

# Pope Paul Appeals for Middle East Peace

Vatican City — (NC) — Expressing anxiety over the civil war in Jordan, Pope Paul VI put aside a talk he had planned for a Wednesday general audience and spoke instead of the "incalculable catastrophes" that

may fall upon the Middle East. "Today we will not make our customary general audience discourse," he told crowds in St. Peter's Basilica Sept. 23. It was the first time in his seven-year reign that he set aside

his regular Wednesday homily. "We think of the thousands of dead and injured; we think of the new and many ruins, of the unbearable sufferings of the populations."

Israeli President Salmen Shazar was only one of several the Pope has sent in recent weeks to parties involved in the Middle East crisis.

Throughout the Mideast conflict, and particularly in the past few months, the Pope has repeatedly expressed his concern and fear over possible aggravation of the situation.

## Pope Congratulates Italy on Centenary

Rome — (NC) — On the 100th anniversary of the fall of papal Rome and the unification of Italy Pope Paul VI prayed Sept. 20 for the nation's "harmony, stability, prosperity" and moral and civil peace.

time considered the fall of papal Rome a terrible defeat for the papacy.) Instead, Pope Paul said: "We deliberately refrain from any retrospective historical, juridical, political or sentimental assessment" of the past.

The Pope sent a special message to Italian President Giuseppe Saragat on the occasion of the fall of papal Rome. It marked, 100 years to a day, the surrender of Rome to the troops of the Italian House of Savoy, ending the temporal power of the Popes in Italy.

"We center our attention on the present and consider with clear and pastoral goodwill the other aspect of that same event in its happy results for Italy, for this country, which we cannot but love with a particular and intense affection," the Pontiff said.

The Pope said he fears that the worsening of the dangers "may assume enormous proportions and lead to incalculable catastrophes."

Expressing his aim of preventing bloodshed and his sadness at the suffering of the people of the Mideast, the Pope told Shazar of his "ardent desire that nothing be left undone to insure the maintenance of the truce and to advance the talks."

When Palestinian guerrillas hijacked three planes to Jordan in September and held the passengers as hostages, the Pope spoke out more strongly than in his other talks.

The Pope, in his letter to President Saragat did not gloss over the past. (Many at the

President Saragat sent a message to the Pope thanking him for his message.

"We will aid, within the limits permitted to us, any attempt for a reasonable conclusion of the crisis, and together with you, with the Church, we will invoke God's mercy and assistance," the Pope concluded.

"Peace is so great and surprising a blessing," the Pope's message said, "that it demands from every party a readiness to make sacrifices and to accept them with courageous far-sightedness, for the sake of an agreement that will take account of all the demands of justice and humanity."

He condemned the hijackings as "an outrageous act of piracy, of unjust reprisals, of inadmissible blackmail which should never again be repeated."

Earlier, the Vatican revealed that the Pope had sent an appeal for peace efforts to the president of Israel before heavy fighting broke out between Jordan and Palestinian guerrillas.

The Pope referred briefly to the hostilities in Jordan in his talk to crowds in St. Peter's square on Sunday, Sept. 20.

He particularly deplored the suffering of innocent victims, saying: "these are excesses which drag in uninvolved people, such as women and children who are not involved in the conflict."

The personal message to Is-

"We have expressed to those concerned our wish and our encouragement to work for a speedy and lasting cessation of such a sorrowful and danger-

In recent months, the Pope also sent representatives to the Mideast to see what aid could be given to victims on both sides of the conflict.

## Lack of Charity Seen Problem for Church

Liverpool, England — (NC) — The Church is suffering not so much from a crisis of faith or authority as it is from a crisis of charity, an American theologian and Bible scholar told an audience here.

The mood among many in the Church in the past few years, he declared, has been: "Why hate Protestants when you can hate Catholics? If you choose to stay in the center, the right will push you to the left and vice versa."

"Since 1960 I have heard more gossip about my fellow priests, about bishops, theologians and cardinals than I have heard in the previous 50 years," said Father John L. McKenzie.

"If we profess Catholic Christianity then we have good reason to be prepared to break our backs to preserve our unity of love and at the same time to preserve our freedom to differ."

His audience included Archbishop Andrew Beck, A.A., of Liverpool.

Father McKenzie, from De Paul University, Chicago, said he was told that in some seminaries six months is spent in the study of the virtue of chastity, and only a week in the study of the virtue of charity.

Catholics must preserve charity in their differences, and public exchanges of charges and countercharges are unworthy of Christians, Father McKenzie said.

"Charity should be the first virtue," he said.



### Actress Takes Vows

Dolores Hart, 31, an actress who left Hollywood in 1963 for the secluded life of a Benedictine nun, wears a garland of flowers after taking her final vows at the Regina Laudis monastery in Bethlehem, Conn. The former actress, now known as Mother Dolores, received the Church's solemn consecration of a virgin from Archbishop John F. Whealon of Hartford and also took the vow of enclosure never to leave the monastery again. (RNS)

## Congress Urged To Ignore Porno Report

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Members of Congress have been urged "to file in the wastebasket" the upcoming majority report of the President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography.

Two dissenting members, both clergymen, of the 18-member commission made the recommendation in testimony before the Senate subcommittee on juvenile delinquency.

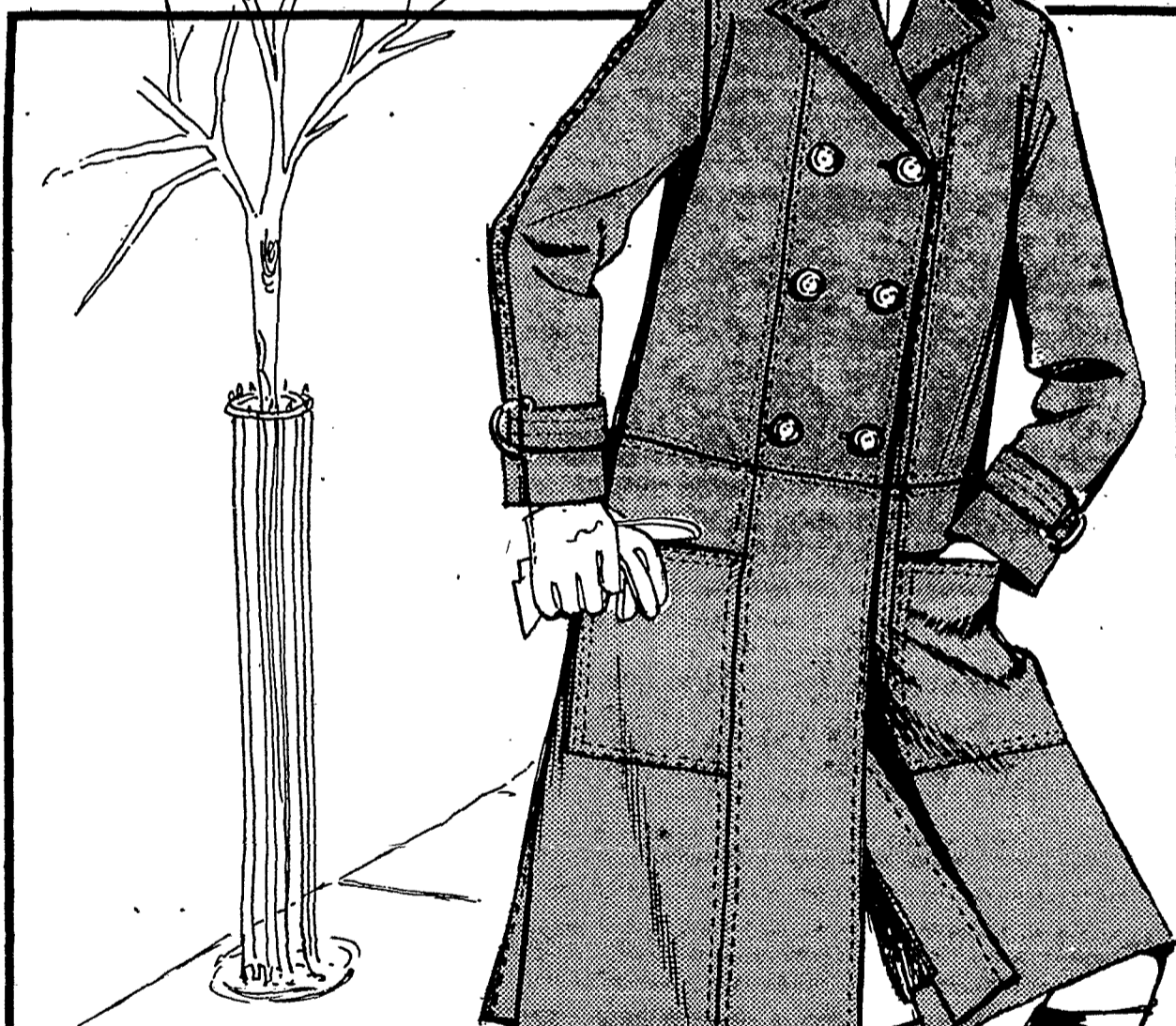
The report, which will be made public Sept. 30, is expected to recommend repeal of all laws that prohibit consenting adults from obtaining sexually explicit books, films and pictures.

Father Morton A. Hill, S.J., of New York City told the subcommittee that the commission has not "carried out the mandate of the Congress to recommend means to regulate effectively and constitutionally the traffic in obscenity and pornography."

A United Methodist minister from Nashville, the Rev. Winfrey C. Link, told the Senate unit:

"Any recognition of the validity of the majority report will be to the detriment of the nation and will lead to an ultimate breakdown of all that we have held sacred through the years."

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