

Trans-Oceanic Telephone Interview

Cardinal Mindszenty Talked To U.S. Before Russians' Return To Budapest

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Cardinal Mindszenty is in fairly good health, despite eight years of Communist imprisonment, the Hungarian Primate revealed during his brief return to his residence in Budapest. The Cardinal, who took refuge in the U.S. Legation in Budapest when the Russians opened full scale warfare on his country, gave this assurance about his health to the N.C.W.C. News Service in a trans-oceanic telephone interview two days after his release from house arrest at Felsopekety.

A call placed in Washington, D. C., reached the Cardinal at his episcopal residence in Budapest. The Primate spoke easily and clearly, although he sounded tired. He terminated the conversation when he felt he needed to "spare my voice."

The interview was conducted by a Hungarian priest now living in the United States. He is Father Francis. He has requested that his family name be kept secret, lest its revelation prove harmful to friends and relatives still in Hungary.

The Washington-Budapest telephone call took several hours to complete. When the priest finally succeeded in getting through to the Cardinal's residence, Father Janos Toth who described himself as "a priest at the service of the Primate of Hungary," called Cardinal Mindszenty to the phone.

The following is the text of the interview:

Cardinal Mindszenty: Who is calling, please?

Father Francis: I am Father Francis. Blessed be Jesus Christ.

Cardinal: Forever and ever. Amen. What is your name?

Father Francis: (He started to spell his family name, and then the Cardinal interrupted.)

Cardinal: I know now.

Father Francis: I am calling from Washington, from the capital of the United States, in the name of the National Catholic Welfare Conference News Service. May I ask a few questions?

Cardinal: Go ahead.

Father Francis: In addition to Felsopekety, at many places of confinement were you held during the almost eight years of banishment from your See?

Cardinal: I was in seven different places, in seven different stations, in seven jails. Sometimes I did not know where I was in Budapest, then in Vancien in Felsopekety. Anyway you know the rest.

Father Francis: When did you receive your freedom?

Cardinal: It was on the 30th day of October in the evening hours.

Father Francis: How were you treated in prison?

Cardinal: As is customary with the Bolsheviks.

Father Francis: What was the state of your health in prison?

Cardinal: I can tell you that I was very sick and tired.

Father Francis: Did they provide any medicine?

Cardinal: They did.

Father Francis: How are you now?

Cardinal: Thank you very much. I am all right now. Life in those jails and life outside are so altogether different there can be no comparison.

Father Francis: Could you tell us anything about your treatment in prison just before your trial in February, 1949?

Cardinal: It followed the customs of the Bolsheviks.

Father Francis: Were you mistreated in any way in order to make you "confess" any of the charges made against you?

Cardinal: It was as is customary for the Bolsheviks to do.

Father Francis: How is your former secretary, Father Andrew Zakar?

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Soviet Russia Crushed Hungary To Block Free Elections

By J. J. GILBERT

Washington — (NC) — Soviet Russia brutally crushed Hungary's heroic bid for freedom because it was certain that, left alone, the satellite country would have voted out communism in a free election. This would have been the first instance of such humiliation for the Reds among the satellites, and it was worth almost any price to the Kremlin to stop it.

That is a belief widely held here. It is also thought that the liberation of Cardinal Mindszenty, Primate of Hungary, and his triumphal

entrance into Budapest, convinced Moscow that communism could not possibly win if an unfettered ballot were permitted.

Once determined that it would go all out to crush Hungary's fight for freedom, Moscow presumably hastened to take advantage of the suddenly arisen crisis in the Middle East which diverted some of the world's attention from Hungary.

It was never thought here that Soviet Russia intended to write off Hungary as a loss to the communist empire. From the start, it was

advised that one wait and see what developed.

There seems no doubt that Soviet Russia has suffered a severe propaganda setback as a result of its slaughter of Hungarians, many of them mere youths, seeking freedom. As was pointed out, many of those slain belonged to a generation which has known nothing but communism, and they rejected it.

But, having risked this bad opinion of people round the world, Moscow may well decide to go much further in its repression of satellites.

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Bishop Orders Public Prayers For Peace

Prayers for peace will be said at all Masses in all churches of the Rochester Diocese, according to instructions given this week to pastors by His Excellency, Bishop Kearney.

The Bishop in a letter addressed to the pastors stated that Pope Pius XII has made an urgent appeal for "public prayers for peace."

POPE PIUS XII has called for a "crusade of prayer" for peace and freedom in the face of mounting world tensions. He made his plea in an encyclical issued on the feast of Christ-the-King (Oct. 29).

In a second encyclical issued last Saturday (Nov. 3), Pope Pius again called for prayers for peace citing the threat of war caused by the Middle East crisis.

Bishop Kearney has directed that the prayer for peace (from the Mass for Peace) be recited after all Masses on Sundays and weekdays "until Christmas."

He has also directed that priests include the peace prayer as an extra prayer at the Masses which they celebrate.

The Bishop has also appealed for "the prayers of the children." He has asked that a prayer for peace be added to the opening prayers of the school children each morning.

SIMILAR PRAYERS for peace have been ordered by bishops throughout the country.

At St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City last Sunday, over 2,000 Hungarian immigrants and members of Hungarian aid organizations attended a Mass offered for that country's liberation from Soviet domination.

In Detroit, 4,000 Hungarian refugees and persons of Hungarian descent conducted a prayer rally attended by Gov. G. Mennen Williams and Mayor Albert Cobo.

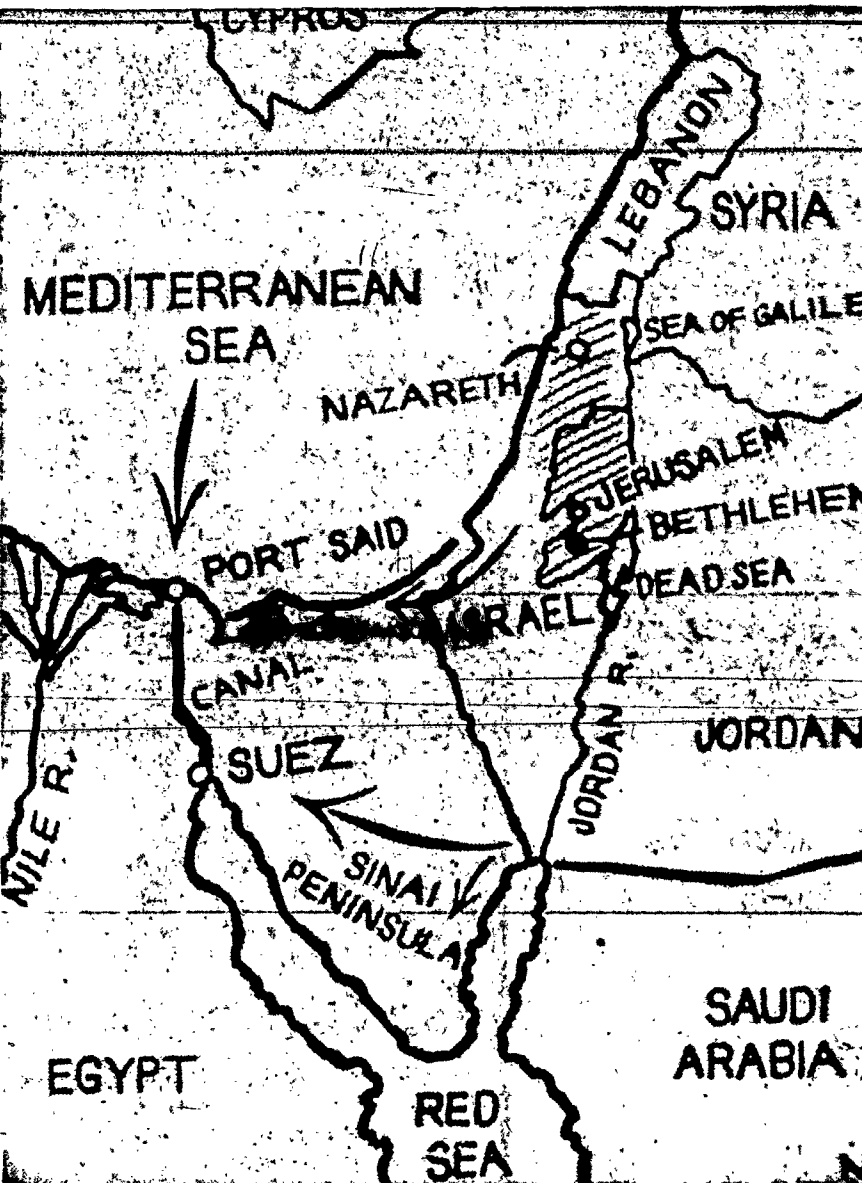
Nearly 5,000 persons in Cleveland prayed at St. John's Cathedral there and then marched to the public square for a civic demonstration asking freedom for Hungary.

POPE PIUS XII

Hits Soviet Role In Hungary, Urges Middle East Peace

Holy Land In No Danger

Despite military action between Egypt and Israel, Great Britain and France, armed conflict at present reports shows little danger to Christian shrines in the Holy Land.



'No Good Comes From War'

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Pius XII has repeated his call to all the nations of the world for prayers for peace and especially for a peaceful solution to the tense situation in the Middle East.

The Pope, in his second encyclical within a week, appealed to the nations of the world to be cautious of venturing onto the "steep slope of violence."

"WHEN WISE men, driven by the desire for true peace, gather together to deal with such grave

problems," he continued, "they must undoubtedly feel compelled to choose the way of justice, if they consider the great dangers of a war from which a small spark would burst into an enormous fire."

The encyclical is one of the shortest ever written by the Pope. It is entitled *Laetamur Admodum* (It is a Great Joy) after the first words of the Latin text.

AGAINST a background of bloodshed in Hungary, the Pontiff said, another "frightful situation" presented itself. He referred to the "flame of another warlike action which burns menacingly in the Middle East," and he repeated his fears for the safety of the Holy Land.

For this intention he asked the prayers of the faithful.

"Our hope," he said, "rests solely with Him who, with His heavenly light, can illumine the minds of men and bend their wills to more moderate counsels in order that right order may be established between nations."

"May all men," the Pope continued, "especially those who hold in their hands the

Freedom Not Lost In Blood,' Says Pope

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Pius XII, in an encyclical letter following the Soviet attack on Hungary, warned that "the just freedom of peoples can never be drowned in blood."

The encyclical, one of the shortest the Pope has issued, was the third within a period of ten days in which the Pontiff asked all Christians to join in prayers for justice and peace among nations.

Pope Pius said his soul had been filled with "the most painful bitterness" when he learned that "the cities and towns of Hungary are again running with the blood of citizens who, from the bottom of their souls, desire just freedom."

"WE MUST," he declared, "protest and deplore these painful facts which cause bitter sadness and indignation not only in the Catholic world but also among all free peoples."

Recalling the words addressed by God to Cain, "The voice of thy brother's blood cries to Me from the earth," the Pope said "the blood of the Hungarian people cries today to the Lord."

He said that God, "as a just judge, often punishes the sins of private persons only after their death but sometimes, as history teaches us, strikes rulers and even nations during their lifetimes for their injustices."

"May the Most Merciful God," the Pontiff prayed, "touch the hearts of those responsible, so that every violence may be calmed and all nations, pacified among themselves, may again find a just order in an atmosphere of serene tranquillity."

The Pope's encyclical, 500 words in length, was printed in *Osservatore Romano*, Vatican City newspaper, and broadcast by the Vatican Radio in several languages.

THE VATICAN Radio also broadcast a statement denouncing the Communist attack on Hungary as "the murder of a nation."

"Even under the Czars," it said, "the Russians did not dare to quell a popular revolt with such ferocity, such brutality, such total lack of respect for the rights of human beings as the Soviets are doing now in Hungary."

The station said the United Nations should intervene immediately "with energetic action" to restore human rights in Hungary.

"The blood of our brother Abel has been shed on the Hungarian plains," the station concluded, "and demands justice. God's words resound in our consciences: 'Cain, what has thou done to thy brother?'"

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Father Francis, an exiled Hungarian priest (left) is shown as he talked via trans-Atlantic telephones from Washington with Cardinal Mindszenty shown (right) in radio broadcast from Budapest following his liberation from the Communists. "Bolshevism has plundered everything in Hungary," the Primate said in the interview held before the Soviet armies retook control of the country and the Cardinal's subsequent flight to the American legation in Budapest where reportedly he is safe.

Cardinal: Father Zakar was freed after completing his prison term.

Father Francis: While imprisoned, how extensive was the news you received of the outside world?

Cardinal: Not a thing. Nothing.

Father Francis: Did you have any contact with the Holy See?

Cardinal: As much as with Washington.

Father Francis: Did you have any contact with other Hungarian bishops?

Cardinal: I did not see even the shadow of one.

Father Francis: Could you have any contact with any of your priests?

Cardinal: Just as I could with the natives of Africa.

Father Francis: How often was your mother able to visit you in prison?

Cardinal: At times, even in violation of the law, they did not let her see me.

Father Francis: Is she in good health now?

Cardinal: Good enough, thank you.

Father Francis: How often could you offer Mass in prison?

Cardinal: For nine months, not at all. For the rest of the time when I had the opportunity. But it was not anything to thank them for, when they let me.

Father Francis: What obstacles were put in your way to keep you from offering Mass?

Cardinal: Forever and ever. Amen.

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High School Chapel Boasts 20 Altars

Philadelphia — (RNS) — A chapel with 20 altars is an unusual feature of the new Bishop Neumann Catholic Boys High School in South Philadelphia.

The Norbertine Fathers, who conduct the diocesan school and live in an adjoining priory, use the chapel to offer their daily Masses. Besides the main altar, the 19 small altars line the side walls and an offset shrine in a cubicle or stall-like arrangement.

Former Jail Matron Joins Cloistered Nuns

Waterville, Me. — (RNS) — A former jail matron entered the novitiate of the cloistered Catholic convent of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament here.

She is 60-year-old Mrs. Alfred Jodoin, of Salem, Mass., widow mother of five children, and grandmother of eight. The former Albin Matiel, she operated her own furniture-moving business before her marriage in 1915.

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Jodoin served as a police matron in Salem and for the last ten years was jail matron of Essex County House of Correction there.

Mrs. Jodoin's four married sons, whose ages range from 33 to 40 years, are veterans of the Armed Forces. Her daughter, Mrs. Loretta Franley, 41, is a graduate of Holy Ghost Hospital School of Nursing, Cambridge, Mass. The five children live in Salem.

The Congregation of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament is a cloistered and contemplative community of nuns founded in 1858 by Blessed Pierre Julien in France. The nuns

maintain perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in their convent chapels. The Waterville convent is their American motherhouse.



Baseball Star's Daughter Baptized

Hartford, Conn. — (RNS) — Little Carol Anne Crono, daughter of Milwaukee Braves Pitcher Ray Crono (right) nestles happily in her mother's arms following her baptism in St. Justin's Church here by her uncle, Father Raymond Francis Crono, O.F.M. (looking on), a Franciscan missionary priest who is stationed in Brazil. It was the first baptism he has ever performed in the United States.

Washington Says Cardinal Safe

Washington — (NC) — The State Department has confirmed that Cardinal Mindszenty is safe in the U.S. Legation in Budapest.

The Cardinal Primate of Hungary sought refuge there after the Russians opened their full scale war on the Hungarian nation.

A State Department spokesman said that the Cardinal had received sanctuary and confirmed that he was safe.

It had been rumored earlier in Vienna that communist troops had invaded the legation — thus violating the extraterritorial status traditionally guaranteed under international law — and seized Cardinal Mindszenty. The U. S. spokesman here said, however, that word had been received indirectly giving the rumors and confirming that the Cardinal was safe.