful ceremony, attended by the entire village.

Just as Mrs. Pehm stepped out of the church at end of the ceremony, the village postman handed her a telegram from Gabor Peter, informing her that on that very day she could see her son. Not only Mrs. Pehm, but everyone present wept and regarded this as an answer of Our Lord to her prayer.

ON THIS occasion the Cardinal looked much better and greeted her cheerfully. There was a fourth chair in the little room, and he was told to sit on it. The interview lasted thirty instead of 15 minutes. The detective was quite friendly with the old woman. (All seven subsequent interviews lasted 30 minutes.)

The Cardinal told his mother that he had received good medical treatment and indicated to her that his food had improved. When she saw him next in the autumn of 1950, and offered to send him fuel to heat his room, he said: "Thank you, mother, my room is now heated, and I have sufficient warm clothing."

Yugoslav Mobs Attack Two More Bishops

Gras, Austria — (NC) — Two more Yugoslav Bishops have been the victims of mob violence organized by the Reds, according to reports reaching here. They are Bishop Michael Pusic of Hvar and Bishop Cyril Banic, Apostolic Administrator of the Sibenik diocese.

THE ATTACKS on them were motivated by their opposition to the Tito regime's efforts to set up a government-controlled priests' association, which has been condemned by the Holy See and the Yugoslav Hierarchy.

Recently Bishop Francis Francic of Split was attacked and beaten by a mob in Makarska. Another mob threw stones through the church windows of a village while Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Pavlicic of Senj was administering Confirmation there. In Hvar, the reports stated, Bishop Pusic's residence was attacked by a mob organized by that city's Socialist Front. The mob's Red leaders were retailing, it was claimed, against the Bishop's excommunication of priests who had joined the Communist-controlled priests' association.

A VATICAN radio broadcast reported that Bishop Pusic had suspended all priests attending an organizing meeting of the association in Split. Bishop Banic, the Zagreb radio stated, was "expelled" by peasants from his native village of Dajal near Split.

He had gone there, the Zagreb broadcast continued, to engage in "political agitation." He was to leave by the people, it added, and when he refused to go to the people "expelled" him.

Shanghai Mission Closed, 4 Priests Tossed In Jail

Hong Kong — (NC) — The mission procurator's office of the Divine Word Fathers in Shanghai has been closed and the priests there have been taken away to prison, according to information reaching here.

The office was closed by Communist authorities on the night of July 23. Tossed into jail were Fathers Frederick Fuchs, the visitor general for the Society of the Divine Word in China; Mathias Schneider, the procurator; and Bernard Stuerwald, the assistant procurator, also Father Xavier Buercker, a Swiss Father of the Bethlehem Mission Society who was living with them.

After the arrest of the priests a Catholic woman asked permission of the Reds to remove the Blessed Sacrament from the chapel and take it to another church. But the guards stationed around the building refused.

Air Chief A Catholic London — (NC) — Air Marshal Sir Basil Embrey, newly appointed commander-in-chief of the Allied air forces in Central Europe, is a Catholic. His father's family came from Galway, Ireland. The new commander, who is 51, has been given the rank of Air Chief Marshal.

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