

# Mindszenty Memoirs Published

**New York [RNS]** — It was a man of charisma whom America had come to know eight months ago when Cardinal Joseph Mindszenty visited the United States. Now, through his memoirs (Macmillan, 341 pp., \$10.) we come to know Mindszenty the statesman, whose concern as head of the Catholic Church in Hungary had been for the well-being and the future of his nation, his faithful, his Church.

The cardinal, in a concise, factual style, outlines his own life in the priesthood, records the "liberation" of Hungary by Russian troops and the subsequent steps taken to force the will of the Communist party on the opposing majority (the Smallholders party had gained 57.7 per cent of the votes in the same election in which Communists received 17 per cent.)

Cardinal Mindszenty, refused to compromise with this minority, considering that "our principal task was to hold out where we stood, to alarm Christendom. I was convinced that we had been called to bear witness. Within the Church we had to maintain the hope that better times in the future would restore to us all that was being taken from us. Come what might, we must never act opportunistically, disregarding religious interests" (p. 63).

And that is where the stature of

the man Mindszenty emerges. He was a statesman who knew that the future would not be secured by compromise. He looked to long-term results rather than short-term accommodations and that is why the Communist regime, which also aimed at long-term control, had to do away with him.

His account of the torture and brainwashing which catapulted him into the international limelight at the time of his mock trial in 1949, is written without bitterness towards his persecutors, but the cardinal touches on the daily beatings with a truncheon, the unceasing interrogations, the efforts of the guards to prevent him from sleeping, his treatment with drugs:

Day and night my alleged 'sins' had been hammered into me, and now I myself began to think that somehow I might very well be guilty. I was left with only one certainty, that there was no longer any way out of this situation. My shaken, nervous system weakened the resistance of my mind, clouded my memory, undermined my self-confidence, unhealed my will."

The impression remains that Cardinal Mindszenty has played down the agonies he underwent and that we have not been told all.

Then the book's pace and mood change with the cardinal's imprisonment.

In the section on solitary confinement, we accompany the cardinal in "the greatest torment."

The cardinal pays tribute to his mother who was only allowed to visit him at great intervals, but who was his "gleaming star". It was her prayers and his unshakable faith which helped him to endure the tortures and the hopelessness of confinement.

The last chapter of the "Memoirs" is devoted to a detailed account of the Vatican's efforts to convince the cardinal to leave Hungary and to the Vatican's willingness to meet the demands of the Communist government in matters relating to the Hungarian Church. But Cardinal Mindszenty is critical of this approach: "The history of Bolshevism, which already goes back more than half a century, shows that the Church simply cannot make any conciliatory gesture in the expectation that the regime will in return abandon its persecution of religion. That persecution follows from the essential nature and internal organization of its ideology."

Apparently the Vatican did not consider it in that light, for in February 1974, on the 25th anniversary of his mock trial, the cardinal was removed from his episcopal see of Esztergom. After the struggles and tortures he had endured, this was the worst personal blow; he had, in his own words, reached "complete and total exile."

Cardinal Mindszenty, in his book, alludes to the efforts of Pope John XXIII: who "inquired whether I did not wish to come to

Rome to take over a post in the Curia. In that case, he indicated, he might be able to fill the vacancies that had occurred in the episcopal sees. I replied that I would accede to his plans if they meant furthering the liberty of the Church."

Later, when Pope Paul IV sent his personal envoy to advise the Cardinal to leave Hungary, "I said I was ready to subordinate my personal interests to the welfare of the Church, now as always; but I wanted to know under what conditions I would have to leave

These conditions, summed up by the papal envoy, included that "my titles of archbishop and primate would not be affected, but the rights and duties associated with the exercise of that office in my native land would be abrogated. I would not be permitted to publish statements or pastoral letters, but would be required to leave the country altogether quietly. Once abroad I should make no statements that might disturb the relations between the Holy See and the Hungarian government or might be offensive to the Hungarian government or the People's Republic. I declared unequivocally — and my statement was placed in the record of the discussion — that I could not let the communist regime of Hungary, which was causing the destruction of the Hungarian Church and of the nation, be the judge of what I could or could not say. I forthrightly rejected any conditions of that sort. I was requested to commit myself to keeping my memoirs secret and to

withholding them from publication."

This last condition was rather strange, since the publication of his memoirs was one of the reasons the papal envoy had advanced for the Cardinal's leaving the country. When Cardinal Mindszenty pointed out this discrepancy in reasoning, the condition was withdrawn.


As the policy of detente gained in popularity, his welcome at the American embassy in Budapest began to wear thin. But the decisive factor in convincing Cardinal Mindszenty to leave Hungary was, by his own account, a direct message from Cardinal Stepinac of Yugoslavia. Through a foreign correspondent, he warned Cardinal Mindszenty not to put himself in a position where he would be placed under house arrest, since this would mean further suffering for his family. "In the end it was the factor that caused me to decide not merely to leave the embassy and take the consequences, but to accept exile."

Once in Vienna, the cardinal set himself to providing episcopal care to the hundreds of thousands of Hungarian Catholics abroad. He undertook numerous journeys around the world, always reminding his listeners of the condition of the Hungarian Church. This of course led to protests by the Hungarian Communist regime to the Vatican.

### SIT-IN CANCELED

**Lima [RNS]** — Some 100 workers from a bankrupt soft drink factory, holding two priests as hostages, occupied Lima's Catholic cathedral for several hours on Jan. 8 to protest their dismissal. They called off the "sit-in" and released the priests after the intervention of Cardinal Juan Landazuri Ricketts, O.F.M., of Lima.

IN THIS CORNER



George Beahon

Ken Stabler smiles and signs his name, lefthanded, on photographs of his wavy-blondish head. He is seated in a corner at the Rochester Auto Show and the kids and adults stream past his little dais for hours and hours, and two days and four nights.

The quarterback of the best team in pro football this year — 12-and-2 regular season — is basically a gentle, happy guy who likes people. But in the thousands of people who confront him there had to be some wise guys.

"You blew the Pittsburgh game, and I lost my money," says one guy, challenging.

Stabler meets him almost nose-to-nose. "I can't help you in that department, Son." That conversation is closed.

Another autograph seeker, one who looks like the greasy finger type who's crushing an empty beer can while he's using a fork with another, says straight out to the world's finest quarterback:

"You look better with your helmet on, Man."

Stabler eyeballs him and even pouts on a little smile. "It's your choice, Son."

Later that night this 28-year-old super athlete is relaxing over a drink at his Marriott digs and trying to figure when he last had over three hours sleep.

He'd been in New York City for press conferences. On this week he'd been voted everything there is in pro football: All Pro, Offensive Player of the Year, and the NFL's Most Valuable Player. He had just won a court case from Birmingham of the World Football League, meaning he got

to keep \$70,000 in "promise" money for not playing because now the contract was voided.

Ken Stabler, it was suggested, now was a free man. He could play this year, 1975, for Oakland, and then do a Jim (Catfish) Hunter number on pro football. If Hunter could get three mill, then a Stabler had to be worth even more in a wide open auction?

"I guess that could happen," said Stabler, who is making \$250,000 now without a raise for '75. "But I also would guess that while I'm playing it out this year, the Oakland people might try to keep me around a while." Stabler could become the highest paid team athlete in history.

Stabler had arrived in Rochester an hour late for the opening, for which stint, incidentally, he would collect \$4,800 from Marine Midland. His agent and his attorney had hastened to warn Auto Show execs of his lateness, with apologies for fog in Alabama.

Now \$4,800 for four nights work may sound like a lot of money to you (certainly does to me) but at today's guest appearance rates it was a bargain. Stabler put in 48 hours of goodwill and PR work. How did he like these jobs? "Against a \$250,000 salary for playing football?"

"I actually enjoy most of this. I like meeting people, and most of them are ultra nice. Let me promise you one thing, I don't do anything, anything at all, that I don't want to do, no matter what my agent or attorney recommend."

In the Marriott's lounge an autograph line has formed, and Stabler chats pleasantly with all hands, including the older chicks who insist on an autograph plus kiss.

"How about this? Everywhere you go. And those snotty people in the line at the Auto Show? Doesn't it bug you?"

"There are snotty types anywhere you go, in any business," said football's golden boy. "But they are in the minority. I'm having a drink, and relaxing, and I'm getting paid for it. This is part of my job. I love what I'm doing."

## CYO Basketball Standings

CYO BASKETBALL		
ELEMENTARY		
Northeast		
	W	L
Mt. Carmel	7	0
St. Ambrose	6	1
Christ the King	5	2
Holy Trinity	5	2
OLPH	4	3
St. Cecilia	4	3
St. Stanislaus	4	3
St. Andrew	1	6
St. James	1	6
St. Margaret Mary	0	7
St. Rita	0	7
Southeast		
St. Louis Pittsford	7	0
Our Lady of Lourdes	6	1
St. John Fairport	6	1
Jewish CC	5	2
Corpus Christi	4	3
Good Shepherd	3	3
Blessed Sacrament	2	4
St. Jerome, ER	2	4
St. Joseph, Penfield	2	5
St. Thomas More	2	5
St. John City	1	5
Greek Orthodox	0	7
Northwest		
Holy Rosary	6	0
Mother of Sorrows	5	1
Most Precious Blood	5	2
St. Lawrence	5	2
St. Charles Borromeo	4	2
St. John Greece	4	3
Our Lady of Mercy	3	3
Our Lady of the Apostle	3	4
St. John Spencerport	2	5
Holy Name of Jesus	0	6
Sacred Heart	0	6
Southwest		
St. Boniface	6	1
St. Pius X	6	1
Holy Family	5	2
St. Augustine	5	2
St. Monica	5	2
St. Christopher	3	4
Good Counsel	2	4
St. Theodore	2	4
Holy Ghost	2	5
St. Anne	2	5
St. Anthony	1	5
St. Helen	1	5
GIRLS		
	W	L
Mother of Sorrows	5	0
St. James	3	1
St. Margaret Mary	3	1
Holy Cross	2	2
Bishop Hogan	2	2
St. Pius X	1	3
St. Andrew	0	5
HIGH SCHOOL		
Northeast		
	W	L
St. Margaret Mary	7	0
St. James	6	1
Holy Trinity	5	2
Mt. Carmel	4	3
Christ the King	3	4
OLPH	3	4
St. Ambrose	3	4
St. Cecilia	2	5
St. Rita	2	5
St. Stanislaus	0	7
Southeast		
Good Shepherd "A"	6	1
St. Louis Pittsford	6	1
St. Joseph Pen.	5	1
Greek Orthodox	4	3
Corpus Christi	3	4
St. Thomas More	3	4
St. John City	2	5
Annunciation	1	6
St. Helen "B"	0	6
Jewish CC "A"	0	6

Hall's

FLOWER SHOP

2075 DEWEY AVE.


Near the West Gate  
of Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

865-6533

Next door to Hall's Travel Service

For Over 55 Years . . .

The Name To Know  
and The Place To Go  
for Religious Goods . . .



TRANT'S

96 CLINTON AVE N  
115 FRANKLIN ST  
Phone 454-1818

MON. THRU SAT. 9-5:30