

# MORE CLERGYMEN ARRESTED IN SOFIA

**Government Spokesman Says  
50 May Be Jailed—Fifteen  
Pastors Get Verdict Today**

**SOFIA, Bulgaria, March 7 (UP)**  
—A Government spokesman announced today that the security police had seized more Protestant clergymen and said it was "possible" as many as fifty were in jail.

The latest round-up was disclosed as fifteen other Protestant pastors waited in the bleak Sofia central prison for their sentences tomorrow on charges of treason, espionage and black market dealings. All are liable to death by hanging.

Asked to comment on reports circulating in Europe that fifty more clergymen had been arrested yesterday, the Government spokesman said:

"I don't know how many are under arrest or are being questioned. It is possible they number fifty. As you could see during the present trial proceedings, some witnesses were pastors under detention. Others also were named as involved in the spy ring."

Four days ago church circles reported that twenty-five ministers, in addition to the fifteen on trial, were being held by authorities. The spokesman did not say whether yesterday's arrests brought in fifty or whether that was the total number.

However, the arrests mean that more than one-third and possibly more than one-half of Bulgaria's 138 Protestant churchmen are in the custody of the police.