

From Press Conference Sept 14

Catholic Priests in the National Assembly

The Reuter correspondent then asked: "On 6th September, the Vatican published a decree dated 16th July, prohibiting Roman Catholic priests in Hungary to be Deputies in the National Assembly and ordering priests who were Deputies to resign their mandates within a month. Has the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs anything to say about this? Can he state how many priests are affected by the decree and whether they have resigned from the National Assembly?"

The answer was: "State approval is needed for the promulgation and implementation of Vatican decrees. To my knowledge the Hungarian State has not given its approval to the promulgation and implementation of the said decree in Hungary, because it does not apply to the religious activities of the Roman Catholic Church, or to the ecclesiastical functions of the Catholic priests, but is a very secular and political decree. It therefore constitutes obvious interference in the internal affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic."