

2d Secret Trial

Bulgars Jail Protestants, U. S. Charges

Lake Success, N. Y., Oct. 4 (U.P.)
The United States said today it had information of a second and secret trial of Protestant church leaders in Bulgaria.

The American statement was made by Benjamin V. Cohen in the special political committee of the United Nations General Assembly. He said information indicated the trial was held last July.

A delegation spokesman said later that, according to information received by Washington, a total of 10 Methodists, Adventists and Baptist pastors had been sentenced to 1 to 10 years, and that some appeared in court bearing signs of "ill treatment."

Cohen said the second trial was held behind closed doors "perhaps from fear of a world-wide reaction" such as followed the first trial of 15 Protestant pastors last March.

He added that "the usual paraphernalia, including 'confessions' recited by the defendants, were again present."

The American delegate charged that flouting by the Soviet bloc of treaty provisions in the East-West dispute over recent Balkan trials is "a matter of grave consequence" and demanded that the General Assembly send the case to the International Court.

The issue arose from prosecution of Hungary's Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty and other Roman Catholic and Protestant church leaders in Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania.

Although Cohen did not do so in his speech, an American delegation spokesman linked the church trials problem with this country's attitude toward Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Y. Vishinsky's proposal for a Big Five "peace pact."

The American delegation was said to feel there was no point in considering any new treaties if the West was rebuffed in attempts to gain compliance with old pacts.