

this. Dean Ladislav Pap told director Nolde that, in case Bishop John Peter would be prevented by his entrance conditions from participating in the Chicago celebrations, all members of the Hungarian delegation wish to refrain from attending. Thereupon Director Nolde said that he himself, in his own automobile, will take Bishop John Peter, as his guest, to Chicago in order to obviate eventual difficulties."

According to the *Hungarian Church Press*, August 15, 1955, Peter served on the WCC's central committee: "At the meeting of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches in Davos, Switzerland, the Hungarian Reformed Church was represented by Bishop Janos Peter and the Hungarian Lutheran Church by Bishop Lajos Veto, Ph.D., D.D. . . .

"The Central Committee elected Bishop Janos Peter as a member of the Commission on the Relation between State and Community. . . .

"At the session of the European Section and of the Executive Committee of the World Presbyterian Alliance. . . . the European Section elected Bishop Janos Peter as a Vice President."

The February 15, 1956 issue of the *Hungarian Church Press* reports at length Peter's report on the church situation to the Hungarian Parliament. He said:

"The Government of our People's Republic has never in any way impeded but by granting the necessary travel permits and giving foreign currency, has rather promoted these church activities. It is also in the course of these events that the Hungarian Protestant Churches invited the World Council of Churches for a session of its Central Committee in this year in Hungary when about 150 foreign church guests would come to this country for a week."

On October 23, 1956 the Freedom Fighters made their break

for a free Hungary. The top church leaders installed by the Communists were all repudiated and removed, including Bishop Peter. He was openly called a "dirty man."

Following the deposition by the Freedom Fighters, Peter took the position in the Communist Government in charge of cultural relations. He reports in the *Hungarian Church Press* of February 1, 1958 his activities in 1957 and 1958 as follows:

"In January I was in Czechoslovakia in order to talk with all the church leaders. In February I was again over there but that time for working out the cultural plan of works for this year between Czechoslovakia and Hungary and for signing it. Parallel with it I had talks with the Czech leaders of that place either. In the elapsed 12 months I was in the Soviet Union, too, for negotiating about the plan of work for cultural relations of this year. In the middle of November, immediately after the counter-revolution I was in Helsinki, on the session of the Bureau of the World Peace Council. Since that time I have signed the cultural agreement between Egypt and Hungary; I had negotiated in India, Ceylon, Burma, Indonesia, Syria, Egypt, Sudan and represented Hungary on the London conference of the Interparliamentary Union, and on Monday I left the General Assembly of the U.N.O. for Hungary after a 3 months' American sojourn."

Now he is leading the defense of Communist Hungary in the United Nations for the Hungarian Government.

If factual documentation of this kind will not be heeded by Christian people of the United States, there is little hope of ever cleansing the churches of the world of Communist infiltration and Communist leadership which is determined to use the churches in the struggle to win the world for Communism.

nominations during his stay here. As an international advocate of the Communist-line "peace" movement, he has visited India and other parts of the world.

The Hungarian delegation has refused to disclose Dr. Peter's biographical data. Hungarian exiles here say he was born at Balmazujvaros, a small town near Debrecen, sixty-one years ago. Accord-

ing to some reports his family is of German stock.

Dr. Peter was educated in Debrecen and graduated from the reformed seminary there. He is married and has at least two daughters and is believed to be a grandfather.

Recently his comfortable East Side hotel was picketed by Hungarian exiles carrying signs reading "Quisling" and "Once a Nazi, Now a Com-

(Photographed from New York Times of December 9, 1959)

Reds' Cleric-Diplomat

Janos Peter



The New York Times

International advocate of the Communist-line peace movement.

(Dr. Peter at the United Nations yesterday)

Special to The New York Times.

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 8—Dr. Janos Peter, First Deputy Foreign Minister of the Hungarian Communist regime, who was a key figure in the United Nations debate today on his country, was like Talleyrand, a bishop before becoming a diplomat. The comparison with

Man
in the
News

Napoleon's subtle, cunning and versatile Foreign Minister apparently does not stop here. Anti-Red Hungarians describe Dr. Peter as one of the most astute propagandists in the Communist camp. Diplomats and United Nations staff members who have been approached by Dr. Peter found the stately, white-haired acting chief of the Hungarian delegation mild-mannered and urbane. When he spoke in the General Assembly in his heavily accented English, he seemed sorry to have to assail the West in strong language.

He wore clerical garb on his first recorded visit to the United States in 1954. The then Rt. Rev. Dr. Peter was representing the Hungarian Reformed Church at the second assembly of the World Council of Churches in Evanston, Ill. The appearance of a churchman from behind the Iron Curtain attracted much interest, and the bishop, while denying that he was a Communist, sought to convince fellow Protestants that his country enjoyed complete religious freedom.

Red Pressure Alleged

Dr. Peter was then Bishop of Debrecen, Hungary's "Calvinist Rome," the religious center of the nation's Prot-

estants, who account for about a fifth of the population in a predominantly Roman Catholic country. He had been elected to this important see and as presiding bishop in 1948. Hungarian exiles here say "terrific Communist pressure" led to his elevation.

These sources voice the conviction that Dr. Peter, allegedly a Nazi sympathizer before and during the initial stages of World War II, was in contact with the Communist secret police once the Soviet Army had occupied Hungary.

He served as secretary to Zoltan Tildy, the first post-war President of Hungary, between 1946 and 1948. Mr. Tildy, a leader of the Smallholders party, was deposed in 1948 and imprisoned.

As Bishop of Debrecen, Dr. Peter is said to have purged the church of anti-Communist pastors. He resigned during the Hungarian uprising in the autumn of 1956, leaving it to the synod to define his status as a minister. After the Soviet Army crushed the rebellion, Dr. Peter, making clear that he still regarded himself as a clergyman, was one of the first members of his church to give public support to the Communist regime of Janos Kadar.

Took Off Clerical Collar

Dr. Peter was asked by the synod to resume his post in Debrecen. He declined, divested himself of his clerical collar and was appointed Deputy Foreign Minister.

He has continued to show considerable interest in religious affairs at home and abroad. He is said to be attempting to establish contacts with various Christian de-