

BULGARIA' SAYS GROUP DESIRES NEW CHURCH

SOFIA, Bulgaria, Feb. 12 (UP)—Protestant ministers are negotiating with the Government to form a new "loyal" Evangelical council, Director of Cults Boris Iliev announced today.

The new patriotic council would replace that directed by the fifteen ministers whose arrest was disclosed Thursday, Mr. Iliev, who is in charge of all religious activities in Bulgaria, said.

He said three Protestant delegations had visited him since the ministers' arrest in December to express satisfaction that "no obstacles had been placed in the way of Evangelical churches."

He said the wife of Vassil Zypakov, one of the principal defendants in the forthcoming trial of the

fifteen Protestant pastors for espionage, treason and black marketing, was among those active in preparing the new council.

Others who took part in the visiting delegations or who are otherwise working for "peaceful collaboration with the People's Fatherland Front," Mr. Iliev said, are:

Todor Shopov and Dmitri Sapon-dajiev of the Congregational Church; Peter Fortunov, Baptist; Mustafa Erberov, Methodist; Gru-yo Kuzmanov, Pentacostal, and Boris Delchev, president of the First Sofia Evangelical Church, where Mr. Zypakov served.