

Orthodox Church Backs State

15 Pastors Accused as Spies Have Confessed, Bulgaria Says

Sofia, Bulgaria, Feb. 11 (U.P.).—The government said today that 15 Protestant church leaders accused of being spies had "all made complete self-confessions."

The accused are ministers of the Congregational, Methodist, Baptist and Pentecost churches, and members of the supreme council of the United Evangelical Churches of Bulgaria.

They were arrested in December, and have been in prison since.

All were charged with supplying information about Bulgarian activities to American and British representatives here. The six-count indictment also accused them of black market currency dealings.

The synod of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, whose membership includes the vast majority of Bulgaria's seven million people, appealed to all members for "active cooperation" with the government.

The indictment lists alleged connections between the accused ministers and 10 Americans and Brit-

ish who have been in Sofia in recent years.

The Americans named included former Acting Minister John Hor-

Methodist Draws Moral In Mindszenty Case

Methodist Bishop J. Bromley Oxman deplors Communist attacks on religious liberties but points out case of Cardinal Mindszenty illustrates why Protestants insist on separation of church and state. Story on Page 4.

ner, Legation Secretary Cyril Black and Louise Beck, an employe of the legation. The only unofficial person mentioned is Miss Melanie Turner, a school teacher, identified as a "high official" of Henry Wallace's Progressive Party.

[The Associated Press said most of the Americans named in the indictment have left Bulgaria. U. S. State Department records showed. Those available for comment denied the charges.]