

Peace-Keeping Ops. Files of the Sec.-gen. : U Thant : Other Countries 13/06/1963-13/06/1963

Hungary - Cardinal Mindszenty

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Title **Items-in-Hungary - Cardinal Mindszenty**

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FILE NO.:

Personal and Confidential

13 June 1963

To : The Secretary-General *Chas*

From: Ralph J. Bunche

1. In response to the informal inquiry I had made several days ago, Charles Yost on morning of 13th conveyed to me the following information concerning the position of the United States Government on the issue of Cardinal Mindszenty. This information, he stressed, is given in great confidence since it is not widely known outside of a small circle in the Department of State.

2. In the United States position there is no link between the question of Cardinal Mindszenty and the Hungarian problem at the United Nations. The recent visits by Vatican representatives to Cardinal Mindszenty were for the purpose of learning his state of mind and exploring possible solutions of the problem. Thus far there is no indication that the Vatican has made up its mind on the question or has formulated any proposals regarding it.

3. The United States takes the position that the question involves only the three parties, namely Mindszenty, the Vatican and the Hungarian Government and that the United States would concur in any solution on which these three parties agreed. In this context the US role is to facilitate contact between Mindszenty and the Vatican. If the three parties should agree on a solution, the US would facilitate its implementation to the fullest extent possible. Pending any such solution, the US will continue to make the US Legation available to Cardinal Mindszenty as long as his safety requires it. But this by no means is to imply that the US is happy about the situation. The US has established some "very tough ground rules" governing Mindszenty's presence in the Legation and these preclude any political or ecclesiastical activity, with the sole exception of permitting communication between Mindszenty and the Vatican.

4. The United States would hope that more information will be forthcoming about how the amnesty is actually being carried out.

RJB