

19 December 1957

The following supplementary information already available in the press concerning two trials currently under way which, although open to the public, had not been mentioned in the local press as recently as two days ago.

The first concerns the trial of Egon Turcsanyi whose trial started 3 December on the second floor of Marko Utca Court under the presiding Judge Matild Toth assisted by two Peoples Assessors. These proceedings are expected to last until the end of January. With Turcsanyi who, it is expected, will receive a severe sentence, are sixteen young seminarians or priests between the ages of 20 and 26. The names of these sixteen are: Antal Kuklai, Kabolcs Vigh, Gyula Venucz, Istvan Tabody, Imre Varju, Karoly Marcheschi, Ferenc Mazner, Laszlo Istvan, Jano Nagy, Tibor Brunner, Istvan Fabian, Istvan Pavlics, Arpad Nep, Jozef Schimmer and Sandor Toldi.

In addition there is one defendant who is not a priest, Pal Lichovsky, who is a former Lieutenant Colonel in the artillery, who is accused of having looted files from the State Office of Church Affairs.

The second trial which opened on 16 December at the Budapest Marko Utca Court, consists of 18 workers from the Czepel Factory beneath Judge Laszlo Bela, assisted by two Peoples Assessors. Present at this trial are thirteen defendants; five workers are being tried in absentia. The charges are counter-revolutionary activity, including the killing of a Major. The death sentence can be expected in several cases judging by the preliminary proceedings.