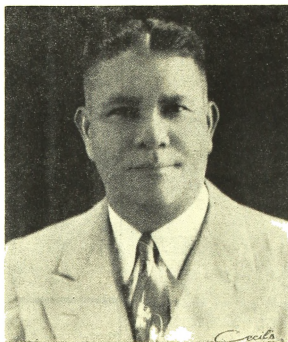


## *About the Author:*

The author, Don Miguel Cuenco, graduated from San Carlos in the year 1919, at the age of 14, with the degree of Bachiller de Artes. He obtained a prize in Philosophy.

At the age of 13, he wrote a paper called "El Papedo Ante la Historia" on the occasion of the anniversary of the coronation of Benedict XV.

He took the bar at the age of 18 in 1923. He obtained a degree in Commercial Law.



**T**HERE IS a basic cause for the present Russian hegemony in Central Europe, particularly Hungary, and the uprising in that country against Soviet rule. Following the thesis of the Italian Count Camillo Cavour, who considered the existence of the Austro-Hungarian Empire as a danger to Italian unity and national independence and for that reason advocated the dissolution of that Empire, the Allied leaders in the First World War, Wilson, Clemenceau, Lloyd George,

and Orlando, decided the dismemberment of the Empire of the Hapsburgs. Cavour is considered as a ranking statesman and diplomat of the last century, second only to the German Iron Chancellor, Count Otto Bismarck. British and American diplomats now consider this settlement as a fatal error. With the partition of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, a great counterpoise to German and Russian Powers was removed. Thus, in 1936, the independent state of Austria was forcibly

absorbed into the German Reich. Two years ago, the Allied military occupation of Austria by the four Allied Powers in the last World War, including the Russian occupation, was put to an end.

After the last World War, Hungary, the other partner in the former Austro-Hungarian Empire, became a Soviet satellite state. It is now about two weeks that a revolution in Hungary against Russia has been taking place. Hungary has an area of about 35,000 square miles, with a population of more than 9 million. Austria has more than 83,000 square kilometers and its population is 7 million. Had the union of both countries been allowed to continue by the Allied countries in the First World War, a united Austria-Hungary could have better resisted Russian domination. Paraphrasing Simoun in his confession to a Catholic priest, Padre Florentino, in Dr. Jose Rizal's *Filibusterismo* wherein Simoun expressed anxiety over the redemption of our country, the Philippines, one is led to ask this question concerning Hungary: Does this mean that the heroic light of the Hungarians for freedom is hopeless? Our answer is NO.

About 70% of the Hungarians are Catholics. They are fighting

*(Continued on page 4)*

# CATHOLICISM and the Hungarian Revolt

By

Hon. MIGUEL CUENCO  
Chairman, House Committee on  
Foreign Affairs

## Catholicism and the Hungarian Revolt

(Continued from page 2)

the Russians with Religion, the deadliest of all weapons. If my memory serves me right, the present Pope, His Holiness Pius XII, then Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli, was the representative of the Holy Father to the International Eucharistic Congress held in Budapest before the last war. In his speech before the Congress, the then Cardinal Pacelli discoursed on the indestructibility of the Catholic Church, which is a divine institution, and made reference to Julian, the Apostate, and other oppressors of the Church, who had long gone and whose memory mankind has cast into oblivion. The present Pope spoke with prophetic vision. After the last War, the Soviet-dominated government of Hungary dissolved 59 Catholic religious corporations or orders with more than 10,000 monks and nuns and their monasteries were taken over by the State. Cardinal Josef Mindszenty, Primate of the Catholic Church, was sentenced, on false charges of espionage and treason, to life imprisonment. Many obstacles were placed to the opening of Catholic schools. But Catholicism, as usual, survived the ruthless persecution. Nor has the soul of the Hungarian nation perished.

### Youth Social Action: The Answer to Age-old Distrust

(Continued from page 3)

Through these institutions, headed by fully-trained lay apostles, the spirit of Christ can penetrate in all phases of modern life — in the shop, the school, the home, the farm, in our recreational centers and in our government. It is a social force that seeks to bring the masses back to Christ, or rather, to bring Christ back to the masses. Selfish political interests, in the humanitarian garb of social service have not really succeeded in ameliorating the conditions of the common too. Material aid have not made them less dependent, and they are as poor as ever. For theirs is no mere economic problem. There are human and spiritual factors involved which the poor man alone understands.

So far we have been dealing with the urgent problems of the present social order. Equally important, if not more, are the problems that will inevitably come up in the future. Our present form of socio-economic civilization will certainly subside and a new form will

Religion is more important than armies, military alliances, military bases in the survival of nations. We, Catholics, believe in the divinity of Jesus Christ, in the Sacred Eucharist, and in the immortality of the soul. Life does not end in death and there is an eternal life beyond the grave. Sustained by faith, the Hungarian people are not afraid to fight their Russian oppressors. In the beautiful phrase of St. Francis Assisi, we die to be born into eternity to receive the reward of perpetual blessed happiness to which we are entitled if we have lived in this world obeying God's commandments. Speaking through Padre Florentino, Dr. Rizal commented on the influence of religion in the fight for freedom of our country as follows:

*"Yo no quiero decir que nuestra libertad se conquistó a filo de espada; la espada entra por muy poco ya en los destinos modernos, pero, sí, la hemos de conquistar mereciéndola, elevando la razón y la dignidad del individuo, amando lo justo, lo bueno, lo grande hasta morir por él, y cuando un pueblo llega a esa altura, Dios suministra el arma, y caen los ídolos, caen los tira-*

*nos como castillo de naipes, y brilla la libertad con la primera aurora."* (El Filibusterismo, p. 291)

Rizal's words are as pertinently applicable to Hungary. Russian tanks and jet planes and hundreds of thousands of soldiers are reported to have defeated the Hungarian rebels, but sooner or later Russia has to recognize and respect Hungarian independence. She will be forced to do so by the pressure of international public opinion, which Soviet brutalities has outraged. She cannot do it now because Russia may have to cross Hungarian territory and that of neighboring Yugoslavia to send her army to the Mediterranean in case a world war breaks out in the Middle East. At any rate, even without arms, the Hungarians cannot be subdued if it is their unyielding determination to be free. By not doing business with the Russians, by not cooperating with them, the Hungarians will compel the Russians to quit. There is already a growing conviction in the Soviet Government that the puppet government that replaced Nagy's nationalist government is useless and has not accomplished anything to pacify Hungary.

replace it. Here, a new question arises: What form will take its place?

Let us turn to our youth for the answer. They are the future. Now is the time to build a more dynamic apostolate and a better world for tomorrow. The raw material is available in our young people. But it must be guided, formed and trained, and this task can only be done by young, energetic priests who can understand them and who can meet them on their level in bringing about a profound transformation in the environment.

An objection, however, readily confronts us here. This task of training our youth for the apostolate calls for a large expenditure of time and effort on the part of our priests. Already we have a shortage of priests who can hardly cope with the work of their ministry. But is this responsibility of training our youth not expounded by Pope Pius XI and Pope Pius XII in the encyclicals? And just think of what it would mean if in every parish there is a group of strong and dynamic apostles! Just think of its far-

reaching effects: the apostolate of like-upon-like not only increases the priest's apostolic influence but also adds new domains to it and strengthens the link that binds the community to the priesthood.

The discouragement of our elders and of the priests of the older generation upon our young people is one of the most tragic setbacks of our apostolate. This is a disease that could even paralyze the spirit of our youth for life. "Kids and young people in general are imprudent and irresponsible. Catholic action is at the same time a risk and an impossibility. We must stop them before they get into mischief, and let us instead try to get them to frequent the sacraments and avoid serious sin." Such is an attitude of fatality and a counsel of despair which must be followed if we are to expect communism to sprout under our noses. Why are we always afraid to make a mistake? Can we not hope to make good? Condemned for imprudence before they even had the chance

(Continued on page 35)