

Czech Reds Soft On Religion

Prague — (RNS) — Community Party ideologists have been complaining that the Czech government is becoming soft on religion.

A spokesman for the government Ministry of Culture, Division of Church and Religion, has had to assure party zealots that "the few concessions were being made merely for tactical reasons."

There was considerable resentment on the part of hard-core party liners because of the official recognition given to religion during the recently concluded dialogue between Marxists and delegates from the Catholic International Pastoral Society in Marienbad.

It was pointed out to the com-

plaintants that the number of priests has been greatly diminished during the past few years and, in the future, it was predicted, there would be even fewer clergy.

Recently the government permitted some priests who have been working on civilian jobs for the past 17 years to return to their respective parishes. Those priests who belonged to religious orders were given the choice of becoming secular priests, or remaining on their jobs. Most of them had been employed on farms or in factories.

Some religious order priests refused, reportedly because they were unable to obtain releases from their superiors. Others accepted on the ground that they

could do more good in the Church than working outside.

Both men's and women's religious orders were suspended by the Czech government in 1950, and their members are confined to "secularized" monasteries and convents. They remained virtually under house arrest until 1953-54 when the government offered them the chance of returning to parishes as secular priests, or working on civilian jobs.

Some of the discontent expressed by party ideologists arose from increasing evidence that the Czech government is preparing an announcement of a meeting in Prague with Msgr. Casaroli of the Vatican Secretariat of State. The Vatican

emissary has conducted negotiations with the Polish and Hungarian Communist governments. The Czech director of the Church and Religion Office, Karel Hruza, who attended the Marienbad Christian-Marxist meetings, admitted that there was a need for greater flexibility in church-state relations in view of changing world political conditions.

KADDI TO TEACH At Catholic U

Washington — (RNS) — Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, an expert in the history, theology, and sociology of Jewish-Christian relations, has been appointed a lecturer in a new two-year graduate program in ecumenical studies at the Catholic University of America here.

Rabbi Tanenbaum, director of Interreligious Affairs for the American Jewish Committee, has lectured frequently on Christian-Jewish relations.



50 Years

Patrick F. Scanlan of Floral Park, N.Y., was honored at a testimonial dinner for his 50 years of service to the Catholic press as managing editor of The Tablet. Principal speaker was Archbishop Bryan J. McEntegart, Bishop of Brooklyn. On the occasion, Mr. and Mrs. Scanlan received an apostolic blessing from Pope Paul. The Tablet is the official weekly of the Brooklyn diocese. (RNS Photo)

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Pope Year

The Year of Faith in which the Church's reason for being again its native en...
Paul VI stated last w...

He linked the ope...
Year of Faith to t...
Peter and Paul, o...
the event took plac...
tiff preached at a c...
Mass on the steps of...
Basilica on June 29.

Peter and Paul, th...
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of the Faith. It was...
and sufferings wh...
which gave the fir...
the first formation...
authenticity to th...
fessed by the Church.

Peters, Paul Help to Faith Year

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whose baptismal na...
Peter or Paul. It w...
way of commemorat...
apostles whose fea...
29) was chosen to...
observance.

The priests who jo...
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were Fathers Paul I...
Paul Schnacky, Pa...
Paul Cloonan, Pa...
Paul Gibbons, Pa...
and Paul Murley, a...
priests, and Basili...
Peter Sheehan and...
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rank of cardinal.

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man who is loyal to

Faith, the Pope...
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thing that is truly...
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"From the day w...
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day of our Baptism...
conversion) it has b...
orated in Him. It o...
aspect, but Him. I...
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there is decadenc...
not only of Christ...
ourselves, our cons...
our life."

The Pope told h...
that thus faith is...
added immediately:

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sue its simple an...
fession. And let u...
recalling that Christ...
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necessarily faithfu...
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Cardinals Com...
The Mass which...
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