



Note No. 4185
30 September 1979

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

PROGRAMME FOR VISIT OF POPE JOHN PAUL II TO UNITED NATIONS

His Holiness Pope John Paul II will visit the United Nations on Tuesday, 2 October, at the invitation of Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim, and will address the General Assembly at noon on that day.

During his stay at the United Nations, the Pope will meet high Government leaders attending the General Assembly session. He will give a separate address to the staff of the United Nations Secretariat and will speak briefly to representatives of the press and of non-governmental organizations, as well as United Nations delegates and dignitaries. He will be greeted by a group of children from the United Nations International School, marking the International Year of the Child, and will attend a reception given in his honour by the Secretary-General before leaving United Nations Headquarters at 4:30 p.m.

The visit of His Holiness is the second Papal visit to the United Nations. The late Pope Paul VI visited the United Nations on 4 October 1965, at the invitation of U Thant, then Secretary-General.

Following are details of the planned programme of the visit of Pope John Paul II to the United Nations:

At 9:15 a.m., the Pope will be received on his arrival at LaGuardia Airport from Boston by Secretary-General Waldheim, accompanied by Archbishop Giovanni Cheli, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations.

Both the Pope and Secretary-General Waldheim will speak at a brief airport ceremony.

The Pope will then proceed by car to the United Nations, where he will arrive at 10 a.m. at the Secretariat entrance. The Secretary-General will greet His Holiness outside the Secretariat building, and there will be a salute by the Honour Guard. Vatican and United Nations flags will be displayed inside the Secretariat entrance.

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The Pope and the Secretary-General will go to the 38th floor, where they will have a private talk. The Secretary-General will then accompany His Holiness to the office of the President of the General Assembly, Salim Ahmed Salim (United Republic of Tanzania). Following a private talk with the President of the Assembly, the Pope will attend a small reception given by the Secretary-General on the 38th floor, where he will meet Heads of State and Government present at the General Assembly session and members of the Security Council.

At 11:45 a.m., the Pope and the Secretary-General will proceed to the garden of the United Nations. They will then walk up to the Canadian doors and enter the General Assembly building where, at the foot of the ceremonial staircase, a group of 20 children from the United Nations International School, dressed in national costumes, will greet the Pope and offer flowers and a scroll to him.

The Pope and the Secretary-General will then go up the ceremonial ramp leading to the second-floor entrance to the General Assembly Hall. The President of the General Assembly will greet His Holiness at the entrance to the hall and escort him, with the Secretary-General, to the podium.

After statements of welcome by the President of the Assembly and the Secretary-General, the Pope will address the Assembly at noon. After his address, the President of the Assembly and the Secretary-General will escort His Holiness from the Hall through the room behind the podium.

The Pope, escorted by the President of the Assembly and the Secretary-General, will then proceed via the South Lounge through the three Council Chambers. In the Security Council Chamber, he will speak briefly to delegates; in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, to representatives of non-governmental organizations; and in the Economic and Social Council Chamber, to representatives of the press.

At 1:40 p.m., the Pope will leave the United Nations through the delegates' entrance, returning at 2:45 p.m. to address the staff of the Secretariat in the General Assembly Hall.

At 3 p.m., the Secretary-General and Mrs. Waldheim will give a reception in honour of His Holiness in the North Lounge, to which admission is by special invitation. Heads of State and Government present in New York will be invited, along with Heads of Delegations to the Assembly session, Permanent Representatives and high United Nations officials and their spouses.

At the end of the reception, at 4:30 p.m., the Pope will make a brief statement. He will then leave the United Nations through the delegates' entrance, with the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General bidding him farewell.