

Delegates From 12 Dioceses Meet in Shenyang to Resolve Question of Church Property

by Li I Te

In September 1985, representatives of 12 Chinese dioceses met in Shenyang to resolve the question of the ownership of church property in Shanghai.

According to a communique from the Religious Affairs Bureau, under the general heading "Religious - Catholic Church : 1957," the religious affairs bureaux of 5 provinces and one autonomous zone (Liaoning, Jilin, Guizhou, Sichuan, Guangxi and Kangding) pointed out that Archbishop Pi Shushi had once proposed that property originally owned by the Paris Foreign Mission Society in Shanghai be given over to the 12 dioceses located in the above-mentioned territories. These dioceses are Chengdu, Chongqing, Yibin, Kangding, Xichang, Shenyang, Yingkou, Kunming, Nanning, Jilin, Guiyang and Anlong.

Accordingly, since it was Archbishop Pi who first made the suggestion, a meeting to resolve the question took place in Shenyang September 19-24, 1985. Official representatives from the 12 dioceses attended the meeting, which was chaired by the delegate from Shenyang. It was unanimously agreed that the sum representing the accumulated rents of the past 36 years would be divided equally among the dioceses, and a legal document would be drawn up clearly stating the transfer of ownership. The money is to be paid back in installments.

After the meeting, delegates went to Shanghai to inspect the property. When they returned to their respective dioceses, three of their number remained in Shanghai to continue negotiations with the housing authorities there. At the end of 1985 it was reported that each of the dioceses

period of 12 years, during which
 the said buildings have had a long
 history, at the same named place,
 and the said Company should
 be allowed at the end of this period
 of 12 years the buildings they might
 be required will be given
 or not, without compensation -

Yours faithfully
 L. Roberts

I am slightly informed the
 building had been sold (probably) at
 the same time.

16 dioceses throughout the country. After Liberation the missionaries left China but continued their missionary work in such places as Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Japan, Korea, India and Burma.

would acquire a sum of money, the amount of which had yet to be determined.

The Paris Foreign Mission Society is a French missionary organization of the Catholic Church founded in France during the middle of the 17th century. Its first group of three missionaries arrived in China in 1684. At its peak, it had over 300 missionaries serving in

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