

In U. S., British Notes

Three Satellites Denounced As Treaty Clause Violators

The United States and Great Britain bitterly denounced Bulgaria, Rumania and Hungary yesterday for violations of "human rights" clauses of their World War II peace treaties.

The denunciations followed by one day the voicing of charges by Secretary of State Dean Acheson that eastern European Communist governments have set up "a godless inquisition" to destroy religious freedom.

"What appears to be a brutal threat to freedom of thought, conscience and religion has been developed by the authoritarian regimes which control eastern European peoples," Acheson said in a statement.

In yesterday's formal action United States envoys, acting also for Canada, handed notes to the governments of the three Balkan countries.

Great Britain, speaking also for Australia and New Zealand, sent almost identical notes to the former German satellites now under Communist control.

Canada, Australia and New Zealand supported the action.

The protesting nations thus

started the machinery for settling disputes, provided in the treaties themselves. A dispute is first referred to America, British and Soviet representatives in the satellite capitals.

If they fail to reach agreement within two months, the dispute then may be handled to a three-member commission for settlement. One member would be named by each party to the dispute and a third chosen by mutual agreement, or by the United Nations secretary general. The commission's decision is supposed to be binding, but if it is rejected, the United States and Britain could declare the treaties void or call on the United Nations to enforce the pacts.

The accusations cited specific acts and dates of treaty violations.

Under the treaties, the former enemy states guaranteed freedom of speech, political association, and religion to their peoples.

The notes demanded that the treaty violations cease and that the three nations supply assurances that they are taking steps to live up to their obligations henceforth.

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The satellites were asked to spell out these steps.

The United States note to Hungary cited the trial of Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty and other church figures and the strict government control of the Hungarian press. It said "denial of freedom of political opinion is complete in Hungary." The British note said the trial of the cardinal was "manifestly prejudicial and improperly conducted."

The Bulgarian government was accused of "staging" the recent "notorious" trial of 15 Protestant pastors. The Romanian government was charged with liquidating the Greek Catholic (Uniate) Church.

The United States note to Romania said also that the Communist government had "deliberately and systematically denied to the Romanian people" the rights which the treaty guaranteed them.

It listed "perversions of the judicial process" and charged that "large numbers of Romanian citizens have been seized and held for long periods without public trial." Romania, the note said, has "abridged freedom of religious worship."

The British note charged Romania with regimenting the church and resorting to persecution to dissolve the Greek Catholic group which had more than one million adherents.

The protest said Juliu Maniu, veteran statesman of Romania and leader of the National Peasant Party, was sent to prison for life through use of "perverted judicial processes."

The British note to Bulgaria charged that "large numbers of citizens have been arrested and detained in custody indefinitely or sent to penal labor camps."

Democratic political leaders "have been deprived of their liberty 'by perverted judicial process.'" the note said. It cited the hanging of Nikola Petkov, oppositionist leader of the National Agrarian Union.