

# VATICAN'S CONCERN ON POLAND VOICED

## Osservatore Quashes Reports That the Pontiff Moderated Denunciation of Seizure

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By Telephone to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ROME, Oct. 14—A vigorous defense of the Pope's attitude toward the invasion of Poland is made today by the Osservatore Romano in an article that is understood to have been written by the Papal Secretariat of State. It contains, among other things, a sharp attack on the world's press for not having properly presented the Pontiff's stand, and, particularly, for its general failure to give space to the full text of his speech of Sept. 30 on Poland.

The article shows clearly that there is considerable resentment in Vatican circles over the accusations that the Holy See has been relatively indifferent to the Polish tragedy. Similar accusations were made during the World War and now the Vatican is setting out to scotch them quickly and to warn all peoples that if the Pontiff's words are made necessarily cautious by the exalted position of the speaker, there is no lack of feeling behind them.

The Osservatore takes as its starting point a dispatch from Rome to the Basler Nachrichten, which laments that newspapers throughout the world have not given sufficient space to the Holy See's attitude on the war. This it says, "is not new, but it is most just."

### Press Blamed for Misunderstanding

"It is being insinuated more or less openly in various places that the Holy See has watched the Polish tragedy with indifference," the editorial continues. "This misunderstanding of the Vatican attitude, even if it can be partly attributed to the excitement that is naturally brought out by the war, could find no adequate explanation except in the fragmentary way with which pertinent news is being communicated to the public by the press of the various countries."

This attitude, says the newspaper, "profoundly saddens" those close to the Pope, who know how distressed he is "by the suffering of a Catholic nation of Europe." Although every line of the Pontiff's Sept. 30 address to the Polish residents of Rome "constituted a precious testimony to the paternal solitude of the august Pontiff toward unhappy Poland, most newspapers did not publish the full text and the major part of the press gave a notice that was too brief."

Another trouble, according to these Vatican spokesmen, is that people are inclined "to value things solely according to their own inclinations and sympathies." On the other hand, there is need for "a superior voice emanating from an impartial authority," speaking not only for the faithful but for all peoples.

"Only the Roman Pontiff can do that," the Osservatore continues, but it must be remembered that sentiments and expressions that would be legitimate or at least tolerated on the part of the faithful and even the local Bishop "would be wrongly desired or expected from the head of the church."

### "Lively Language" Avoided

"Lately, the masses have become accustomed to a language so lively, or even violent, as to make any method of expressing one's self that avoids such a tone, seem weak by contrast," the article remarks.

Therefore, the Osservatore feels it is desirable to re-examine the attitude of the Church toward the present conflict in a quieter frame of mind, so it cites certain instances in which the Pope showed he was not indifferent to what was happening. Two of these occurred before the war—the speech to the new Polish Ambassador on July 25 and the radio broadcast for peace on Aug. 24.

Above all, "the memorable audience of Sept. 30" is offered as proof that the Pontiff has not remained silent about the fate of Poland. Attention is particularly called to the passage in which he pleaded against an attempt to destroy the Catholic faith in Poland "notwithstanding many reasons for fear inspired by the only too well-known plans of the enemies of God."

The sympathetic attitude of the Holy See toward the new Polish Government in Paris continues. The man who maintains connection between the two bodies is the new Minister Without Portfolio, Stanislaw Stronski, who was a professor in the Catholic University of Lublin. August Zaleski, Foreign Minister, is looked upon with greater sympathy than Josef Beck, his predecessor, who was not received by the Pope when he came to Rome because he is a divorced Catholic.