

Cardinal's Loss Ends a Symbol Of Resistance

Mindszenty Was Spiritual
Leader of 72 Per Cent
of Hungarian Population

By David Perlman

The loss of Josef Cardinal Mindszenty to the people of Hungary will deprive some 72 per cent of that nation's population of spiritual leadership and a central symbol of resistance to dictatorship.

There will, of course, be thousands of parish priests and others in the church hierarchy to carry on Catholic teachings, but in the old nations of Europe it is the cardinal or the leading archbishop whose words carry the greatest weight and whose deeds bear the authority of Rome.

Cardinal Mindszenty's imprisonment is not the first time high ecclesiastical authorities have suffered punishment by the state for their opposition, although he is the first member of the College of Cardinals to be tried and sentenced while holding the rank of cardinal.

In the United States, Catholicism's leaders such as Francis Cardinal Spellman frequently rally members of the church behind certain political measures, or in opposition to others. But they do it within the framework of democracy, where they are guaranteed the right to speak like any other man. Their leadership is confined in most issues to the followers of their own church.

In Hungary and other Soviet satellite nations, however—where the anti-Communist political opposition is being liquidated or forced into exile at an ever swifter pace—the primates of the Catholic Church have come forth more and more in recent months to speak for all opponents of the regime, whether Catholic or not.

In Poland, for example, the late August Cardinal Hlond was the nation's most outspoken denouncer of Soviet domination after the nation turned Communist. Cardinal Hlond had a long record of resistance to dictatorship before that. An exile from his own country in the early years of World War II, he preached constantly against the Nazis, and was finally arrested by the Germans in 1944 while he was living in France. He was imprisoned, and liberated by American troops on Easter, 1945.

The archives of the Catholic Church reveal a curious parallel to the Mindszenty case in the nineteenth century. Mieczislas Ledochowski, Archbishop of Gnesen-Posen, struggled against Prussian edicts regulating religious education, removing priests and limiting the church's disciplinary powers. He was arrested and sent to Ostrovo prison because he counselled his priests to disobey the Prussian laws. While in prison he was elevated to the College of Cardinals by Pope Pius IX on March 15, 1874. He was later freed and went to Rome.

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Polish Bishop Accuses Reds

Says State Abolished Religious Teaching and
Banned Crosses in Schools.

Warsaw, Feb. 9 (A. P.).—Mgr. Stanislas Adamski, Roman Catholic Bishop of Katowice, accused the Polish Government today of abolishing religious teaching, and ordering the removal of crucifixes in some schools in southern Poland.

Reports said that from six to twenty priests had been arrested for reading the Bishop's pastoral letter, containing the charges, in churches of Poland's great coal and steel industrial district, but a governmental spokesman said that he knew nothing of such arrests, or of the pastoral letter. He reiterated the Communist position that it is not interfering with church affairs, the Government wanting only that the church keep its hands out of state affairs.

Pastoral Letter.

The pastoral letter, apparently being given general circulation, charges that crucifixes had been removed from the walls of school rooms, yet children were carving their own crucifixes and placing them on walls. The Bishop said that despite assurances from Warsaw that religious instruction could continue, authorities in the Katowice area were abusing their power, and pushing an anti-religious campaign.

The Katowice district was governed until recently by Brig.-Gen. Alexander Zawadzki, now first Vice-President of Poland, an ardent Communist and one of Poland's delegates at the last Cominform meeting.

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