

# Pope Expresses Hope For Peace in Mideast

Castelgandolfo, Italy — (NC) Pope Paul VI has expressed the hope—which he admitted, "might seem utopian"—that the cease-fire in the Middle East may lead to a peaceful solution of problems between Israel and the Arab world.

In addressing thousands gathered at his summer home here, Pope Paul devoted himself almost exclusively to the big-power-backed cease-fire in the Middle East.

"We, as all those who aspire to peace in the world, must rejoice in the cease-fire, which we hope will be effective," he said.

In his talk the Pope stressed that peace in the Middle East has always been close to his heart, "not for territorial or political interests; but for religious values . . ."

"But now the immediate interest, which is ours also," he added, "is the welfare of people on both sides, justice and civil peace of nations involved in the conflict which continues there and hence threatens to become worse and to expand tragically."

But, he added, "there is already progress, the possibility for the happy result of the tormented situation there, the change-over from armed positions to frank and complex yet peaceful negotiations."

It is certain that among the elements threatening the situation was the activity of Arab guerrillas and refusal of several Arab nations to accept the terms of the cease-fire.

Having spoken of the realistic possibilities of peace in the Mideast, the Pope went on to speak of another form of hope he nourishes, which he admitted "might seem utopian" because there "is no concrete element to support" such a hope and yet, he said, it is one "we think founded on a real and realizable argument."

As he explained it: "The conflict involves three ethnic-religious expressions, which recognize a one, true and supreme God—the Jewish people, the people of Islam and, in the midst of them and spread throughout the world, the Christian people—that is, monotheistic religions, identical

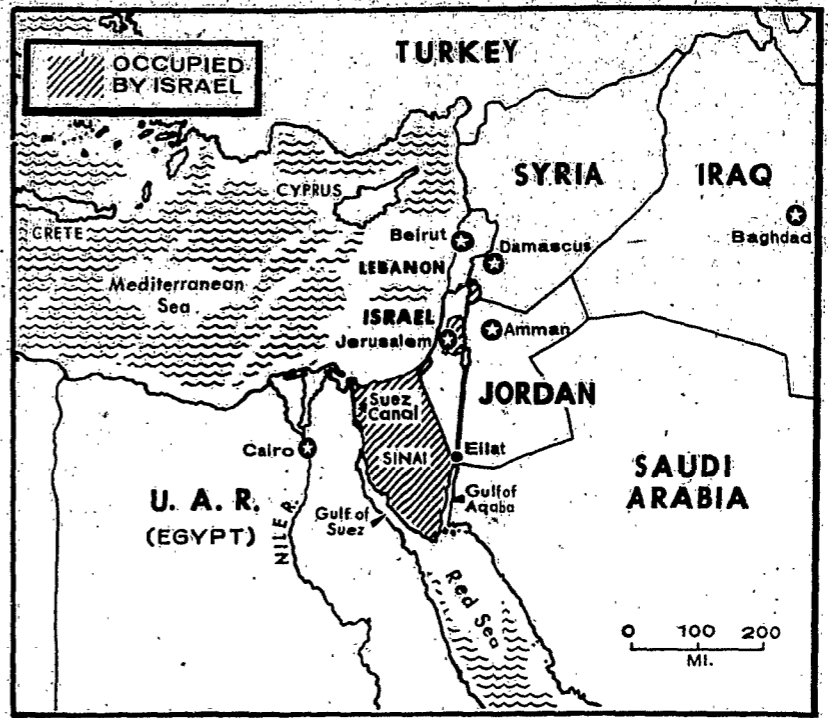
monotheism, which are its three most authentic, most ancient, most historic and most convinced voices."

Given this, the Pope asked: "Can it never be possible that in the name of the same God that irreducible opposition give way to a feeling of mutual respect, of possible understanding, and peaceful coexistence?"

"Cannot reference to the same God, to the same Father, without prejudice of theological discussion lead to the discovery, so difficult and so indispensable, that we are all brothers?"

On the same day the Pope spoke, several Roman newspapers published reports of a "summit" meeting of the Pope with various of his top diplomatic advisers on the Middle East, situation and that the Pope sent through diplomatic means a note both to the Arab countries and Israel urging them to accept the cease-fire.

The Vatican, however, denied that such a summit conference was held or that a diplomatic note had been sent.



Shaded areas are sectors occupied by Israel. (RNS)

## Bishop Walsh Readies Plans For Trip to Vatican, U.S.

By GERMAINE SWAIN

Hong Kong — (NC) — In the second stage of his journey from a Shanghai prison into the freewheeling world of the 1970s, Maryknoll Bishop James E. Walsh, accompanied by a Maryknoll Sister-doctor, will fly to Rome toward the end of August on a date to be determined by his strength.

Father John Sullivan, Maryknoll regional superior, who made the announcement, said the flight date would probably not be before Aug. 23.

There will be no press interviews or conferences at his departure. Photographs will be permitted when the bishop leaves the hospital and possibly as he boards the plane.

A spokesman at the Maryknoll Sisters' Hospital here, where the bishop has been recuperating from his long ordeal at the hands of the Chinese Communists, told NC News that Bishop Walsh wants to see Pope Paul VI en route to the United States.

## Talk about Ecumenism!!

Jerusalem — (RNS) — An Israeli Muslim broadcaster received the Cross of the Knights of Galilee here for his services to all Christian communities in Israel.

Archbishop Joseph M. Raya, Catholic Melchite Rite prelate of Akka in Galilee, made the presentation to Nur e-Din Dirini, better known as "Abu Jarir" to thousand of listeners to Christian church services transmitted over Israeli Radio.

Abu Jarir is a Muslim who for years has introduced and explained rites of various Christian churches and has already been decorated by Pope Paul for his coverage of the pontiff's 1964 visit to the Holy Land.

## Residents to Join School Study

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seph elected by their local Sisters; one person elected by Notre Dame High School's Board of Governors, faculty or administrators; four laymen elected by the laymen of the County Catholic School Board; and one lay teacher elected by the teachers in the county.

Bishop McCafferty and Sister Mary Agnes Zimmer, school coordinator for the board, would be ex-officio members of this committee.

The Board told the Bishop that Chemung County would continue with school consolidation efforts and cooperation with the Christian Formation Board. They said: "We must separate the school problems from the more emotional and explosive church-closing issue."

Bishop Hogam's reply to Dr. Curran and the Board explained his hopes for the future discussions in the school crisis:

"The purpose of the Education Task Force is to evaluate the School and Society Survey and the recommendations of Sister Patricia Donovan. They will not be making any decisions on closing schools or coordinating schools. Their purpose is to present an effective analysis of the Survey and Sister's recommendations."

The Bishop plans that the Task Force will meet with the "representative group" from Chemung County for discussion

of the analysis they have made of the statistical studies.

Bishop McCafferty's address discussed the initial impact of the Donovan Report on the Catholic community and constructively urged united action on further parish school cooperation and consolidation.

"We have overreached the point," he said, "where we can go on as in the past. Certain cooperation is vital here and is by no means threatening or degrading. Some consolidating has been done. It has proven successful educationally and financially."

Stating that probably five or six classes more could be consolidated next Fall, he warned that progress "will be thwarted if the possible participants start haggling over pennies, services and prestige."

Consolidation will cause transportation problems and require the purchase of buses but "savings in salaries, facilities and utilities will make this possible," he said.

Emphasizing his view that intensive discussion ("but not interminable") must be given to all school questions, he said: "I would like to urge that parish schools be prepared for overhaul, consolidation and other adjustments that may seem appropriate and promising for quality up-grading."

The Bishop cited the Donovan Report as creditable, professional work but urged that

its recommendations be accepted only as a "basis for discussion." He expressed regret that "the manner in which the recommendations were put forth has been the primary source of confusion and over-reaction."

The "pastoral dimension" was overlooked when the proposals were dropped on the community "without consideration for the sensitivities which are associated with parish life," he claimed.

Bishop McCafferty took a forthright stand against the recommendation that the 11 parishes in the county be reduced to four:

"I personally would not care to see a large scale parish consolidation in this area or any other area of the diocese. My vote goes for the parishes.

"For the present moment I recommend that every question of parochial consolidation, closing or transfer should rest. If people wish to maintain their parish, then I say let them . . . and let those who don't approve be slow to cast stones."

Parochial traditions are cherished by the people, he explained, because their parish is "a symbol of their roots in a community under Christ, a place of refreshment and peace, and a home associated with quite tender memories and deep personal relationships."

## Birth Control Bill Called Negative

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zation of public monies," he added, "for the funding of private agencies whose whole intent is to promote birth control."

Needed, he said, is a family policy which is "comprehensive, positive, supportive of family life." He added it "should include income and work programs such as those contained in the Family Assistance Plan, a unified health-care program, an education program that would include early childhood education, vocational education and adult education programs."

He added that such a na-

tional family policy should "also include specific welfare assistance for those families and individuals with special needs."

If instead of developing this type of family policy, the government pushes a family planning program backed by vast sums of money, "it will be extremely difficult—if not impossible—for the individual to pursue a personal policy different from that of the government."

Some agencies, he said, hold the particular ideological conviction that limiting family size is good for all families and that people should have small families, restricted even to two children.

"Such an approach is unac-

ceptable because it is a negative and limited approach to the needs of families, and because it places the prestige of government in support of one ideological position."

So, too, with research funding, he said, explaining that "if research monies are allocated merely to improve contraceptive technology, the health needs of mothers and children are ignored, and such research and the service it promotes falls far short of the needs for improved pre-natal, delivery, post-natal and pediatric care . . ."

Father McHugh cited "perhaps the most significant weakness" of various population bills as their underlying assumption

that America's populations must be curbed to prevent an ecological catastrophe. "To begin with," said McHugh, "current projections for population growth have been revised downward and as the Report on National Goals indicates, our more serious problem is one of population distribution."

Further, there is no firm evidence, he said, to support the supposition that the legislation would alleviate poverty and reduce maternal and infant mortality by providing birth control to women now denied it. "In regard to poverty, there is no assurance that birth control service will help the poor to be freed from the condition of poverty," he stated.

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**COURIER-JOURNAL**

Vol. 82 No. 47 August 19, 1970

Subscription in U.S., \$6.00; Canada and Published Weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Single copy 15c; 1 year \$18.00; 3 years \$54.00. Second class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.