

## Editorial

# Smoking out the Third Rome

*EIR*'s editors would like to bring to the attention of readers some interesting developments behind the Iron Curtain. We cite the following items from our intelligence blotter:

- On Sept. 5, a Ukrainian-language "Radio Kiev" broadcast was delivered by "scientist Viktor Fomichenko" under the title, "Vatican Versus the Ukraine." It stated in part: "The Vatican . . . likes to dig in the past and tries, with no success, to restore the Uniate Church in the Ukraine. The unification of the West Ukraine with the U.S.S.R., and the self-dissolution of the Uniate Church at the 1946 Lvov Synod, were perceived by the Vatican as an unprecedented defeat. . . . The ideologists of Catholicism are resorting to the methods of spiritual expansion. The more so, since such tactics are in line with the policy of imperialist and reactionary circles in the West. . . ."

(The Uniate or Ukrainian Catholic Church, the largest non-Orthodox religious body inside the Soviet Union, has been outlawed by the Soviet state since 1946; Uniate Bishop Lubaschinskii, however, was recently nominated a Cardinal by the Pope.)

- In late September, a Czech party spokesman in Prague issued a harsh attack on the Vatican, saying that the Czech Catholic Church was being made a center of political opposition. The party weekly *Tvorba* wrote: "Reactionary centers would like to evoke unrest and tension and provoke what they call a permanent war between the socialist state and Churches. . . . A line of confrontation is alien to the state, but if someone forces us to adopt it, he must not expect concessions."

- Russian Orthodox Bishop Sergei, his church's representative to the World Council of Churches in Geneva, recently told a caller, "We have some difficulties with the policy of the Vatican." He listed the "difficulties": 1)

Church. 2) The Vatican's incorporation of Saints Cyril and Methodius, who converted the Slavs to Christianity, into the Roman Catholic Calendar of Saints. 3) The

Papacy's firm embrace of the *Filioque* principle of the divine potential, and therefore, sacred character of the individual life and soul.

More such incidents could be listed, but their summary meaning is: The full resources of the "Marxist-Leninist," "atheistic" Soviet party and state, and those of its satellites, are now being thrown into an embittered defense of the Russian Orthodox Church. This, in turn, is but a pale reflection of the strategic reality underlying threatened world conflict today, a reality which *EIR* first analyzed and published in September 1983: the "Third Rome" thesis.

No intelligence evaluation is competent which fails to recognize: first, that the Russian Church is not Christian; second, that the 1,000-year, culture-shaping role of the Russian Church, with its pagan doctrine of "collective soul," is the well-spring of political communism in the Soviet Union today—not Karl Marx; that therefore, third, an attack on the Russian Orthodox Church today, is an attack on the Soviet state itself, and perceived as such by the Kremlin. Finally, Soviet strategic goals today are wholly, mystically shaped by the Church's 500-year-old prophesy (of Philotheus of Pskov)

Final Roman Empire.

It is as if the initiatives of the Vatican, culminating in the present Extraordinary Synod in Rome, had forced the Kremlin leadership and its priesthood out into the open on this account, where they may be seen tightly holding hands.

As this fundamental conflict between the Churches and cultures of East and West sharpens in coming weeks and months, it shall be our goal to also smoke out that crowd of "Kremlinologists," "defectors," and the like whose purpose is to lull the West into a false sense of security, with a "crumbling Soviet Empire" story and accompanying policy prescriptions based on imputation of a Church-State conflict to Russia.

Gentlemen, are you agents or simply fools? The world shall soon know.