

State-Church Relations

A reliable, but unconfirmed report from Warsaw was received yesterday giving fuller details of the recent search of seminary libraries conducted by government commissions (cf. Situation Report September 1). The bishops were reportedly asked to submit rosters of teachers and students of all seminaries. In addition, they were asked to provide curriculum vitae of both teachers and students.

Furthermore, an introduction of courses in Marxism and Leninism as well as courses on tax law were ordered by the commissions which, according to Die Welt, were searching for Pope Pius XII Encyclical on communism. The seminaries were also obliged to submit book catalogues, according to report. Bishops were alleged to have opposed the search and the directives. In some cases, the seminaries were sealed according to the homeland source.

Research is being made here to locate either the order of the Ministry of Higher Education or by the Council of Ministers which might have appeared in the legal monitor sometime this year. The order, if issued, would give a "legal basis" for the supervision to which the government claims to have a right. It might confer on them the status of professional lay schools which, as we know, are subordinate to the Ministry of Higher Education.

The order to submit book catalogues might have been given to expedite the search for such materials as the Encyclical. It will be recalled that the 1958 search of the Jasna Gora (Czestochowa) monastery conducted on the eve of the Day of Rebirth (communist) July 22 uncovered brochures describing the 1920 Miracle on the Vistula which, according to the national legend, saved Warsaw from an attack by the Red Army led by Tukhachevsky. The current government search may be motivated by the same desire to curb what the government terms "criminal activity" aimed against the present political system (PAP, July 29, 1958 communique after the Jasna Gora raid).

The demand to be shown a roster of students and teachers could be connected with the oft reasserted right of the state to draft seminarists in the army. The courses in Marxism and Leninism are being introduced in all lay schools of advanced learning this year, and the additional requirement of teaching would amount to driving home a point of controversy from some time now.

Academic knowledge of the tax regulations, if required of seminarists, would deny clergy the benefit of doubt when they are faced with exorbitant tax burden which the state imposes on church buildings, foreign aid, and even donations by the faithful.

World War Two Anniversary

The topic is monopolizing all news media, with some overtones not unlike those heard in the pre-1956 propaganda. One of the sharpest anti-German sallies (obliquely striking at the US) may be found in E. Osmanczyk's Commentary of the Day (Radio Warsaw I, September 1). The commentator lauded to the athletic achievements of the East European participants at the Rome Olympics despite the war-time physical destruction by Nazi Germany inflicted on the nations they represent.

In order to dramatize the danger of West German revanchism, the author went so far as to state that "the former Hitlerite criminal and today Adenauer's general in the command of NATO Hans Speidel, during the Olympic Year September, 1960, evaluated the world situation (this was happening in Washington) and tried to persuade Americans that the socialist countries of the East have now entered their weak years, years of a demographic low, due to the blows dealt during the war by the Hitlerite Wehrmacht. The commentary obliquely attacked the US, since that country is said to have played host to a "war criminal".

French and West German press dealing with the anti-German campaign in Poland; Belgian answer to the diplomatic note to NATO nations sent out by Poland; and the Oder and Neisse problem are all being forwarded in the clear.

Pouched: (1) Trybuna Ludu (August 25), b.rof. on the introduction of courses on Marxism and Leninism in the universities;
(2) Glos Pracy (August 23), kd. on the labor turn-over;
(3) Zycie Warszawy (August 24) on the diminishing percentage of income spent on industrial consumer goods (see yesterday's situation report for discussion);
(4) Zycie Warszawy (August 25), l.k. on the sources of difficulties in the export industry.
(5) Zycie Literackie (August 28), J. Blonski's very interesting review critical of the US literature, especially on the significant effect it has had in molding the writings and literary tastes of Polish artists and readers.