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WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

STATEMENT ON MINDSZENTY: The following is the text of the statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Pearson, in the House of Commons on February 2, 1949, on the arrest of Cardinal Mindszenty:

The arrest of Cardinal Mindszenty announced by the Hungarian Government on December 27 has caused deep concern in all democratic nations. The Canadian Government strongly condemns and deplores this further case of religious persecution by the communist government of Hungary as it would any case of religious persecution in any country. In a broadcast on New Year's Day, the Prime Minister stated:

"Providence will not abandon men of good will. We are fortunate to be living in a land where religion is respected by all, and the religious authorities have the fullest freedom. We are all apt to take such freedom for granted.

"But the increasingly brutal persecutions of religious leaders in countries behind the Iron Curtain have shocked all civilized people.

"Such examples remind us how precious is the personal and religious freedom which is our birthright."

The day after the news of Cardinal Mindszenty's arrest was received, Canada, as a signatory of the Treaty of Peace with Hungary, took immediate steps to secure all the avail-

able information on the matter with a view to taking any action under the Peace Treaty which might be effective in halting religious persecution in Hungary.

The value of a joint declaration with other signatories of the Treaty of Peace protesting the action of the Hungarian Government in arresting Cardinal Mindszenty was examined. It was found, however, that such joint action was not possible; and indeed might have had an effect contrary to that which was desired.

In the circumstances, and acting for itself, the Government, having no diplomatic representative in Budapest, instructed our Ambassador in Washington to communicate with the Hungarian Minister there as follows:

"The Canadian Government has learned that the head of the Catholic Church in Hungary, Cardinal Mindszenty, has been arrested on charges of treason, espionage and illegal currency transactions, which, on the basis of the evidence submitted and in the light of Cardinal Mindszenty's previous record as a Hungarian patriot and fighter against oppression and tyranny, do not command respect. The Canadian Government has also learned that the Senior Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Hungary was arrested in September last on charges similar to those levelled at Cardinal Mindszenty and was sentenced to two years in prison; and