

## Despite Agreement with Hungary

# Cardinal Mindszenty Will Publish Memoirs

Montreal [RNS] — The exiled Hungarian Roman Catholic Primate, Cardinal Josef Mindszenty, told newsmen here that despite objections by the Hungarian government, he plans to publish his long-awaited memoirs early next year.

The 82-year-old prelate, on a 15-day tour of Canada and the United States, said at a press conference that "human and individual rights are guaranteed by the United Nations and many other countries of the world. The cardinal too is entitled to those rights."

Cardinal Mindszenty, who fled

the Hungarian Communist regime during the 1956 Hungarian uprising and remained in the U.S. Budapest legation for 15 years before heeding Pope Paul's summons to leave in 1971, startled the press here with his frank responses about present day Hungary.

Although he did not indicate what his memoirs would reveal, the book will undoubtedly focus on his arrest by the Communists in 1949 for alleged anti-state activities, his time in prison and well-publicized trial, his subsequent liberation during the abortive Freedom Fighters' uprising, and his long years in the

U.S. legation which proved an embarrassment to both the Hungarian regime and the Vatican.

(According to a news dispatch from Rome, the Hungarian Ambassador to Italy, when questioned by newsmen about Cardinal Mindszenty's disclosure that he will publish his memoirs despite Hungarian objections, said the publication would be a violation of an agreement made when the cardinal was allowed to leave Hungary two years ago.

(The agreement, worked out by the Vatican, prohibits the exiled prelate from returning to Hungary and bars him from making statements considered detrimental to the Hungarian state or its interests.)

The cardinal, who arrived in Canada Sept. 18 from his Vienna residence, candidly expressed his apprehension over the lack of religious growth in Hungary and

the world. He termed it a regression, ignited by two world wars and maintained by badly-drawn peace treaties.

When asked about political events in Chile, the prelate said he saw no parallel between the South American country and his native Hungary. But he observed that while colonialism had been rejected by the world after World War II the Soviet Union is still able to "subject" 120 million

people in Eastern and Central European countries.

The cardinal came to Canada to take part in celebrations commemorating the millennium of Christianity in Hungary and the 1,000th anniversary of the birth of St. Stephen of Hungary, that nation's first king and patron saint. There are about 135,000 Hungarian immigrants in Canada, about 65 per cent of them Roman Catholic.

## Cardinal Can Forgive People, Not System

Toronto, Ont. [RNS] — Cardinal Joseph Mindszenty, said here that he could forgive individual Communists involved in his imprisonment and trial, but not the Communist system itself.

He declared that the mellowing of Western relations with Communist nations has not altered his opposition to the Hungarian regime, adding "all that has happened since the Russian occupation in 1945 has but strengthened my views."

The prelate, said "I repeat what I said on the radio in 1956 (at the time of the abortive Hungarian Freedom Fighters uprising), I have no hatred in my heart for anyone."

Commenting to newsmen about his "trial" by Communist authorities, which was reportedly based on a "confession" he later repudiated, the cardinal said the confession was incidental and only the aims of the secret police mattered.

"The methods used were very different from what you are used to in the civilized world," he asserted. "Whatever they want they get."

Cardinal Mindszenty also charged that the Soviets (who quashed the 1956 uprising) and their Hungarian "Quislings" had set up a bogus land reform that is controlled by the secret police.



THE CHURCH 1973  
Fr. Andrew Greeley

One of the most interesting things that has happened in the Catholic Church in the United States in recent years is the appointment of the new apostolic delegate. For the first time in history the delegate is not Italian; he is also not a regular diplomat, having been a military chaplain in the Congo and a missionary. According to all reports he is an extraordinarily open, democratic, and cordial man — quite different in method and style from the ordinary papal diplomat.

Surprisingly enough there has been relatively little attention paid in the Catholic journals to the striking differences between the new apostolic delegate and his predecessors. Perhaps it is felt that the delegate is no longer a very important person or that it doesn't matter much who he is. Such an assumption would be quite wrong.

The time may come when the role of delegate will be little more than ceremonial, but that time is not now. If one is convinced that there must be changes in the American Church if it is to survive its present crisis, then one must expect those changes to come from inside or from Rome. There has been relatively little evidence in recent years that the American Church — leaders and followers — has the capacity to engage in any further structural change. The only other option, then, seems to be change that is vigorously pushed from outside the United States, and this means from Rome.

But there was not much reason to expect that kind of change either if Rome continued to be content with what was going on in American Catholicism, and until very recently there was every reason to assume that this was the case. Does the appointment of this "new style" apostolic delegate indicate that there is now concern in the Vatican about what is happening in the American Church?

I put this question to a friend of mine, wise in the ways of the Vatican. While I have become skeptical of those who claim to have inside information, this gentleman's speculations seemed to have been accurate in the past. "They're worried," he said; "that the United States may go the way of Holland. They want to get a different perspective about what's going on here than they have been getting from the regular diplomats who were the apostolic delegates in recent years. There won't be any dramatic changes, at least for a while; but there is no way to explain this appointment other than to conclude that somebody in Rome is running scared about the United States."

Perhaps someone in Rome is really frightened. That is as it should be, but the Church in the

United States is not going the way of the Church in Holland. The United States is not Holland; the cultural and structural factors in this country are different.

Yet there is deep and serious trouble in the Church here, and the situation is likely to get worse before it gets better. In the final analysis what happens here may even be worse than what has happened in Holland. It may take a little longer to happen and it may be in a different way, but American Catholicism could be going into a long term decline comparable to France rather than Holland.

It might take a couple of generations for this process to be complete, but it already may be too late to arrest further deterioration.

However, the new apostolic delegate would be mistaken if he thought the problem rests with the rank and file of the Catholic people. Their loyalty and devotion is as strong as it ever was, although it may have changed somewhat over the last ten years. The real problem, it is to be feared, is with those whose responsibility it is to provide ideas and vision for the Church.

The left wing and liberal figures have either flipped out in an anti-intellectual binge (which frequently reveals that they didn't have much faith to begin with), or, like Michael Novak, in his recent article on celibacy, and Ned O'Gorman, in his article on "Catholicism Past," have begun a painful re-evaluation of what might have been lost during the last decade. (As O'Gorman puts it, "Everything now is short, clean, brightly modern, and for all the relevance, morbidly uninteresting.")

The right wing is engaging in witch hunts, and those of us who are trying to occupy a middle position that would preserve the good of the past while still moving rapidly to meet the new problems of the present find ourselves in an eroding center, clobbered by both the Commonweal and the Wanderer. Much of the Church leadership has discovered that when it speaks no one listens. American Catholicism is currently suffering from a vacuum of impetus, ideas, and vision.

The new apostolic delegate has not asked for my opinion and is not likely to. Still, here it is, and he is welcome to it for whatever it's worth: The real problem with the "American Church" at the present time is the absence of subtle, sophisticated, challenging, deeply hopeful religious vision.

And the next question is much more difficult to answer: Where do we get such vision? That is not a fair question to ask a sociologist of all people.



Man of Year

Floyd Germano, well-known in the Auburn community, has been selected as the 1973 Man of the Year by the Christopher Columbus Commemorative Committee. The businessman will be honored by a dinner-dance Oct. 7, at 6 p.m. in the Auburn Inn. Germano and his wife, the former Genevieve Picciano, reside on Lake Avenue Ext. and are members of St. Francis Church. He is also on the board of directors of Mercy Hospital and is a Knight of Columbus.

## Chant Choir Set for Mass At Cenacle

The Eastman School Newman Club will again this year sponsor a monthly Latin High Mass at the Cenacle Retreat House chapel. The dates set this semester are Oct. 7, Nov. 11 and Dec. 16. All Masses are celebrated at 4 p.m.

The Gregorian Chant Choir under the direction of Prof. Erich Schwandt, assistant professor of musicology at Eastman, will sing for a votive Mass of the Holy Spirit on Oct. 7.

Father Frank Lioi, newly-appointed Newman chaplain, will be the celebrant. The ceremonies are open to the public.

## Library Friends Plan Book Sale

Coming — The Friends of the Corning Public Library are looking for books to sell in the annual Book Fair that provides money for library improvements.

Some of their most reliable sources of supply were wiped out by last year's flood, so the Friends are carrying their search into other communities. Donations may be left at St. Patrick's School, 280 E. Denison Pkwy., Mondays through Fridays, from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., and on three Sundays this month, Oct. 14, 21, and 28. The sale is scheduled for Oct. 29-31 at the Corning Glass Center.

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