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NEPZSABADSAG, 1 August 1957

Counter-revolutionary organizational work of a large church group uncovered. Official statement of the Information Department of the Ministry of Interior.

The investigation in the case of a large counter-revolutionary church group has been finished. The center of the counter-revolutionary group was the Central Theological Seminary in Budapest. At this place a large scale anti-popular and anti-democratic organizational work started already before October and, after the outbreak of the counter-revolution, it became wide-spreading.

They produced and reproduced leaflets and other propaganda material on a large scale and, through their connections, they distributed them mainly in the armed centers of the counter-revolution.

They were in close contact with the various armed groups, they carried on propaganda among them, they supplied the fighting counter-revolutionary with food and, after the armed fight, they have hidden several counter-revolutionary terrorists.

They continued in their activities after the armed fight. Istvan Tabodi, a senior theological student and former Horthy officer; Imre Varju, Roman Catholic priest, Antal Kukla and many more priests, drafted in December and January a pamphlet entitled "My dear Friend" which they have multiplied in several hundred copies and distributed them in different parts of the country.

The pamphlet praised the counter-revolution, *hesitant* the hostility of the terrorists, abused the power of the workers, the socialist order and incited the enemies of the people to further resistance.

The pamphlet contains also Mindszenty's speech on the 3rd November as well as Pope Pius' circular letters criticizing, inciting and slandering the Hungarian events.

One of the leaders of the counter-revolutionary clerical group was Egon Albert Turcsanyi, a former vicar, a well-known fascist. He was a member of the fascist group of "Awakening Magyars." He became Mindszenty's secretary in October 1956.

On behalf of Mindszenty as the head of an armed group, he took part in the looting of the State Office for Church Affairs. From this place they have taken away secret documents and delivered them to Mindszenty. Turcsanyi tried to escape to the West with forged papers but he was arrested.

Another leader of the organization was Pal Lieszkovszky, a former Lt. Colonel who was decorated for his conduct in the war against the Soviet Union in 1943. Both Turcsanyi and Lieszkovszky were organizing the looting of State Office for Church Affairs.

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Some Church leaders had knowledge of this wide-ranging organizational work and counter-revolutionary activity. The investigating authorities have found and confiscated counter-revolutionary propaganda material, pamphlets, leaflets, in great quantities, as well as a duplicating machine and a typewriter. These evidences are completed by several affidavits vindicating the counter-revolutionary activity of the arrested persons. Their case will come before the court shortly.

HG:eam
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