

Pontiff May Visit 5 Nations On Trip

By Fr. Leo E. McFadden

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul VI will touch down in three other countries on his 20,000-mile trip to the Philippine Islands and Australia the latter part of November and early December. One of these landings will probably be in Djakarta, Indonesia, NC News has learned.

Three additional stops — one on the way to Manila and two on the return from Sydney to Rome — will be made for technical reasons, primarily for the Alitalia jet to take fuel. A Vatican source said that one of the stops may be an overnight stay to break up the 21-hour flight from Sydney to Rome.

Plans for the exact routing and even the precise dates are still far from being finalized, the Vatican source said.

However, NC News has also learned that Pope Paul is scheduled to be in Sydney for the meeting of the bishops of Oceania from Nov. 30 to Dec. 2. Earlier, he will be in Manila to attend a pan-Asian meeting with the bishops of the Far East.

Many countries have invited Pope Paul but a likely loser among those nations bidding for a papal visit is Japan. Knowing that the Pope will only make an extended visit in a country for a religious reason, such as the meeting with the bishops, Japanese officials have been searching for some religious occasion. The Japanese would very much like the Pope to come to Tokyo but this is not likely to happen unless the most traveled Pontiff in history wants to add another 4,000 miles to his journey.

Although Pope Paul was officially invited a year ago last May to attend the world exhibition in Osaka, Japan, this year, Vatican sources said he did not accept because there was no religious reason.

A stopover in Djakarta is logical for several reasons. First of all, the Pope has been officially invited, a reliable source told NC News Service. Secondly, the distance from Sydney to Djakarta makes it an ideal first leg of the return flight, although Singapore or Bangkok are also within the range of a modern jet.

However, Djakarta has one selling point the other cities lack: as a young monsignor working in the Vatican Secretariat of State, the present Pope was in charge of the Indonesian desk.

In fact, when the present Indonesian ambassador to the Holy See, Husein Mutahar, first presented himself at the Vatican, he began a briefing for Pope Paul on Indonesia, a customary practice for a new ambassador. Pope Paul told the diplomat that he could probably brief the ambassador on Indonesia.

Another motive, although it remains unspoken, is that a papal stopover could be interpreted as a recognition of the fiercely anti-communist government of President Suharto, under which the 2.5 million Catholics have full freedom in a country that is 90 per cent Moslem.

A Tribute to the Christ-Like Bishop Walsh

By FATHER CHARLES MEEUS



Behold those eyes that bore so deep into the very souls of his persecutors; blue eyes, so kind and so forgiving. Those gnarled hands manacled for so long, yet always raised in loving benediction over all his Chinese people. Those ears of his, tortured by loud invective and accusations, yet always intent on hearing the voice of his conscience telling him to accomplish the will of his father in Heaven. Those lips closed to their purpose of announcing Christ's Gospel, yet incessantly moving in praise of God. Behold all these senses, now, so intently bent on the priestly function refused to him for 12 years in jail, as he, offers his first Mass, July 12, 1970 in his hospital bed in Hongkong. That Mass at which he wept for joy and thanksgiving and forgiving, in loving union with Jesus our Savior whose witness and martyr he had chosen to be.

Father Meeus... Unusual Breed Also

It would be close to understatement to say that Father Charles Meeus, author of this poetic piece about Bishop Walsh, is unusual. In addition to having priestly character, he is a priestly character, according to Msgr. John Randall, man-

aging editor of the Courier-Journal, to whom the poem was sent.

"When he was still a seminarian in Europe he spotted an elderly Chinese gentleman riding on a train," Msgr. Randall relates. "He decided on the spot he was going to convert

him to Catholicism and sat down next to him. It turns out that the Chinese man was the Roman Catholic bishop of Kongmoon.

"Father Meeus finished his education with the old man and became a priest of the Kongmoon diocese, eventually

leading to his association with Bishop Walsh in Shanghai.

"The first time he visited here was in 1939 or 40," says Msgr. Randall. "He was driving a second-hand car he bought from the New York City Police Department and it didn't take too close a look to make out the NYPD under the thin paint job."

"I think his last visit here, was in 1960 when he conducted Holy Week services at Immaculate Conception," said Msgr. Randall. He is now stationed at the Carmelite Sisters Monastery in Taegu, Korea.

The occasion for his writing this poem was seeing Bishop Walsh, his "boss" at Shanghai from 1948 to '55, after the bishop had called him to Hong Kong upon being released from a Red Chinese prison.

Bishop Walsh Sees Pope Paul

Hong Kong — (NC) — Maryknoll Bishop James E. Walsh, released last month by the Red Chinese after 12 years in prison, flew to Rome Sunday for an audience with Pope Paul VI scheduled yesterday.

Bishop Walsh, a 79-year-old native of Cumberland, Md., was accompanied on his trip to Rome by a Maryknoll nun-doctor, Sister Patricia Fitzmaurice.

In his first time out of the hospital since his release, Bishop Walsh took a half-hour automobile ride. Viewing Hong Kong from Kowloon peak, he said he was amazed by the city's growth since he last saw it in 1948 on his way to Shanghai.

Sister Patricia said that during his five weeks here Bishop Walsh has gained nine pounds and has steadily increased in strength.

He is enjoying a return to a Western diet, she said. He particularly enjoys some foods he has not tasted for many years, including ice cream, and also asks for some favorite Chinese foods.

Pope Links Eroticism With Drug Abuse

Castelgandolfo — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI deplored the "social epidemic of delinquency and drug abuse, linking it directly to the growing wave of nudism and eroticism.

Addressing hundreds of pilgrims at his customary Sunday noon blessing, here (August 16), the pontiff said, "We see today increasing uncontrolled demonstrations trying to make the body the beginning and end of life, along with naturalistic and obscene displays in the form of nudism, eroticism, and pansexualism. Anyone who reads newspapers knows to what shameless acts we refer."

Vatican observers said that Italian newspapers recently devoted considerable space to pictures of nudists attending a non-Catholic religious service in



Gifts for the Pontiff

Young girls offer a gift basket of fruit to Pope Paul during a visit to Castelgandolfo. Every year, farmers from the area bring gifts to the Pontiff. (RNS Photo)

British Ambassador Reports to Pontiff

Castelgandolfo — (RNS) — Great Britain's new minister to the Holy See, Desmond John Crawley, presented his credentials to Pope Paul VI at a special audience here, Aug. 13.

In reply to the British diplomat's address of homage, the Pope praised the aims of the British government, "especially those which ultimately lead to peace and fraternity within the context of the rule of law, and those which concern social progress and development."

HIBERNIAN LEADER

Indianapolis, Ind.—(RNS)—Edward J. Fay of Pittsburgh, a former varsity football player at the University of Notre Dame, was elected president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America at the 75th biennial convention here.

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