



Confirmation of press release already distributed in Vienna to the local Press and to Press Agencies.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE'S RELIEF SUPPLIES
ARE NOT FALLING INTO UNAUTHORISED HANDS

VIENNA ICRC - Information.

Budapest (ICRC Information Section) According to an American Press report, the parish-priest of the Church of St. Stephen of Hungary in St. Louis (Missouri) recently published a letter said to have been received from a Hungarian Catholic bishop who had succeeded in making a clandestine crossing of the Austro-Hungarian frontier. In that letter the bishop stated that Red Cross relief supplies for the Hungarian people were "nine times out of ten appropriated by the Soviets".

In spite of the obvious untruth of such a statement, the Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Budapest has taken up and investigated this matter with the co-operation of the leaders of the Hungarian Catholic Church.

On January 28, 1957, Mgr. Josef Grösz, Archbishop of Kalocsa and President of the Conference of Hungarian Catholic Bishops, in a letter addressed to the Head of the Budapest Delegation, explained the views of the Conference on this matter. The English translation of the letter reads as follows:

"The Conference of Catholic Bishops, held on January 23 at Budapest, discussed the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Hungarian Red Cross and the Actio Catholica. From the statements at this meeting the Episcopate learned with satisfaction that relief supplies can be distributed without hindrance and are being shared out by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Hungarian Red Cross and the Actio Catholica in the Red Cross spirit.

The Conference of Catholic Bishops, thus convinced of the humanitarian nature of this relief action, and certain that the relief supplies do not fall into hands for which they are not intended, gives its willing support to this relief action."

Kalocsa, January 28, 1957

(signed) Josef Grösz
Archbishop of Kalocsa

VIENNA, January 30, 1957.