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**SPIRITUAL ALLIANCE
AND PRACTICAL COLLABORATION
BETWEEN THE VATICAN AND THE REVISIONIST CLIQUES**

«ZËRI I POPULLIT»

Two prelates of the Vatican, the arch-bishops Casaroli and Poggi have been visiting Czechoslovakia and Poland, respectively. Their meetings and talks with the official and religious circles of these countries were centered on finding new ways and means to strengthen the positions of the obscurantist clergy and to promote the relations and collaboration between the centre of medioeval obscurantism and the new Czechoslovak and Polish bourgeoisie. According to the Czechoslovak revisionist news agency «ÇETEKA», the talks in Prague, were held in a «frank realistic and positive» atmosphere. On the other hand, the Polish revisionist newspaper, «Zycie Warszawy» wrote in connection with the visit of the other missionary of the «Holy See», that archbi-

shop Poggi's visit to Poland will contribute to the further progress of the process of normalisation not only as a result of his talks and meeting with the representatives of the Polish authorities, but also as a result of his direct contacts with the clergy».

The visits of emissaries of the Vatican to these countries are now quite usual and welcomed by the revisionist cliques. This is because there is conformity of interests between the new revisionist bourgeoisie and clerical reaction at home and abroad. In all the countries in which the revisionists are in power today, religion, as an organic part of the superstructure, has that same role and mission it has had through the centuries: the sanctification of the power of the rulers, be

they feudals, bourgeois or revisionists and the spiritual enslavement of the working masses, the general curbing of all revolutionary and progressive movement. «On the general background of bourgeois degeneration», comrade Enver Hoxha has pointed out referring to the situation in the revisionist countries, «because of the internal and external political circumstances, indeed using even the church for social imperialist aims, religious propaganda is being extended there, churches and the clergy are increasing, the reactionary, old obscurantist rubbish of the Middle Ages is being revived». Now, in the Soviet Union and the other revisionist countries, religion and its institutions have gained complete freedom of action. The new Soviet bourgeoisie has sup-

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ported and financed the construction of churches in all parts of the country. Today the Soviet Union has 7,500 parishes and 73 dioceses. In Poland there are, at present 27 arch-dioceses and dioceses with 7,000 parishes. In recent years alone, 500 churches have been reconstructed and 600 new ones have been built in Poland. In Hungary, too, the advent to power of the revisionists, brought happy days, also for clerical obscurantism and Jesuitism. The head of the Hungarian revisionists himself, Kadar, has declared that «the Roman catholic church is striving to find its place in this modern world».

The revival of religion as an obscurantist ideology and counter-revolutionary and reactionary practice is connected with the entire process of the capitalist degeneration which has occurred in the Soviet Union and in the other revisionist countries of Eastern Europe. Its extension and development are a necessity to defend the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, to befuddle the proletariat and the other labouring masses of these countries and keep them in ignorance and darkness. «The idea of god», V.I. Lenin points out, «has always lulled to sleep and stupefied «social feelings» replacing the living with the dead, and is always the idea of slavery (the worst slavery without any way out). The idea of god has never «linked

the individual with society», but has always tied up the oppressed classes with belief in the divine character of the oppressors». In the present day conditions the clergy, whether of the west or of the east is adapting itself to the new internal and external circumstances, and its propaganda has become more sophisticated and dangerous. In the revisionist countries the clergy is training large contingents of priests, preachers and demagogues of obscurantism with university diplomas. The Soviet Union has religious seminaries and universities in Moscow, Leningrad, Odessa, and elsewhere. Zagorsk, in the vicinity of Moscow, otherwise called the Russian Vatican, has been transformed into a centre where hundreds of priests are trained for the parishes in the Soviet Union.

In view of the extension and preaching of religious ideology the bourgeoisie of the revisionist countries has also encouraged the setting up of a whole network of mass media. In the Soviet Union religious obscurantist literature is published and sold. In Poland there are a number of press organs which are directly administered by the Roman catholic clergy.

The attitude of the revisionist cliques towards internal clerical reaction has also led to the strengthening of collaboration with the chief centre of medieval obscurantism, the Vatican. Many revisionist chieftains ha-

ve visited the Pontiff's palace. The epoch of close political collaboration between the clerical reaction and the Soviet social imperialists which was opened by Khrushchov, has been even more zealously continued by the Brezhnev clique which has sent Podgorny, to see the Pope, and Gromyko, too, on several occasions. On the other hand, the revisionist cliques of Eastern Europe, on Moscow's example, did not lag behind in this direction. The revisionist Ministers and the emissaries of the «Holy See» come and go.

The Soviet social imperialists and the other revisionist partners need the services of the clergy and the Vatican, not only to befuddle and mislead the toiling masses in their countries, but also to spread the pacifist wind of capitulation and the spirit of reconciliation and compromise in the international arena. The various demagogic imperialist-revisionist conferences being held in Europe now, and the bilateral Soviet-US talks, have united the preachers of imperialism, revisionism, and the Vatican, in a single chorus. The «Holy See» has begun to take an active part in the discussion of many problems of present-day international relations. Casaroli, who is known in fact, as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Vatican, during his recent visit to Czechoslovakia, talked with deputy Premier Lukan and Foreign Minister Hnousek, also about a series of in-

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ternational problems and, particularly, about European problems. In connection with these talks the Czechoslovak revisionist news agency «ÇETEKA», pointed out that the two sides «had identical or very similar views about the majority of the problems discussed». This identity of views is not accidental,

but stems from their having the same class character, from their common interests and aims.

The revival of religious obscurantist ideology and the strengthening of ties and collaboration with the Vatican are one of the aspects of the process of counterrevolutionary changes in the degeneration of the revisionist

countries into capitalist countries. But neither the fascist violence and revisionist demagoggy, nor the preachings of the local priests and the popes of the Vatikan will be able to enslave the souls of the peoples of these countries in their efforts to win real freedom and socialism. —