

HUNGARY CELEBRATES ST. STEPHEN'S (CONSTITUTION) DAY

Budapest, Aug. 20-(Reuters)-Thousands of Hungarian Roman Catholics crowded the great Basilica here today, overflowing into the square outside for a special mass in honor of St. Stephen, Hungary's royal patron saint. A relic, believed to be the holy right arm of the saint, lay illuminated near the main altar in a golden reliquary. Bishop Andre Hamvas of Csanad, who conducted the service, walked down the packed aisle giving his blessing afterwards in scarlet and crimson robes. He was applauded as he climbed into his Russian-built car.

Meanwhile, the Communist Hungarian authorities declared today's traditional national holiday to be in honor of the 10th anniversary of the Communist Constitution.

Another service in the Basilica tonight is to be conducted by the acting head of the Roman Catholic Church in Hungary, Archbishop Jozsef Groesz. Less than a mile from the Basilica the former Primate of Hungary, Jozsef Cardinal Mindszenty, celebrated mass virtually alone behind the walls of the American Legation where he has lived cut off from the world, in political asylum, since the crushing of the 1956 Hungarian uprising.

Long articles in the official press by Premier Ferenc Muemich and President Istvan Dobi extolled 10 years of Communist rule in Hungary. Official programs of sports and public festivity have been arranged throughout the country to mark the holiday.