

DR. BLACK CONDEMNS SOFIA CHURCH TRIAL

Dr. Floyd H. Black, president of Robert College and of the American College for Girls in Istanbul, Turkey, yesterday revealed that he had helped obtain a one-year-theological scholarship in New York for the chief defendant in Bulgaria's spy trial who recently "confessed" that his espionage was inspired by a meeting with Dr. Black in 1932.

It was in that year, from 1932-1933, that the Rev. Vasil Ziapkov, leader of the fifteen Bulgarian Protestant ministers on trial in Sofia on espionage charges, studied at the Union Theological Seminary here on a scholarship obtained largely through the influence of Dr. Black. At that time Dr. Black was president of the American College of Sofia.

The Rev. Mr. Ziapkov, pastor of the First Evangelical Church in Sofia, obtained his "master of sacred theology" (S. T. M.) degree from the Union Theological Seminary in New York in 1934.

Dr. Black and his only son, Cyril E. Black, Professor of Russian History at Princeton University, were accused by Sofia defendants of inspiring their "confessed" espionage activities.

Dr. Black denounced the trial and said that the Communist regime in Sofia hoped to liquidate the Protestant church and terrorize the Orthodox Bulgarian churches in the country in order to subjugate the church generally to the state. He also charged that the trial was part of the Bulgarian Government's attempt to discredit the Anglo-American world.