

The Pope's Trip to Bogota



Details of Pontiff's Schedule in Colombia

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul VI will fly to South America on Aug. 22 on his sixth trip outside Italy since he was elected Pope five years ago.

He will stay in Colombia three days for the International Eucharistic Congress in Bogota, the capital of Colombia.

Pope Paul is to fly out of Rome in the very early hours of Aug. 22.

When the Pope arrives in Bogota late that same morning he will immediately visit the cathedral. In the afternoon — on a day the Congress has dedicated to the priesthood —

Pope Paul will ordain 79 priests of many nations, mostly from Latin America, at the Congress site.

The next morning he will visit Colombian President Carlos Eleras Restrepo and then drive about 20 miles out of Bogota to talk with Colombian peasants "in the fields," in the phrase of the press office spokesman.

On the afternoon of Aug. 23 — a day the Congress has dedicated to the development and progress of peoples — Pope Paul is scheduled to celebrate Mass at the Congress site for workers, employers and students. Then he will meet the diplomatic

corps and Colombian civil authorities at the apostolic nunciature in Bogota.

On the morning of Aug. 24 Pope Paul is to celebrate Mass in a suburban parish church. He will also open the conference of the Latin American Bishops, bless new premises of the Latin American Bishops' Council (CELAM), and inaugurate a radio station for the instruction of peasants.

Pope Paul's departure from Eldorado Airport is scheduled for the afternoon of Aug. 24, with arrival in Rome expected about noon on Aug. 25.

Vatican Acts to Avert Exploitation of Pope's Remarks on Violence

By FATHER ROBERT A. GRAHAM, S.J.

Religious News Service Special Correspondent

Vatican City — (RNS) — The political exploitation of Sen. Robert Kennedy's death in Los Angeles is already under way in Europe and the Vatican is bracing itself against the flood.

Pope Paul has no intention of seeing his own statements on violence monopolized unilaterally and twisted to make a trap for fools. Hence the stress of spokesmen on the fact that when the Pope condemns violence he means not just one kind of violence but all violence, by whatever side and at whatever level or by whatever means committed.

The Vatican is pleased that its deprecation of violence is of long date. L'Osservatore Romano, with some evidence of complacency, published papal statements on the subject which go back to 1963.

But while in the United States, war on "violence" connotes banning of guns, in Europe the word is a carrier of broad ideological ideas. It stands for war, capitalism, reaction but not

for revolution, communism or tyranny. Placards in Rome issued by political youth groups ranging from Communists to Catholics are a classic formulation of this approach. One reads: "The assassination of Bob Kennedy constitutes a multiple and mad challenge to the reason of the other America, the America of youth, of the colored, of progressivism dedicated to the search for a new dimension of democracy at home and on the international scene."

The Vatican has not delayed to head off any possible confusion as to where the Pope stands on the subject of violence, now in danger of being worked into a political instrument. The Vatican's press officer, Msgr. Fausto Vallanic, in a long statement, made it clear that when the Holy See deprecates violence it means violence across the board and not limited to narrow political insights.

All humanity, he said, is the loser in the gesture of futility that brought an end to a promising young life. But this, he went on, is only one more crime on top of others, all stamped with the black mark of violence. "The Pope," he said, "has spoken against every form of violence."

Irish Urged: End 'Cold War' Between Sexes

Dublin — (RNS) — Bishop Peter Birch of Ossory has called for an end of "the cold war between the sexes" in Ireland.

Speaking at the headquarters of the Irish Countrywomen's Association in Termonfeckin, County Louth, he said that there is a repression of affection in many Irish families and that boys should be taught to meet girls and treat them like ladies.

He criticized "a sort of dourness that is suspicious of affection" which he said was found among the Irish. Repression of signs of affection can eventually kill the emotion itself, he said.

He suggested that young people often grow up without real knowledge of love in their lives and that their lives and that their characters are often deformed by this experience.

Pope Visits Sea Resort

Ostia, Italy — (NC) — On the feast of Corpus Christi (June 13) Pope Paul VI came here to Rome's seaside resort town of Ostia to celebrate afternoon Mass for thousands gathered in the square of the town's largest parish church. The day was both a national holiday and a church holy day.

The Pope celebrated Mass in Italian and distributed Communion to about 100 parish members of Ostia's churches, including a boy in a wheelchair. At the end of Mass he delivered a brief talk on the significance of the Eucharist. He said: "If the world were to despair of being able to make mankind into a real family — and how many sinister trials can this despair generate — could not it listen to the Eucharistic message which announces that this sacrament is not only a sign, a symbol, but also the food which foretokens that which it represents?"

Christian Population Grows in Israel

Jerusalem — (RNS) — Following the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and the increase of territory under Israeli control, the Christian population of Israel has risen from 56,000 to 105,000, Dr. Zerach Wahrhaftig, Israeli Minister of Religions reported here.

In a statement to the Knesset (Parliament) opening the annual and sometimes stormy debate on his ministry's budget, Dr. Wahrhaftig said that 30 Christian denominations have members in Israel and that the Christian population includes 2500 clergymen, monks and nuns.

Relations with Christian groups are "proper and even friendly," he said.

He repeated an invitation to Moslem and Christian pilgrims from all countries, including the Arab states, to enjoy the free access to the holy places promised and maintained by Israel.

Pope Names Observers To World Council Talks

Vatican City — (RNS) — Two American priests are among the 12 delegates named by Pope Paul to represent the Catholic Church at the forthcoming Fourth Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Uppsala, Sweden.

The Americans are Father Thomas Stransky, C.S.P., a staff member of the Vatican Secretariat for Christian Unity, and Father Bernard Law, executive director of the American Catholic Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

International

Brazil: Focus to Be on Poor

Rio de Janeiro — (NC) — The poor will be the main concern of the general assembly of Latin American bishops in August, Archbishop Brandao Vilela of Teresina, Brazil, president of the Latin American Bishops' Council (CELAM), said.

The meeting of the bishops will be held in Medellin, Colombia, following the International Eucharistic Congress at Bogota.

Describing the agenda for the assembly, Archbishop Brandao said the principal concern of the Church's contemporary mission is "her commitment to the poor."

"In the recent past," he said, "the Church was influenced by an overgrowth of political power. In some areas, Catholicism became the religion of the dominant classes and again the Church was identified as

a power group. In both instances, unfortunately, the Church remained silent in the face of many abuses by the economic, civil and military powers."

"Before conditions of misery and social injustice, the Church did not speak with the needed urgency her prophetic role of condemning inequities and inspiring reform, but often chose to become part of the established order," the archbishop continued.

The archbishop said that "the unconscious poverty of the past has now become a conscious one, thus sowing the seeds of violence."

"Side by side with an external Christianity, there is a treasure of genuine brotherhood and religious feeling, which are trying to right, in a Christian way, the wrongs of the continent."

Red China: Circus Trials

Hong Kong — (NC) — A circus-like feature of China's Cultural Revolution since August, 1967, has been a large-scale revival of public trial rallies of "counter-revolutionaries" and criminals, frequently followed by immediate executions.

As many as 250,000 people have attended some of these rallies, held all over China from Hellingkiang province to Yunnan province, where punishment meted out included immediate executions, suspended death sentences and terms of imprisonment including life sentences.

Shanghai appears to have witnessed six executions, the largest number since August, 1967. Televised rallies have been featured in Peking and Canton.

Responsibility for organizing the rallies has been placed largely on the shoulders of local revolutionary committees, local public security, and legal departments, and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) acting on its own authority or through its control over local public security organs.

"Incorrigible capitalists, unreformed former landlords, rich peasants, counter-revolutionaries, bad elements and rightists in society who had carried out sabotage and trouble-making" was the description of offenders given by Harbin radio on March 3, 1968. They had been accused of opposing the cultural revolution and the "new order," of refusing to reform, damaging state property, engaging in subversive activities.

England: Catholics Are Gaining

London — (RNS) — A more even spread of Roman Catholicism throughout Britain in the wake of growing wealth and social mobility was forecast in an important new socio-religious volume of interdenominational contributions published here.

Referring specifically to the growth of Roman Catholicism in the London area in recent decades, the report said: "The future trends in the geographical distribution of Cathol-

icism are likely to be towards a more even spread over the country.

"Increasing assimilation and social mobility are breaking down the old ghetto areas."

The past, present and future of the Catholic Church are in a new book, "A Sociological Yearbook of Religion in Britain," produced in cooperation with Socio-Religious Research Services.

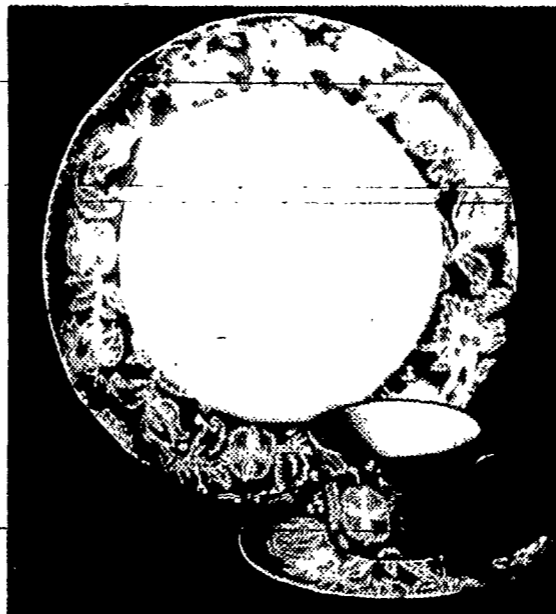
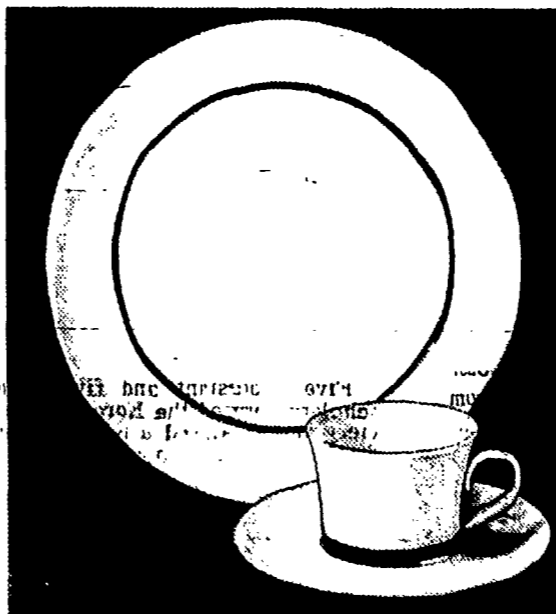


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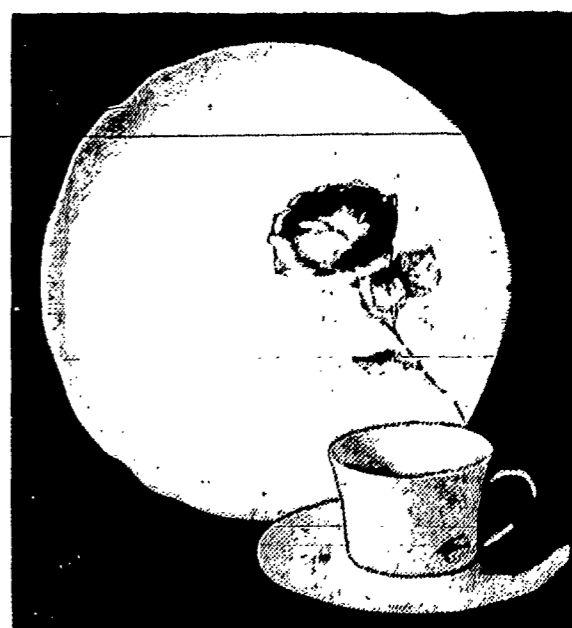
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