

National/International Report

Pope, Reagan discuss peace issues during third meeting

By Greg Erlandson

Vatican City (NC) — In his third meeting with President Ronald Reagan in the past five years, Pope John Paul II spoke of the need to end the arms race and said the "oneness of humanity" must influence the "policies and practices of governments."

The pope's brief public comments followed a speech by Reagan, in which the president praised the pope for his "courageous and compassionate leadership" and spoke of a spiritual revival in the Eastern bloc "despite generations of oppression."

The public speeches followed a 55-minute private meeting between the two world leaders on June 6, the eve of the pope's trip to Poland and of the international economic summit in Venice.

The pope did not refer to his trip, but spoke of the importance of "constructive negotiations aimed at ending the arms race" and the "basic solidarity of the human family."

"The absence of trust and an unwillingness to work together for the good of all" is a stumbling block to peace and justice, the pope told the president.

Calling for international cooperation, Pope John Paul said "even those who have previously been labeled as enemies can be seen in a new perspective, as brothers and

sisters in the one human family."

The pope also stressed the importance of moral and spiritual values. "Whenever moral and spiritual values are rejected, or even given mere lip service and not truly integrated into daily life," the pope said, individuals and nations then "fall short of what we were intended to be as men and women created in the image of God."

The pope and Reagan had two earlier meetings: one in June, 1982, at the Vatican, and the second in Fairbanks, Alaska, in May, 1984.

The pope's comments followed a slightly longer speech by Reagan which lauded the pope for his spiritual leadership and spoke of the pontiff's upcoming trip to his "troubled" homeland.

"We see the power of the spiritual force in that troubled land uniting a people in hope," the president said, "just as we see the powerful stirrings to the East of a belief that will not die, despite generations of oppression."

The president also said he and the pope share a vision of "the moral causes of prosperity," including "hard work, honesty, initiative, thrift, spirit of service and daring."

In a statement released after the leaders



CLEARING DEBRIS — Volunteers clear debris from the site of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Mission in Saragosa, Texas. A tornado destroyed the church as well as the rest of the town and left 29 dead and 121 injured in the small, mostly Hispanic community last month. The Chicago-based Catholic Church Extension Society announced it will help rebuild the church.

met, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the two had discussed "international problems that affect world peace," including East-West relations and disarmament, North-South cooperation, the Middle East and Central America. No further details were given, though presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater later

told reporters most of the meeting was devoted to U.S.-Soviet relations.

Following the meeting, the pope greeted Mrs. Reagan and the 13 members of the Reagan entourage, including Maj. Ron Thomas, a military aide charged with carrying the special codes the president would need to launch a nuclear attack.

Referring to his just-concluded meeting with the pope, the president said, "we had an exchange of ideas. His obviously were better than mine."

Following the meeting, Reagan lunched with the president of Italy, Francesco Cossiga, then returned to Venice to prepare for the economic summit.

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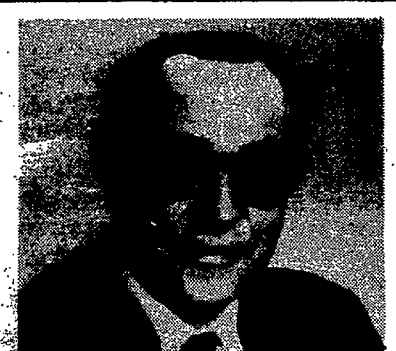
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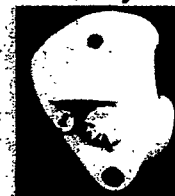
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