

Pope Pius's Allocution

VATICAN CITY, Feb. 14 (AP).—The official English text of the allocution, delivered by Pope Pius XII today at a secret consistory on the arrest and sentencing of Josef Cardinal Mindszenty of Hungary:

Venerable brethren, we have convoked this extraordinary consistory today in order to unfold to you our soul, which is crushed with most bitter grief. You will readily understand the reason of this sorrow: It concerns a most serious outrage which inflicts a deep wound not only on your distinguished college and on the church, but also on every upholder of the dignity and liberty of man. As soon as ever we knew that our beloved son Josef Mindszenty, Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church, Archbishop of Esztergom, was cast into prison in bold defiance of the reverence due to religion, we sent a loving message to the Hungarian hierarchy in which we publicly and solemnly protested, as our duty demanded, against the injury done to the church.

At present, when things have come to such a pass that this most worthy prelate has been reduced to supreme indignity and condemned like a criminal to life imprisonment, we cannot but repeat this solemn protest in your presence. We are prompted to do this primarily on behalf of the sacred rights of religion which this valiant prelate tirelessly propounded and defended so strenuously and courageously. Besides, the unanimous consent of free peoples, expressed in speech and writings even by leaders of nations and by those who do not belong to the Catholic Church, has been given the fullest light of publicity.

But, as you are aware, the full light of publicity did not shine over the trial of this prelate, who deserved so well of all in defending the religion of his ancestors and in the restoration of Christian morals. In fact, from the beginning the news that arrived caused alarm. People outside Hungary who asked permission to be present at the trial were refused permission if they seemed likely to judge impartially or to give a sincere report: this led them to believe, and all upright and honest men as well, that those who were conducting the trial in Budapest seemed to be afraid to allow all to see what was taking place.

Justice Is Defined

Justice which is worthy of the name does not begin with prejudices and is not based on a decision previously taken, but it gladly admits of free discussion and gives every one due facility for thinking, believing and speaking.

But although the facts have not been reliably made known, or reported clearly and completely, we cannot omit mentioning the judgment which all civilized

Referring particularly to the speed with which it was conducted, thus suggesting a ready reason for suspicion; to the accusations captiously and deceitfully contrived; and to the physical condition of the Cardinal, which is indeed inexplicable except as a result of a secret influence which may not be publicly revealed; which suddenly made of a man, until then exceptionally energetic by nature and by way of life, a feeble being and of vacillating mind, so that his behavior appeared an accusation not against himself but against his very accusers and condemners.

In all this matter, one thing alone stands out clearly: the principal object of the trial was to disrupt the Catholic Church in Hungary and precisely for the purpose set forth in sacred scripture: "I shall strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock shall be dispersed" (Matt. XXVI, 31).

Denies Plan to Dominate

While with sorrow in our hearts we deplore this very sad event and entrust it, in a sense, to public opinion and the tribunal of history for final judgment, we are doing what the outraged rights of the Church and the dignity of the human person clearly demand.

We deem it especially our duty to brand as completely false the assertion made in the course of the trial that the whole question at issue was that this Apostolic See, in furtherance of a plan for political domination of nations, gave instructions to oppose the Republic of Hungary and its rulers: thus all responsibility would fall on the same Apostolic See.

Everybody knows that the Catholic Church does not act through worldly motives, and that she accepts any and every form of civil government provided it be not inconsistent with divine and human rights. But when it does contradict these rights, bishops and the faithful themselves are bound by their own conscience to resist unjust laws.

In the midst of this grievous anguish, however, venerable brethren, the "Father of Mercies" (CF. II Cor. 1, 3) has not left us without consolations from above which have served to mitigate our sorrow. It is consoling above all to witness the tenacious faith of the Catholics of Hungary who are doing all they can, though faced with serious obstacles and difficulties, to defend their age-old religion and to keep alive and fresh the glorious tradition of their ancestors.

Solace comes to us from the unflinching confidence we cherish in our paternal heart that the Hungarian Episcopate, acting always in complete harmony of principle and practice, will labor with every resource at their command to strengthen the faith

The Pope on His Way to the Secret Consistory



Associated Press radiophoto

Pope Pius XII and his assistants entering Consistory Hall in Vatican City yesterday to address the College of Cardinals

them up with that hope which can neither be extinguished nor dimmed by sad or unjust happenings of this life, because it has its source in Heaven and is fed by grace divine.

From you, venerable brethren, similar heavenly solace has come to us. For we have seen you gathered close about us in this crisis, to share our sorrow and unite your prayers to ours. We have been heartened likewise by the other cardinals, archbishops and bishops of the whole Catholic world, who along with their clergy and people have expressed by fervid letters and telegrams their reprobation for the outrage offered to the Church, and promised us their public and private prayers.

We earnestly desire that these prayers should continue to rise before the throne of God. For as often as the church is tossed by such tempests as cannot be quelled by human means, one must appeal with confidence to the Divine Redeemer, Who alone can calm the swelling waves and restore them to peace and tranquillity. Through the most powerful intercession of the Virgin Mother of God, let us all pray God fervently that those who suffer persecution, imprisonment and hardship, may be consoled with the necessary help to divine grace and fortified with the strength of Christian virtue; that those who rashly dare to trample upon the liberty of the Church and the rights of human conscience, may at length understand that no civil society can endure when religion has been suppressed and God, as it were, driven into exile. Only the sacred principles of our faith, our zeal, your wisdom.

within the limits of reason the duties and rights of citizens, can consolidate the foundations of the state, and make men's lives conform to the salutary norms of morality, restoring them to order and virtue.

Cites Religious Benefits

The words of the greatest Roman orator, "High priests, you defend the city more securely by religion than by its surrounding walls" (Cicero: "De Natura Deorum," iii, 40), when applied to Christian precepts and faith are infinitely more true and certain. Let all those into whose hands public government has been intrusted recognize this truth and let due liberty be everywhere restored to the Church, that untrammelled she may be able to enlighten the minds of men with her salutary doctrine, rightly instruct youth and lead them to virtue, restore to families their sacred character and permeate with her influence the whole life of men. Civil society has nothing at all to fear from this activity but rather will reap the greatest advantages. It is then, venerable brethren, that social questions will be solved with justice and equity, the conditions of the poor will be ameliorated, as is but just, and they will be restored to a state befitting the dignity of man; finally discord will be appeased, fraternal charity will bring peace to men's minds and better days, as we fondly hope and humbly pray, will happily ensue for all peoples and races.

These are the words we wished to speak in this illustrious assembly to you who are so closely associated with us in the government of the universal Church. May your zeal, your wisdom.