

Petr S. Deriabian testified that in the MGB in Moscow "there was a section O of the state security. The chief of that section was General Karpov, and under him was every security officer in the region and the Province sections, or subsections O. This subsection was taking care of all activities of Baptists and religious orders" (May 5, 1959, page 2).

II.

Nikodim said: "All those who speak about the subservient role of the Church are either uninformed or else they know the facts and do not speak the truth."

Yuri Rastvorov testified concerning the position of chairman of the religious committee of the Council of Ministers of the USSR: "Practically they keep the church under complete control . . . Well, they handle the church affairs in the Soviet Union. . . . The church depended on the Government of the Soviet Union. And I just don't know what to add to this" (April 12, 1956, pages 781, 782).

Petr S. Deriabian: "It is impossible in the Soviet Union to serve God without serving the state security. You give some information for state security about religious activities; otherwise you cannot attend the church. . . . All church activity was subjected and subjugated under an arm of the state" (May 5, 1959, page 7).

III.

Nikodim said: "Every monastery has its churches. The monks have every possibility to speak about anything they want to from the pulpit of their churches."

Petr S. Deriabian testified: "Each republic, for instance, has a section or a subsection [MGB, the Ministry of State Security]. It is according to the religious activity in each republic. If there is more

religious activities in some area, there are more. And each Province has General Karpov's officers in every city, where they work in KGB, taking care of all church activities or activists' work. Most of the priests in the Soviet Union, and the religious people who help the priests, they are some kind of agents of KGB or the MGB, or were at that time" (May 5, 1959, page 7).

IV.

Nikodim said: "It is necessary to say that we in the Church are also independent in our inner life. There is no possibility of speaking about approval or disapproval by the state of the actions of the church."

Yuri Rastvorov testified: "When the Government permitted the Orthodox Church to operate more freely, the church organized seminaries, . . . many people — from MVD headquarters were sent to the seminaries as students. . . . They sent officers, counterintelligence officers, to these seminaries, and later they became bishops in many churches in the Soviet Union."

Question by the interrogator, "And actually, they were members of the Soviet Security Police?"

Mr. Rastvorov replied, "They were members; they were officers of MVD, pure counterintelligence officers in MVD" (April 14, 1956, page 781).

Petr S. Deriabian testified, "When the state security recruited priests and ministers as their agents, they always said, 'You will serve us or we will put you in jail, according to your activities.'"

The questioner asked, "Did I understand you correctly to say that it was the objective to recruit as agents, if possible, all of these candidates for the priesthood?"

Mr. Deriabian replied, "That is right."

Questioner, "You got as many as you could, and tried to get them all?"

Mr. Deriabian, "You are right."

Questioner: "Well now, suppose there was a young man studying for the priesthood and they could not recruit him. What happened? Was he allowed to go ahead and complete his studies and become a priest, or did they bring some kind of pressure to bear on him?"

Mr. Deriabian: "Well, if it happens like this, they will get some kind of information on him, or they will take his papers, and we will say that his course is filled up; and they will say, 'We cannot take you'" (May 5, 1959, pages 7 and 9).

V.

Nikodim declared that there was complete religious freedom in the Soviet Union: "By the government decree of 1918 the church is separate from the state and in the constitution accepted in 1936 it was repeated once again."

The Rastvorov hearing, April 12, presents Exhibit No. 227 from the Communist *Daily Worker* magazine, April 3, 1949, "The Truth About Religion in the Soviet Union," by Georgi Karpov, chairman of the council for the affairs of the Russian Orthodox Church. The position taken by Nikodim is the same as presented here. "Along with the other civil liberties guaranteed by the Constitution of the U.S.S.R., the full freedom of religious worship is enjoyed by the people of the U.S.S.R. . . .

"Under that decree [January 23, 1918, signed by V. I. Lenin], church property, such as real estate, and enterprises which were operated for profit, were nationalized. Church buildings and objects especially intended for religious service,