

Note No. 4181
26 September 1979



NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CORRESPONDENTS IN CONNEXION WITH THE VISIT OF POPE JOHN PAUL II TO THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations Headquarters area will be closed to the public on Tuesday, 2 October, the day of the visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul II to the United Nations.

Representatives of the information media, in order to enter the building, will have to have either regular United Nations accreditation cards, currently valid, or special passes issued by the Accreditations Office for coverage of the Papal visit. In view of the world-wide demand for accreditation for the Papal visit, it has not been possible to meet all the requests for accreditation, as space and facilities are limited. Even so, an estimated 2,000 representatives of the information media are expected to be present that day.

Correspondents provided with special accreditation for the Papal visit to the United Nations may pick up their passes in advance at the Press Office, Room 389, United Nations. From 28 September to 2 October, including the week-end, they may pick up their passes at a special accreditation office located at 763 First Avenue, directly across from the 43rd Street entrance to the United Nations.

The pass alone will not automatically entitle its holder to a seat in the General Assembly Hall, where Pope John Paul II will address the Assembly at 12 noon. The number of seats available for the Press in the Assembly Hall is limited to 200, in two rows of seats in the upper gallery of the 2,000-seat Hall. The other seats in the Assembly Hall are reserved for delegates and dignitaries. A further 400 correspondents can be accommodated in the upper section of the Economic and Social Council Chamber, which will be equipped with closed-circuit television.

The Pope, when he later passes through the Council Chambers, will address the press briefly in the Economic and Social Council Chamber.

A number of supplementary press areas are being set up, also with closed-circuit television, for the purpose of accommodating the press overflow. They will be located mainly on the third floor, in the existing press area and in the area near the escalators and the Council Chambers. Room 226 and Conference Room 4 will also be available as viewing rooms.

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For information media - not an official record

To gain access to all these areas, correspondents will need special tickets which will be issued by the Accreditations Office.

The closed-circuit television facilities will enable coverage of the entire visit of His Holiness to the United Nations, including his arrival and the events following the Papal address in the Assembly Hall.

After addressing the Assembly, Pope John Paul II, along with the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General, will proceed via the South Lounge to the Security Council, the Trusteeship Council and the Economic and Social Council Chambers. In the Security Council Chamber, delegates and dignitaries will be present, and the Pope will address them briefly. He will also speak briefly to representatives of non-governmental organizations, in the upper section of the Trusteeship Council Chamber, and as noted, to representatives of the press, in the upper section of the Economic and Social Council Chamber, as he passes through those Chambers.

Correspondents with seats in the Assembly Hall and in the Economic and Social Council Chamber are asked to be seated no later than 11:45 a.m.

It will not be possible for representatives of the information media to follow His Holiness through the Headquarters building. Fixed locations at a number of points will be arranged for photographers and for press coverage on a pooled basis.

In the afternoon, the Pope will address the staff of the United Nations Secretariat at 2:45 p.m. in the General Assembly Hall. Representatives of the information media will be able to cover that event by closed-circuit television in the upper part of the Security Council Chamber and in the supplementary press areas.

Press releases will be issued on all the events in the Papal visit.

It will not be possible to admit correspondents to the North Lounge for the reception to be given by the Secretary-General at 3 p.m. in honour of His Holiness. Closed-circuit television, however, will enable coverage of the event, and the President of the United Nations Correspondents Association will be present at the reception and will brief newsmen after the Pope leaves United Nations Headquarters at 4:30 p.m.

Correspondents are reminded that arrangements for the coverage of other events connected with the Pope's visit, taking place outside United Nations Headquarters, are being handled through the Public Affairs Office of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops/United States Catholic Conference, Washington, D.C. (Tel: (202) 659-6700), and through the Communications Office of the Archdiocese of New York (Tel: 371-1000, Ext. 2990). Enquiries regarding press facilities for those events should be addressed to their offices.