

Bitter Church Foe Ousted By Reds

Vienna — (NC) — Matyas Rakosi, who has resigned as first secretary of the Hungarian Communist Party, was a bitter opponent of the Church in Hungary.

Rakosi, who is 65, said he resigned because of age and poor health. The prevalent opinion here is that he was demoted by the Red regime because of his Stalin-like practices. Rakosi recently admitted that he had used methods employed by Stalin and that he was "very sorry" for his actions.

WHEN HE WAS Deputy Prime Minister of Hungary in 1948, Rakosi tried at first to camouflage his campaign against the Church. He attempted to split Catholic ranks by making overtures to those whom he called "democratic Catholics."

He demanded that these circles should be encouraged "to influence the clergy to seek and find the possibility of a coexistence with democracy" and be "protected against the excesses of reaction in ecclesiastical circles."

When these insidious tactics proved too slow, Rakosi attacked the Church more openly. In March, 1949, he said that the Vatican had plotted to form a union of Catholic countries and that efforts to reach an agreement between the Church and the Hungarian government had failed because the Vatican "placed its interests at the disposal of American imperialism."

In 1949 a high communist official reported he had heard Rakosi say that His Eminence Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, Primate of Hungary, would be sentenced to death.

THE CARDINAL, who was arrested by the Hungarian Reds on December 26, 1948, was given a limited release in July, 1955. For several months after his release he was confined to a residence in the village of Püspök Szent László.

Recent reports from Hungary stated that the Cardinal has been imprisoned again.

The latest report to reach here from Budapest said that the Cardinal is now confined at Almásy Castle near Felsoepeteny, a small village about 40 miles from Budapest. He is said to be free to travel about the large grounds of the castle, but it is not known whether he is allowed to have visitors. It is believed, however, that his mother was recently permitted to visit him.



MATYAS RAKOSI

At the time of the arrest of Cardinal Mindszenty, Rakosi tried to give Hungarian Catholics the impression that the Cardinal's opposition to the Red regime was disapproved by many Hungarian bishops.

The Bishops of Hungary, however, bolstered the courage of the faithful when they issued a pastoral letter pledging not to surrender any of the dogmas, divine rights and laws of the Church.

THE APPOINTMENT of Ernoe Geroc, a first deputy premier, to succeed Rakosi does not bring any brighter prospects for the Church in Hungary.

Geroc has occupied several key posts in Hungary's Red regime and played a leading role in the communist drive to imprison Cardinal Mindszenty in November, 1948 when he was Minister of Communications. He stated in a speech that "the next order of the day is to subdue and liquidate the reactionary activities of the Cardinal." About a month later the Cardinal was arrested by the Reds.

Cologne Organ
Cologne, Germany — (NC) — The organ of the Cologne Cathedral is being rebuilt in preparation for the reopening of the Cathedral in August.

Knights Urge End Of Aid To Tito State

Washington — (NC) — The executive committee of the Supreme Board of Directors of the Knights of Columbus has sent a message to President Eisenhower and members of Congress urging the cutting off of all U.S. aid to Yugoslavia.

The communication, in the form of a resolution adopted by the group, declared that President Tito "neither sympathizes with, nor can be relied upon to support, the American concept of human freedom."

STATING THAT it represents "more than one million members of the society," the Knights of Columbus committee said that Tito's recent "triumphal tour" of Russia "gives added substance to longstanding doubts" about the wisdom of U.S. help for him.

The resolution declared that "the tyranny of Tito's dictatorship, manifested in the persecution of religion and otherwise, does not appear to differ materially from the tyranny which prevails in the Soviet Union and its captive satellites."

Copies of the statement were received by President Eisenhower, all Senators, Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn, Majority Leader John W. McCormack of Massachusetts and Minority Leader Joseph W. Martin, Jr., of Massachusetts.

Sea Bees Build South Pole Chapel

Syracuse, N.Y. — (RNS) — A Roman Catholic Navy chaplain and 93 Seabees have built the first chapel in the South Pole area. It was learned here by Paul Flurn, short wave amateur who keeps in daily touch with Antarctica.

The priest is the Rev. John C. Condit of Jefferson City, Mo. In a radio interview he told how the Seabees used their off-duty time to design and build the Chapel in the Snow at McMurdo Sound, an American base 600 miles from the pole.

Recently the chapel was the scene of the first baptism in the polar regions. Father Condit baptized and received into his Church Seaman Patrick D. McCormick of Flint, Mich.



Pups Qualify Despite Age

Nashville, Tennessee — (NC) — John Beehan, doorman here at the Little Sisters of the Poor Home For the Aged, answered the door to find this canine mother who knew where to go for help. The dog actually scratched at the door until she had not only attention, but a home for her young.

Cardinal Endorses Sunday Closing

Chicago — (RNS) — Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago, formally endorsed a proposed Sunday closing ordinance.

In a letter read at a meeting of the City Council license committee, the prelate expressed his conviction that "public authorities should restore that right measure of Sunday observance which is in our tradition and which is in harmony with the laws of the Church."

The letter was addressed to Sylvan N. Mack of the Chicago Retail Furniture Association, one of 50 business men who appeared at the committee meeting to testify on behalf of the proposed legislation.

"In public statements for some years I have called attention to the growing relaxation of Sunday observances," Cardinal Stritch said.

Cardinal McIntyre

National Issue Seen Looming On Church School Tax Case

Dallas, Tex. — (RNS) — Whether a state should exempt church-sponsored schools from taxation is a far greater issue than segregation, Cardinal McIntyre, Archbishop of Los Angeles, said here.

The Cardinal has led a campaign in California to remove what he terms "double taxation on parents who exercise their constitutionally guaranteed right of sending their children to a religion-sponsored school."

"A PUBLIC building," the Cardinal said by way of illustration, "is not taxed because it is doing a public service. Our Catholic elementary and secondary schools also are doing a public service — so taxation of them amounts to double taxation."

Cardinal McIntyre noted that the California Supreme Court had upheld a law passed by the California legislature two years ago exempting from taxation non-profit religious-sponsored elementary and secondary schools. But, he said, "a movement is now under way to appeal that decision to the U.S. Supreme Court."



CARDINAL MCINTYRE

"Should the Supreme Court rule the law invalid," he added, "it will raise an issue far greater than segregation. The issue of segregation will be mild compared to its effect."

CALIFORNIA HAD been the

only state taxing church schools. Cardinal McIntyre went on to warn against federal control of education, declaring that "outside of Communism, there is no greater danger to our country."

He said that "federal control of education will have a severe effect on our youth. If they are trained without the fundamentals that were handed down to us, we are going to have a strange country — definitely socialist."

Elaborating on state or federal assistance to private schools, Cardinal McIntyre said "the state can assist, but not control."

HE ADDED, however, that while federal aid can come without control, "the policy of the National Education Association would lead to federal control."

In an address last year to the 20th convention of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae in St. Paul, Minn., Cardinal McIntyre charged that the NEA was one of several "pressure groups" striving to give public schools in the United States a monopoly of all education.

Soviet Slave Labor Camp Protested

New York — (NC) — An open letter to the United Nations demanding the "right to live under laws that should be recognized by the entire civilized world" and purportedly written by Ukrainian prisoners in the Soviet Union, has been made public here.

THE DOCUMENT and a related letter from "Ukrainian Women Political Prisoners in Mordovian Special Camps" were written on clean white linen in purple ink. They were shown to the press at a conference here sponsored by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

Dmytro K. Halehyn, its president, said that the documents were written in 155 and smuggled into West Germany through the Ukrainian underground.

The documents reveal certain practices in the labor camps in the USSR including the execution of prisoners, the development of Soviet industry through the use of slave labor and attempts to hide the graves of political prisoners by putting buildings over them.

THE OPEN letter was delivered to the office of Dag Hammarskjöld, UN Secretary-General, according to a spokesman for the group. In addition, he said, photostats of the linen documents and of printed translations have been distributed to "friendly delegations" at the UN and to "certain" members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

The letter calls upon the UN to establish a commission to verify "the facts as we have stated them."

North Vietnam Nuns Find Quebec Home

Sherbrooke, Que. — (RNS) — Fifteen Roman Catholic Carmelite nuns who were expelled from Communist-held North Vietnam are expected to become permanently located soon in the Archdiocese of Sherbrooke. The superior of the group is a Canadian. They have been living in Montreal for the past few months.

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