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By Ronald Farquhar

Budapest, Hungary, Dec. 16 (Reuters) - FATHER EGON TURCSZNYI, FORMER SECRETARY OF CARDINAL JOSEPH MINDZENTY, ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMATE OF HUNGARY, IS ON TRIAL HERE CHARGED WITH "COUNTER REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY" A HUNGARIAN COURT OFFICIAL SAID TODAY. FIFTEEN OTHER CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND A CIVILIAN ARE IN THE DOCK WITH HIM. THEY ARE CHARGED WITH RANSACKING THE STATE BUREAU FOR CHURCH AFFAIRS DURING THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION LAST YEAR AND TAKING ACTION AGAINST "PEACE PRIESTS" WHO COOPERATED WITH THE COMMUNIST REGIME.

THE TRIAL BEGAN DECEMBER 3 AND IS LIKELY TO LAST UNTIL THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY, THE OFFICIAL SAID.

(CARDINAL MINDZENTY, WHO HAS BEEN SHELTERING IN THE US LEGATION SINCE THE REVOLT WAS CRUSHED A YEAR AGO, HAS BEEN ACCUSED IN THE COMMUNIST PRESS OF HAVING ORDERED THE "LOOTING" OF THE CHURCH BUREAU OFFICES.)

A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL SAID HE HAD "NO COMMENT" WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT REPORTS THAT GENERAL PAL MALETER, DEFENSE MINISTER IN THE SHORT-LIVED IMRE NAGY GOVERNMENT, WAS BEING TRIED IN SECRET WITH ONE OF HIS SUBORDINATES, GENERAL ISTVAN KOVACS, AND THE FORMER BUDAPEST POLICE CHIEF SANDOR KOPACSI.

ANOTHER UNCONFIRMED REPORT SAID THE TRIAL OF 20 FORMER MEMBERS OF A REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AT GYOR, CENTER OF REVOLT IN WEST HUNGARY DURING THE RISING, OPENED TODAY BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT.