

Basic Detail Report

Archbishop Mindszenty descending from an

Alitalia plane

Date

1969-1979

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

József Mindszenty (1892 – 1975) was the Prince Primate, Archbishop of Esztergom, cardinal, and leader of the Catholic Church in Hungary from 2 October 1945 to 18 December 1973. For five decades, he personified uncompromising opposition to fascism and communism in Hungary in support of religious freedom. In 1949 Hungary condemned him to life in prison; but in 1956 he was freed and sought asylum at the US embassy, where he lived for 15 years, until Pope Paul VI lifted the excommunication on his political opponents. Alitalia – Linee Aeree Italiane S.p.A. was established on 16 September 1946 as Aerolinee Italiane Internazionali. It was formed as a result of an Anglo-Italian agreement and was funded by the Italian Government and British European Airways (BEA) in a 60/40 share arrangement with a capital of 900 million lire (£1,000,000). Its popular name, Alitalia, was an Italian portmanteau of the words ali (wings) and Italia (Italy). It started operations on 5 May 1947, in which year it carried over 10,000 passengers.

Dimensions

Overall: 30.3 x 21.2 cm (11 7/8 x 8 3/8 in.)