

Secret

2-20-75
Jespak

1. The late Pope Pius XI had started a program in order to deal with the Soviets. It consisted of the following:
 - 1) To establish good relations with Moscow, in order to permit Ukrainian Catholic Bishops and Priests to act in their religious tasks.
 - 2) The union with Rome of the Oriental or Greek Orthodox Church, which had been practically destroyed by the Revolution.
2. Two men besides the Pope, worked on these matters. Cardinal Gasparri, and Cardinal Tacci. They were helped by a Catholic Ukrainian priest, Rev. Nicolai Bracko.
3. Russia was represented unofficially by a Mr. Balitzski.
4. Between Mr. Balitzski and the Secretary of State of the Vatican it was agreed that:
 - a) The Holy See, would get freedom to open Churches and have Catholic Bishops and Priests in the Ukraine, but that nobody could be named by the Pope to any office, without the agreement or consent of the Soviet Government. And ~~that~~ further developments of the Catholic Church in Russia would be carefully considered.
 - b) That the Vatican would not favor any Ukraine propaganda for severance from Russia, and would stop any anti-Soviet propaganda. (The Republic of Ukrain had been proclaimed in 1921, and until some years ago an Ukrainian Directorate and a regular administration was in Poland, under the ruling of Mr. A. Livitsky.)
 - c) Pope Pius XIth. died, the Spanish revolution and World War #2 stopped these conversations.
5. As soon as Cardinal Pacelli became Pope, the conversations were resumed, and this time under the auspices of Cardinal Tisserant. The principal points are:
 - 1) Russia would not object about Catholic propaganda both in Russia and the Ukraine.
 - 2) Russia would count on the Vatican's help in order to solve the Polish affair.
 - 3) Russia would postpone any dealings concerning the union of the Greek Orthodox Church with Rome, but would not be against a so called "Alliance" between them. This idea would never meet with the Holy See's approval.
 - 4) Russia would not oppose the re-establishment of kings in both Poland and Austria, as well as, in other countries, if they made treaties with Russia for mutual defense.
 - 5) Russia would like to see the Vatican stop every kind of propaganda against the Soviet Government.

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THE FOLLOWING ARE THE VISIBLE CHANGES IN THE HOLY SEE'S ATTITUDE.

- a) The Osservatore Romano, official Vatican organ, has practically stopped all its attacks against Russia, and lately has expressed the opinion that an agreement with Russia and Poland may be more than possible.
- b) In all his speeches, the Pope has refrained from speaking against social programs that could be taken as an attack against Russia.
- c) The Prisoner Office in the Vatican is in contact with some Russian offices in order to get cooperation and information. Catholic Priests have left Rome, on their way to Russia.
- d) People well connected with the Vatican are calling more than often on the Russian Embassy in Rome, and the Catholic members of the Bonomi Cabinet, together with other Catholic high officials were at the same embassy on November 27th, to celebrate the anniversary of the Russian Revolution.

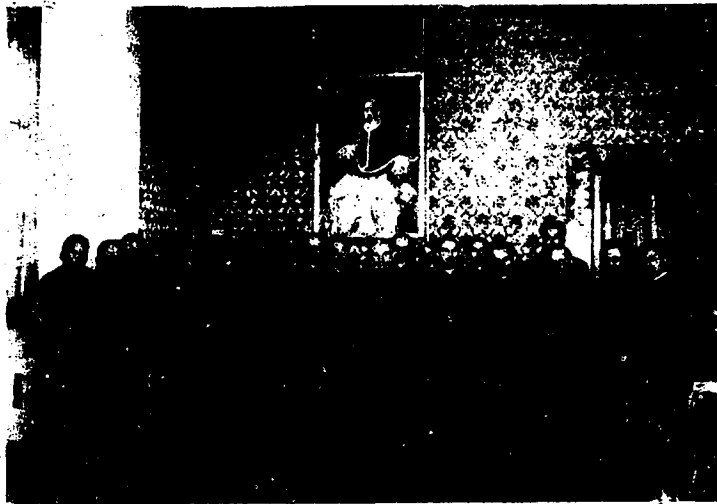
Notwithstanding all these manifestations, there is no representative of the Russian Government in the Vatican, but it can't be denied, that somebody is working on this matter, in Rome, whether he lives at the Vatican or not.

6. Cardinal Tisserant had several meetings with General Juin in Rome, and General de Gaulle in France. Now that the Vatican has recognized the provisional Government of General de Gaulle, and that the Russian Mgr. Valeri will be called back to Rome, things will be easier, and there is no doubt, according to informants, that the French Government, and the Vatican will work hand in hand, in their dealings with Russia.

The majority of the Vatican officials of ecclesiastic circles are either against accord with Russia, or absolutely skeptical about its possibility.

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