

10-5-1946 RO
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SUBJECT: Soviet-Vatican Relations

SOURCE: *Kilbrany*

SECRET

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1. The following additional information from the highest leaders of Russian affairs in the Vatican have been obtained:

*RAC
return of
Mr. V. ...*

A. The last secret dealings between the Vatican and Soviet Russia were made through Berlin in 1926-27, but failed.

B. There are two Catholic priests clandestinely in Russia. However, at present they have no communication with the outside world. Their duty is to contact the few Catholics in Russia and gather information on the religious situation. Last information from and about these two priests was in December 1945.

C. The Pope feels that the American policy, particularly, towards Russia will be the same as the policy of the Western world toward Hitler. Several times source has been told that many American agencies are filled with Communists and because of unpreparedness on the part of the U.S. and Great Britain, these countries will shortly be faced with unchangeable facts from Russia.

D. The Vatican does now want war and this is the reason they are dealing with the Soviets even without much hope.

E. The Vatican and the Holy ~~See~~ ^{Father} will make no declarations which basically would hurt the Soviet. Even in his encyclica about the persecution in the Ukraine, the Pope avoided calling on the Ukrainians to offer resistance. The Vatican will not discuss frontier questions concerning Russia, Poland, Ukraine, Hungary, Rumania, etc. and would be satisfied with a minimum of freedom for the church.

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F. A German Jesuit who is one of the aides of Padre Leiber on Russian questions, will be sent to the Russian-occupied zone in Germany shortly to assist the German clergy in contacting the Russians.

G. Meantime, Soviet Russia is using the Russian Orthodox church to weaken Western and Catholic influence in the newly-occupied territories. About two-months ago 11 representatives of Patriarch Alexei were sent to Czechoslovakia and Jugoslavia. Their chief tasks were:

a) to convince the Yugoslav Orthodoxy and the Czech National church to unite themselves with the Russian church and recognize Alexei's supremacy,

b) to persuade the Yugoslav and Czech factions to make declarations against the Vatican and the Pope.

As far as these two points were concerned, the Russian mission was a failure, because recognition of Alexei's supremacy was refused; also the two groups refused to say anything against the Vatican.

H. High Vatican officials consider these refusals a sign of spiritual resistance by the non-Russian Orthodoxy, due largely to the bad behavior of the Russian armies in Eastern Europe.