

RADIO FREE EUROPE
MUNICH

OUTGOING CIPHER MESSAGE

OCT 18

13:50 TO: 0

MUN 41 18 OCT 67

TO RICHARDSON INFO WALTER KAUFMANN SCHNEIDER
FM DURKEE INFO COLLINS (ACTING FOR WALTER) COOK

18/1333.

REGARDING MINDSZENTY QUESTION, WE ARE SENDING YOU,
BY SEPARATE MESSAGE, OUR SUMMARY OF PRESS REPORTS TO
DATE. LAST NIGHT WE BROADCAST BRIEF NEWSCAST LIMITED
TO KOENIG VISIT WITH NO REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE CHANGE
OF MINDSZENTY STATUS. TODAY WE ARE BROADCASTING THE
FOLLOWING:

MUNICH, OCT 18 (CNR) WESTERN NEWS AGENCIES REPORTING FROM
VIENNA AND BUDAPEST HAVE REPORTED RENEWED SPECULATION ON
THE FUTURE OF THE HUNGARIAN PRIMATE, JOZEF CARDINAL MINDSZENTY.

HOWEVER, THEIR REPORTS CONFLICT ON MAJOR POINTS.

THE SPECULATION FOLLOWS THE VISIT TO CARDINAL MINDSZENTY
YESTERDAY BY THE ARCHBISHOP OF VIENNA, FRANZ CARDINAL KOENIG,
WHO FLEW TO BUDAPEST DIRECTLY FROM ROME, WHERE HE HAS BEEN
ATTENDING THE BISHOPS SYNOD. CARDINAL KOENIG LAST VISITED
CARDINAL MINDSZENTY LESS THAN TWO WEEKS AGO.

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL REPORTED FROM BUDAPEST THAT
THERE WAS SPECULATION THAT CARDINAL MINDSZENTY WOULD END
HIS EXILE IN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY THERE.

REUTERS SAID IN A BUDAPEST DISPATCH THAT RENEWED
SPECULATION ABOUT THE CARDINAL'S FUTURE HAD GROWN FOLLOWING
KOENIG'S VISIT.

REUTER QUOTED AMERICAN OFFICIALS AS SAYING THAT THEY WERE
UNABLE TO CONFIRM RUMORS THAT KOENIG WAS EXPECTED TO FLY BACK
TO ROME WITH A MESSAGE FROM MINDSZENTY.

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REUTER ALSO QUOTED MEMBERS OF KOENIG'S STAFF IN VIENNA AS
SAYING THAT KOENIG'S DIRECT FLIGHT FROM ROME TO BUDAPEST
WAS UNUSUAL AND COULD POINT TO SOME IMMINENT DECISION
ABOUT MINDSZENTY.

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, ALSO REPORTING FROM BUDAPEST, QUOTED
DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES AS SAYING THAT CARDINAL KOENIG WOULD
INFORM CARDINAL MINDSZENTY OF THE HAPPENINGS AT THE SYNOD,
BUT ADDED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THE QUESTION OF CARDINAL
MINDSZENTY'S POSITION WOULD COME UP ONCE MORE.

THE WEST GERMAN NEWS AGENCY, DPA, REPORTED FROM VIENNA THAT
THE FACT THAT CARDINAL KOENIG HAD FLOWN DIRECT FROM ROME
TO BUDAPEST STRENGTHENED RUMORS THAT A SOLUTION TO CARDINAL
MINDSZENTY'S POSITION LAY AHEAD.

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ALTHOUGH WE OF COURSE SHALL SUBMIT ANY COMMENTARIES
FOR YOUR APPROVAL, IF DEVELOPMENTS SEEM TO REQUIRE COMMENTARY,
IT WOULD GREATLY FACILITATE OUR PREPARATION IF YOU HAVE
ANY COMMENT.

END MSG