

the social, economic or moral sphere. The limitation or even abolition of the interference of censorship is needed. It is being demanded at present by all people who think in terms of the welfare of the nation, irrespective of ideological or socio-political orientation. The authorities must not ignore this widely expressed demand, if they really have the welfare of the nation at heart.

The Polish people, who for a thousand years have been living and growing in Christian culture, need religious literature, and most of all the Holy Scripture, which is the most important book for a believing person because it contains the living word of God. We need catechisms and religious books for children and young people. For 8,000,000 children at junior and senior schools, a total of only 300,000 copies of catechisms were published in Poland in 1977, which means that there was one catechism for 26 people. We need prayer-books, especially to prepare people for their first Communion. Older people also await them.

We are experiencing a great shortage of Catholic periodicals. We regard as such only those publications which are guided by the truths of religion and Christian morality, and which are based on Catholic social teaching. The total edition of the three Catholic weeklies, *Gosc Niedzielnny, Przewodnik Katolicki* and *Tygodnik Powszechny*, amounts to only 190,000 copies, while the demand for these periodicals reaches many millions. It cannot be deemed normal when

Catholics cannot purchase Catholic periodicals and religious books. A Catholic society feels the need for at least one independent Catholic daily.

Just treatment of believing people demands that the Church be allowed to transmit on radio and television the Holy Mass, with a sermon on Sundays and church holidays. This is necessary in particular for those who, for various reasons, cannot physically take part in this most important miracle of the Church.

The Episcopate has appealed many times to the authorities to allow broadcasts by radio of religious programmes for those who are ill and suffering. We have the right to expect the voice of millions of believing citizens of our country to be heard.

Considering the need, or indeed the duty, to supplement information by using other sources, we encourage you to use Vatican Radio, which broadcasts church news, speeches of the Pope and religious conferences.

Putting before you our worries, we wish that they may become your concern as well. We shall all act on them and, above all, we shall pray to Him who is the Lord of Heaven and Earth and who controls all things. We join you in this sincere prayer and we bless you in the name of the Holy Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, Amen.

THE 164TH PLENARY CONFERENCE OF THE  
POLISH EPISCOPATE.  
SIGNED BY CARDINALS, ARCHBISHOPS AND  
BISHOPS OF POLAND.

## Polish Censorship Instructions

*A collection of instructions for Polish censors was smuggled out of Poland last year. These secret documents have been published by Aneks, a Polish political quarterly (61 Dorset Road, London W.5.) under the title Czarna Ksiega Cenzury PRL (The Black Book of Polish Censorship). The section which deals with religious matters is published for the first time in English translation (© Keston College) with the kind permission of the publishers.*

### PART X: RELIGIOUS MATTERS

1. All criticism of Marxism should be deleted from religious publications. The-

oretical treatises with polemical comments relating to the Marxist concept of religion, communism, the individual and society, can only be published in specialized books on philosophical and theological problems, and in the following specialized journals:

*Collectanea Theologica*  
*Yearbook of the Academy of Christian Theology*  
*Studia Philosophiae Christianae*  
*Studia Theologica Varsoviensia*  
*Zeszyty Naukowe* (The scientific papers) of the Catholic University of Lublin

2. The following should be eliminated from publications dealing with ideological and political matters within the context of the plurality of opinions in Polish society:

- a. All attempts to differentiate people politically by applying religious or philosophical criteria.
- b. Suggestions that believers should have privileges because of their majority position in society.
- c. Any idea that there is a "privileged" and "discriminated" worldview.
- d. Attempts to juxtapose ideology (which is socio-political) with a worldview, which belongs to the moral or philosophical category.
- e. Slogans about the desirability for "the ideological neutrality of the State" and the existence of "plurality of opinions".
- f. Slogans and opinions questioning, directly or indirectly, the rule of law (e.g. encouragement of attitudes and activities contrary to binding regulations, demagogical criticism of the law permitting abortion, etc.).
- g. Attempts to secure the influence of religious convictions in the social and political sphere, e.g. by guaranteeing a place for lay Catholics in public life.
- h. Thesis about the Catholic inspiration or enrichment of socialism.

3. The following should be excluded from publications describing the moral, social or political factors which could either influence or change public opinion:

- a. Open or disguised deprecation of non-religious values (educational programmes of secular institutions and organizations).
- b. Any attempts to link pathological symptoms in society with the limitation or eradication of religious values and any attempt to blame the authorities or secular institutions for these examples of demoralization (publishers, film producers, theatre, radio, TV).
- c. Formulations making religious convictions the primary factor in the formation of the social and political attitudes of the majority of believers.
- d. Suggesting (directly or indirectly) attitudes and activities which bear the features of a political opposition.

However, the following traditional religious motifs may appear: brotherly love; the obligation of working conscientiously; respect for health and public property; the reasons, based on religious grounds, put forward by the Catholic lay associations for the personal involvement of their members in the community in conformity with the principle of the political unity of the people. The formulation, "religious inspiration", is permitted where it has influenced either strictly individual motivation in the above sense, or cultural and artistic creativity.

4. The following should be eliminated from the publications which discuss the link between Polish nationalism and Catholicism:

- a. The identification made between Polish nationalism and Catholicism, and, in relation to this, any attempts to banish everything which is non-Catholic from the sphere of tradition and national life.
- b. The contribution of the Church to national life in the Polish Peoples' Republic.
- c. Extreme clerical interpretations of Polish history put forward in studies dealing with the Church's history.

5. The following information can be given only in conjunction with the communiqués of PAP (Polish Press Agency):

- a. Talks between the representatives of the State, the Vatican or the Episcopate.
- b. The nomination of ordinaries or apostolic administrators.

The following matters should be discussed in consultation with the Directorate of the Central Office for Control of the Press, Publications and Performances [hereafter called the Directorate, *Ed.*]:

- c. All individual attempts to interpret both the problems of the Church in Poland and relations between Poland and the Vatican.
- d. Any comments on the statements of the Episcopate or its representatives about political and social matters.
- e. Communiqués and documents of the Vatican, the Hierarchy or the Episcopate Press Office, as well as any

information based on these, such as briefings, commentaries or notes.

Information about the nomination of parish priests should be cleared first with the Department for Religious Affairs.

6. With the aim of limiting the range of Church initiatives directed against secular society, either from the Church or the parish, under the banner of pastoral care – the following criteria are to be used in limiting the popularization of such initiatives in religious publications:

A. Only in the official publications of the Episcopate, and the Curia, and in the diocesan liturgical calendars may the following appear:

a. Articles describing various forms of pastoral ministry among specific groups in society, such as professional bodies and families, as well as any internal Church organizations which concern themselves with these activities.

1. Association of Helpers of Mary
2. Apostolic Youth Groups – The Oasis Movement
3. Young Voluntary Helpers
4. Catechetical Helpers
5. Family Life Counsellors
6. Parish Helpers
7. Catechists

b. Information about the internal structure of Church organizations which deal with voluntary activities such as anti-alcoholic or charitable associations (including any other groups of instructors, counsellors or helpers).

c. Information about less traditional activities, organized with the help of secular bodies, such as Art Festivals (e.g. Sacrosong), Exhibitions, tourist and sport events, etc.

d. The *Catechist and The Preacher's Library* (*Biblioteka Kaznodziejska*) may include strictly religious materials such as homilies aimed at professional bodies, young people and other groups in society.

B. In the rest of the Catholic press only the following is permitted:

a. Information about masses, church services or retreats which have been organized for specific social groups.

b. General information (without a description of the organization involved) about the voluntary Church activities and efforts to combat alcoholism as well as information about the work of the association, Caritas. In this context the following titles may be used. "The Apostles of Temperance" and "Parish Books of Temperance".

7. Eliminate all information about intentions to build, re-build or re-model churches and chapels, and any efforts to open new parish or monastic establishments.

All information relating to church construction, the opening of a new parish or the initiating of a monastic institution, must either be referred to the Department for Religious Affairs in the appropriate voivodship or to the Central Office for the Control of the Press, Publications and Performances.

8. Eliminate all information about the educational and propaganda centres of the Church which are in fact illegal.

- The Primate's Institute
- The Jasna Góra Institute of Mariology
- The Institute of Higher Religious Education
- The Papal Theological Faculties, also called Theological Departments, in Cracow, Poznan and Wrocław. (Note: naturally the prohibition does not apply to Theological Seminaries like KUL and ATK, or to any Papal Faculty under its proper name, i.e. The Higher Seminary for Clergy.)
- The Department for Theological Studies in Warsaw
- The affiliation of The Higher Seminary in Pelplin to the Papal Lateran University in Rome. (Note: the ban does not apply to information about the seminary in Pelplin so long as the affiliation is not mentioned.)
- The Christian Culture department at the Catholic Institute in Gietrzwałd.
- Consultation Centres of ATK in Ozarów and Czestochowa.
- Centres for Christian Knowledge.
- The Church Advisory Bureaux except for liturgical matters. (Exceptions are the diocesan offices and the liturgical calendars published by them in which information can be

- given about the information service of the sort mentioned in par. 6, part A.)
9. Eliminate the following names which describe ecclesiastical posts not mentioned in the decree "On the organization and nomination of ecclesiastical posts":
- The Vicar-economist (eliminate the word "economist")  
The Rector of Pastoral Care  
The priest concerned with the ministry among workers
10. Eliminate all terminology which suggests that the Higher Seminaries for Clergy have university status (e.g. academic years).
11. Publications based on foreign sources, or describing religious matters abroad, should not contain any material which, directly or by analogy, is subject to regulations concerning domestic religious matters.
12. Eliminate all critical references about the religious situation in the socialist bloc. Any information about religious problems in the socialist countries should be discussed with the Directorate.
13. All information about Archbishop Jan Cieplak, who died in 1925, must be eliminated.
14. When checking contributions about proposals for, or about steps already undertaken for beatification (canonization) of Poles, the following principles should be applied:
- It is permissible to allow publication only in cases where:
- the person in question does not come under another paragraph (e.g. Archbishop Cieplak).
  - it is not apparent from the context that the candidate for beatification has "distinguished himself" or suffered in the struggle against the socialist or communist movement.
- The Directorate must be informed about
- any proposition for the beatification of historical figures (rulers, politicians, scientists, etc.) or about anyone connected with Marxist ideology at some time in his life (converts from Marxism).
15. It is forbidden to publish any information about the present existence of the Uniate Church in Poland, its subordination to Cardinal Wyszyński, or any Uniate activities whatsoever.
16. Eliminate all information about the prohibitions declared by the Episcopate on cooperation with the Patriotic priests, Social organizations, Caritas and PAX.
17. All claims by church authorities concerning ecclesiastical property, now in the possession of government institutions, must be eliminated.
18. Material relating to the Second Synod of Bishops and its third session, held at the Vatican in 1974, must not contain any speculations regarding the content of Cardinal Wyszyński's speech or any assessment which emphasizes the role of Polish participants and the high quality of their contributions.
- Censors should also delete the term "Second World", often used by Cardinal Wyszyński to describe the socialist bloc. (This part was annulled on 1 March 1976)
19. The following should be ruthlessly eliminated from all Catholic publications (the official Catholic press, lay Catholic press, books, occasional publications, etc.):
- All information about help in the form of parcels (containing clothing, food, medicine) for the people of underdeveloped countries, from Catholic institutions, social organizations and donors.
20. Nothing should be published about the pilgrimage from Poland to Rome which is to take place in October 1975 in connection with the Holy Year celebrations. (see Inf. Note 10/75 & 29/75)

## Kuroedov Praises Constitution

*Since the new Constitution of the Soviet Union was accepted by the Supreme Soviet in October 1977, the Chairman*

*of the Council for Religious Affairs, Vladimir Kuroedov, has published an article in Izvestiya (28 January 1978)*