

G
18 January 1952
W-5634POLANDEDUCATION

Professional schools

Students for priesthood in Poland are finding it safer to study privately under a priest than to enter a seminary, said a former student priest who is now a refugee in Western Germany. Our informant was educated by a priest in the GDANSK area but, after a year and half, UB (Political Police) functionaries informed the priest that his teaching was illegal and that he must immediately stop "depraving young people."

The UB did not mention any of the young people by name, and our informant was certain at the time that his name was unknown. The priest advised him to leave town. This he did and settled down in Polish East Prussia, where he found a job teaching in a public school.

After a year of teaching he was invited unexpectedly to the UB office in nearby OLSZTYN. He was asked to be there late in the evening and was told that he must not reveal anything about the invitation. When he arrived he was met by a functionary who talked to him for two hours without saying a word why the young teacher had been asked to come. Then the chief of the office arrived and briefly explained the purpose of the "invitation."

"We know that you were a candidate for priesthood," he said. "We know also that you prepared for it illegally. We are very glad that you discontinued your studies and decided against becoming a priest. Your principal is satisfied with your work, but we are certain you will be glad to give proof of your loyalty. We would be delighted to have you cooperation in clearing up an unsatisfactory condition in your school also, since you have friends in the priesthood, you can be helpful in this respect too."

The UB chief pointed out that such "help" would be best for the young teacher, for, if he refused to give it, it was certain that his "disloyalty" would come to light. He then gave him a special questionnaire to fill out. Its six pages contained questions on all details about the teacher himself and also about his entire family. After completing the questionnaire, he was assigned three tests.

The first test was to bring in a complete report about his closest friend. The second was to get in touch with his former priest teacher, and the third was to report on the political attitude of children nominated for scholarships.

The young teacher informed his closest friend that UB was interested in him and then escaped to the West.

ITEM No 830

POLAND
(cont'd 1)

EDUCATION
Professional schools

DATE OF OBSERVATION: unknown

EVAL. COMMENT: Source : fairly reliable
Information: So far the private tuition for priesthood is unknown and certainly even against canonical laws. Maybe that under the special circumstances some clergymen have got a special permit from the church authorities to prepare candidates for the seminaries.

The UB action described above is plausible and in line with their usual methods of recruiting confidentes and agents, most of the time from among the people to whom something can be reproached.

After a year of teaching he was invited unexpectedly to the UB office in nearby GUSTYN. He was asked to be the late in the evening and was told that he must not reveal anything about the invitation. When he arrived he was met by a trustworthy and talked to him for two hours without saying a word. The young teacher had been asked to come. Then the chief of the office arrived and briefly explained the purpose of the "invitation".

"We know that you were a candidate for priesthood," he said. "We know also that you prepared for it diligently, as the very fact that you discontinued your studies and decided against becoming a priest, your principal is satisfied with your work, but we are certain you will be glad to give proof of your loyalty. We would be delighted to have you cooperation in clearing up an unsatisfactory condition in your school. Also, since you have friends in the priesthood, you can be helpful in this respect too."

The UB chief pointed out that such "signs" would be best for the young teacher. If he refused to give it, it was certain that his "loyalty" would come to light. He then gave him a special questionnaire to fill out. Its six pages contained questions on all details about the teacher himself and also about his entire family. After completing the questionnaire, he was assigned three tests.

The first test was to bring in a complete report about his closest friends. The second was to get in touch with his former teacher, and the third was to report on the political attitudes of children nominated for school.

The young teacher informed his closest friends that UB was interested in him and then passed on the test.