



S-0864-0009-18-00001

Expanded Number **S-0864-0009-18-00001**

Title **Items-in-Public relations files - visit of Pope Paul VI 1965 - first anniversary of visit by Pope Paul VI to the UN**

Date Created **15/09/1966**

Record Type **Archival Item**

Container **S-0864-0009: Public Relations Files of the Secretary-General: U Thant**

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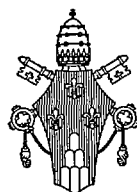


CHRISTI MATRI

ENCYCLICAL LETTER
OF THE SUPREME PONTIFF

PAUL VI

DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER
PRAYERS TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
✻ ARE TO BE OFFERED



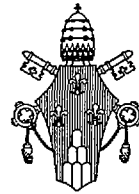
SEPTEMBER 15, 1966

CHRISTI MATRI

ENCYCLICAL LETTER OF THE SUPREME PONTIFF PAUL VI

DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER
PRAYERS TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
ARE TO BE OFFERED

*Addressed to the Venerable Brothers,
Patriarchs, Primates, Archbishops,
Bishops and other Local Ordinaries
who are in peace and communion
with the Apostolic See*



SEPTEMBER 15, 1966

VATICAN POLYGLOT PRESS

Venerable Brothers
Health and Apostolic Benediction

It is a solemn custom of the faithful, during the month of October, to weave, with the prayers of the Rosary, a spiritual garland to the Mother of Christ. This We heartily approve, following the example of Our Predecessors, and this year We call upon all the children of the Church to perform these special exercises of devotion to the same most Blessed Virgin.

For we are threatened by a more extensive and more disastrous calamity that endangers the human family, even as a bloody and difficult war is raging, particularly in areas of East Asia; so, We are urged to continue working even more intensely, to the

Reasons
for
grave fear

extent of Our power, for peace. Similarly, the souls of men are deeply disturbed by things which all know are taking place in other parts of the world; for instance, the increasing race for nuclear weapons, the unscrupulous efforts for the expansion of one's nation, the excessive glorification of one's race, the obsession for revolution, the segregations enforced on citizens, the iniquitous plotting, the murder of the innocent; all of which are potential material for the greatest possible tragedy.

**Unceasing
activity
for peace**

It seems to Us, as it seemed to Our more recent Predecessors, that a very provident God has committed to Us a special task, namely, that We labour, with patient and persevering effort, for the preservation and the strengthening of the peace. This task, as is evident, arises from the fact that We have been entrusted with the governing of the whole Church as a "sign raised to the

nations",¹ does not serve political ends, but should convey to the human race the truth and grace of Jesus Christ, its divine Author.

Actually, from the very beginning of Our apostolic ministry, We have neglected no opportunity to use Our prayers, entreaties and exhortations for the cause of world peace. In fact, as you well remember, last year We flew to North America in order to speak about the need for peace in the presence of the General Assembly of the United Nations, before that select body of representatives of almost all the nations. We then counselled all peoples that they should not tolerate some to remain inferior to others, that no one should attack others, but rather that all should unite their zeal and their efforts towards establishing peace. And after this, moved by a deep, apostolic concern for men, We

¹ Cf. Is. 11, 12.

did not cease to urge those who had the responsibility for such a momentous task, to ward off from men the monstrous catastrophe which perhaps was about to overwhelm them.

Meet
and begin
earnest and
trustworthy
negotiations

Now again, therefore, We lift up Our voice, "with piercing cry and with tears",² very earnestly beseeching those who have charge of the public welfare to strive with every means available to prevent the further spread of the conflagration, and even to extinguish it entirely. For We do not doubt that all men who sincerely seek what is right and what is just, no matter what their race, color, religion or social status may be, feel the same way We do. Therefore, let all those responsible strive to bring about those necessary conditions which will lead men to lay down their arms at last, before it becomes too late to do so, owing to the mounting pressure of

² Hebr. 5, 7.

events. Those in whose hands rests the safety of the human family should realize that at this critical moment their consciences are bound by the gravest obligation. With their own country, with the world, God, and history before their minds, they should carefully examine their moral record and obligations, remembering that men will esteem their memory if they will have followed Our appeal with wisdom. We cry to them in God's name to stop. Men must come together and work out concrete plans and terms in all sincerity. A settlement should be reached now, even at the expense of some inconvenience or loss; for it may have to be made later in the train of bitter slaughter and involve great loss. But this peace must rest on justice and the liberty of mankind, and take into account the rights of individuals and communities; otherwise it will be shifting and unstable.

We cry to
them in
God's
name
to stop

Peace,
inestimable
gift from
Heaven

At the same time as We are moved to make this anxious declaration, Our high responsibility as Pastor indicates to Us that We must ask help from on high, since peace,³ whose "benefits are so great that even in earthly mortal affairs no more pleasing name is heard, nothing is desired with greater longing, nothing better can be found",⁴ must be asked from Him Who is the Prince of Peace. As the Church in uncertain and troubled times used to turn for refuge to His Mother Mary, a most ready intercessor, it is right for Us to direct Our attention, yours, Venerable Brothers, and that of all the Faithful to her, who as St. Irenaeus says, "was made the cause of salvation for the whole human race".⁵ We can see nothing more appropriate or efficacious than for the whole Christian

³ Is. 9, 6.

⁴ S. Aug. *De Civ. Dei* 19, 11; *PL* 41, 637.

⁵ *Adv. Haer.* 3, 22; *PG* 7, 959.

family to raise its voice amid its many stresses and difficulties to pray the Mother of God, whom we also address as Queen of Peace, to be generous, as a good mother, with her gifts. During the Second Vatican Council We gave Our confirmation to a point of traditional doctrine when We gave her the title of Mother of the Church, a title acclaimed by the Council Fathers and the Catholic world. We must pray earnestly and unceasingly to her, for she is the Mother of our Saviour, and "clearly the mother of His members", as St. Augustine teaches;⁶ St. Anselm, to mention no others, agrees with him: "Can you ever have a greater dignity than to be the mother of those whose father and brother Christ deigns to be?".⁷ In fact, from Our Predecessor Leo XIII she received the same title: "truly the mo-

The
intercession
of Mary,
Mother of
the Church
and Queen
of Peace

⁶ *De sanct. virg.* 6; PL 40, 399.

⁷ *Or.* 47; PL 158, 945.

ther of the Church".⁸ Hence in our distress at this terrifying upheaval we do not hope in her in vain.

If misfortunes increase, the dedication of the people of God should also increase; and for that reason We are anxious for you, Venerable Brothers, to give a lead, and urge by exhortation a more persevering prayer to the gracious Virgin Mary, by the devout recitation of the Rosary during the month of October, as We have already indicated. This prayer is well suited to God's people, acceptable to the Mother of God and powerful in obtaining gifts from heaven.

The Second Vatican Ecumenical Council clearly referred to the Rosary, though not in express terms, when it reminded all the Faithful that "practices and exercises of devotion towards her (Mary), recom-

⁸ Epist. Enc. *Adiutricem populi christiani*, 5 sept. 1895; *Acta Leon.* 15, 1896, p. 302.

mended by the teaching authority of the Church in the course of the centuries, are to be held in high esteem".⁹

As the history of the Church so frequently testifies, this duty of prayer, so abundant in its fruits, is efficacious in averting evils and calamities and greatly fosters Christian living; "above all, it nourishes Catholic faith which, by timely meditation on the sacred mysteries, gains new strength, and it lifts the mind to the contemplation of divinely revealed truths".¹⁰

And so during the month of October dedicated to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, our prayers and supplications should be redoubled, in order that through her intercession there may dawn for all men the light of true peace, of true religious peace also, for unfortunately at the present day not all are permitted to profess their re-

Anniversary
an historic
meeting

⁹ Const. dogm. *De Ecclesia*, 67.

¹⁰ Pii XI, Litt. Enc. *Ingravescentibus malis*, 29 sept. 1937; AAS XXIX, 1937, p. 378.

ligion freely. We especially desire that this year October 4th, the anniversary, as We have already said, of Our visit to the United Nations in the cause of peace, be set aside by Catholics throughout the world as a Day of Prayer for Peace. It will be your task, Venerable Brothers, in keeping with your commendable religious zeal and your realization of the importance of this appeal, to prescribe the observances through which priests, religious and laity — and especially the innocent in the flower of youth and the sick in the midst of their sufferings — may be joined together in generous prayer to Her who is Mother of God and of the Church. On the same day, in St. Peter's Basilica, at the tomb of the Apostle, We also will hold a special ceremony of supplication in honour of the Virgin Mother of God, the protector of Christians and our intercessor for peace. In this way, the one voice of the Church will resound on

all the continents of the earth and reach the very gates of heaven. For as St. Augustine states, "amid the various languages of men, the faith of the heart speaks one tongue".¹¹

Look upon all your sons with motherly love, O Blessed Virgin! Consider the anxieties of the Bishops who fear the assaults of evil on their flocks; consider the anguish of so many men, fathers and mothers of families who are worried about their lot and that of their families and who are assailed with agonizing responsibilities. Calm the hearts of men at war and inspire them with "thoughts of peace". Through your intercession may the demands of justice, which have been caused by sin, be turned into mercy; may He bring mankind back to the peace it longs for; may He lead men to true and lasting prosperity.

¹¹ *Enarr. in Ps. 54, 11; PL 36, 636.*

Encouraged by the firm hope that the most high Mother of God will in her kindness grant Our humble prayer, We lovingly grant to you, Venerable Brothers, to the clergy and to the people entrusted to the care of each of you, the Apostolic Benediction.

Given in Rome, at St. Peter's, on the 15th day of September, in the year 1966, the fourth of Our Pontificate.

POPE PAUL VI

CVN/amw

cc: Mr. Lemieux ✓
Mr. Narasimhan

12 October 1966

Dear Monsignor Giovannetti,

Thank you for your kind letter No. 402/66 of 11 October, with which you sent me, at the request of His Holiness, an autographed Latin copy of His Holiness' Encyclical Letter "CHRISTI MATRI" together with its English translation and also the English text of His Holiness' address at the ceremony of Prayer for Peace.

I am most grateful to His Holiness for his kind thought. I should be grateful if you could convey to Him my deep appreciation and gratitude.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

U Thant

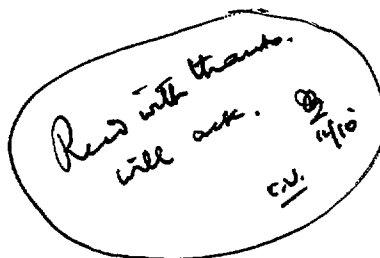
The Right Reverend
Monsignor Alberto Giovannetti, J.C.D., D.D.
Permanent Observer of the Holy See to
the United Nations
Holy Family Rectory
323 East 47th Street
New York, N.Y. 10017



TO THE UNITED NATIONS

New York, October 11, 1966

N. 402/66



Dear Secretary-General,

at the request of His Holiness Pope Paul VI, I have the honor to forward to you [an autographed Latin copy of His Holiness' Encyclical Letter "CHRISTI MATRI" together with its English translation and also the English text of His Holiness' address at the ceremony of Prayer for Peace]

This is
ack SS.

This is transmitted to you by mail instead of personally in deference to your crowded schedule.

May I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you my sincere sentiments of highest esteem and consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Alberto Giovannetti
Permanent Observer of the Holy See

H.E. The Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, N.Y.

(Enclosures)

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

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Note No. 3310
4 October 1966

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

At a brief ceremony to mark the first anniversary of Pope Paul VI's visit to the United Nations, seven children from the United Nations International School together rang the peace bell, located outside the Secretariat building, at 9:00 a.m. today.

Three girls and four boys, who tolled the bell seven times, wore the colourful national costume of their respective countries.

Among those present were C.V. Narasimhan, Under-Secretary for General Assembly Affairs and Chef de Cabinet; Monsignor Alberto Giovannetti, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations; Akira Matsui, Permanent Representative of Japan, and S.O. Adebo, Permanent Representative of Nigeria; and Hilary Barratt-Brown of the World Federation of United Nations Associations.

The bell-ringing was first suggested by Mr. Adebo to the Secretary-General, U Thant.

After the ceremony, in a brief statement, Mr. Matsui recalled the words of Pope Paul in his address to the General Assembly on 4 October 1965: "War never again, never again war". and "It is up to us, up to you, children, to save the mankind and preserve peace in the world."

The Permanent Observer of the Holy See presented to the children pictures of Pope Paul VI addressing the General Assembly. The picture, on its back carried the words, "Pax Omni operanti bonum (ad Rom. 2,10) - Paulus P.P. VI".

The bronze peace bell was donated by the United Nations Association of Japan in the name of the people of Nippon in 1954. Weighing 256 pounds, it was cast from the coins donated by delegates of 60 nations at the thirteenth general conference of United Nations Associations held in Paris in 1951, and from individual contributions of various kinds of metal.

The bell, three feet three inches high and two feet in diameter at its base, is housed in a typically Japanese structure like a Shinto shrine, made of cypress wood.

The children who participated in today's ceremony were: Akber Ali, Pakistan, 9; Ahmed El-Bouri, Libya, 10; Sabrina Griffith, Panama, 9; John Kisseadoo, Ghana, 8; Timothy Moe, USA, 9; Janice Sabin, Jamaica, 9; and Agnes Uranovicz, Hungary, 9.

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

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Press Release SG/SM/579
4 October 1966

TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM POPE PAUL VI TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Following is the text of a cable dated 3 October from Pope Paul VI in reply to the message^{*} of the Secretary-General, U Thant, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Pope's visit to the United Nations, on 4 October:

"Profondément touché du déférent et cordial message que vous Nous adressez pour l'anniversaire de Notre visite à l'Organisation des Nations Unies, Nous sommes heureux d'avoir cette occasion de vous redire combien Nous avons apprécié la continuation de votre activité en faveur de la paix. En ce jour où Nous avons invité tous Nos fils catholiques à s'unir à Nous en une fervente prière pour cette grande cause, Nous vous exprimons Nos vœux pour que l'ONU, répondant à l'attente anxieuse des peuples, poursuive inlassablement sa tâche historique et voie ses efforts enfin couronnés de succès."

Unofficial translation:

"Deeply touched by the courteous and cordial message which you sent to Us on the anniversary of Our visit to the United Nations, We are happy to have this opportunity of telling you once again how much We appreciate your continuing work for peace. On this day, on which We have invited all Our Catholic sons to join Us in a fervent prayer for this great cause, We express Our hopes that the United Nations, responding to the anxious expectations of all peoples, will indefatigably persist in its historic task and finally see its efforts crowned with success."

* *** *

* See press release SG/SM/577.

XERO COPY
XERO COPY
✓
Unofficial translation from French

CABLE

TO: SECRETARY-GENERAL
FROM: POPE PAUL VI
DATE: 3 OCTOBER 1966

Deeply touched by the courteous and cordial message which you sent to Us on the anniversary of Our visit to the United Nations, We are happy to have this opportunity of telling you once again how much We appreciate your continuing work for peace. On this day, on which we ^{have} invited all Our Catholic sons to join Us in a fervent prayer for this great cause, we express Our hopes that the United Nations, responding to the anxious expectations of all peoples, will indefatigably persist in its historic task and finally see its efforts crowned with success.

Paulus PP VI

UNATION 420544

ITT9/UAC255/LOB0114

VATICANO 107 3 2000

ETATPRIORITE

MONSIEUR THANT SECRETAIRE GENERAL DES NATIONS UNIES NEWYORK

PROFONDEMENT TOUCHE DU DEFERENT ET CORDIAL MESSAGE QUE VOUS NOUS
ADRESSEZ POUR L'ANNIVERSAIRE DE NOTRE VISITE AL ORGANISATION DES
NATIONS UNIES NOUS SOMMES HEUREUX D'AVOIR CETTE OCCASION DE VOUS
REDIRE COMBIEN NOUS AVONS APPRECIE LA CONTINUATION DE VOTRE ACTIVITE
EN FAVEUR DE LA PAIX EN CE JOUR OU NOUS AVONS INVITE TOUS NOS FILS
CATHOLIQUES A SUIVIR A NOUS EN UNE FIEVREUSE PRIERE POUR CETTE GRANDE
CAUSE NOUS VOUS EXPRIMONS NOS VOEUX POUR QUE L'ONU REpondant A L'ATTENTE

ANXIEUSE DES PEUPLES POURSUIVE INLASSABLEMENT SA TACHE HISTORIQUE
ET VOIE SES EFFORTS ENFIN COURONNES DE SUCCES

PAULUS PP VI

COL A A A PP VI

CE

UNATION 420544

RECEVU
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DE
L'UNION
CATHOLIQUE
DE FRANCE
A PARIS

U N I T E D N A T I O N S

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Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

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CAUTION: ADVANCE RELEASE
For A.M. Newspapers
Tuesday, 4 October, Only

Press Release SG/SM/577
3 October 1966

TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL TO POPE PAUL VI

Following is the text of a message sent by the Secretary-General, U Thant, to His Holiness Pope Paul VI on the occasion of the first anniversary of his visit to the United Nations, on 4 October:

"On this first anniversary of Your Holiness' visit to the United Nations, I wish to recall the enduring inspiration of that day and of Your Holiness' message to the General Assembly.

"The presence of a great spiritual leader in our midst and his historic words of wisdom, reason and compassion had, and continue to have, a profound effect upon those who labour for peace here in the United Nations. That effect has been preserved and reinforced by subsequent pronouncements of Your Holiness, including your letter of 24 January 1966 on the occasion of the meeting of the Committee of Eighteen on Disarmament, your message addressed through me to the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on 26 May of this year, and your recent and most moving appeal for peace in the world.

"In sending Your Holiness greetings on this day, may I express again, as Secretary-General of the United Nations, my gratitude to you for having brought your great spiritual authority and strength to the support of the efforts of the United Nations for peace and human well-being and my confident hope that your inspiring endeavours and our labours will not prove to be in vain.

"I beg Your Holiness to accept the renewed expression of my profound gratitude and homage."

* * * * *

UNITED NATIONS

Press Services
Office of Public Information
United Nations, N.Y.

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CAUTION: ADVANCE RELEASE
For A.M. Newspapers
Tuesday, 4 October, Only

Press Release GA/3218/Rev.1
3 October 1966

STATEMENT BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT ON FIRST ANNIVERSARY
OF VISIT BY POPE PAUL VI TO UNITED NATIONS

Following is the text of a statement by the President of the General Assembly, Abdul Rahman Pazhwak (Afghanistan), on the first anniversary of the visit of His Holiness Pope Paul VI to United Nations Headquarters, which took place on 4 October 1965:

"Twelve months have passed since I had the privilege of listening to His Holiness Pope Paul VI address the representatives of the States Members of the United Nations gathered together for the twentieth session of the General Assembly.

"I well recall how deeply impressed I was by His Holiness' conviction that 'this Organization represents the obligatory road of modern civilization and of world peace', and his message of 'moral and solemn ratification of this high Institution', to use his own words.

"When I spoke in the General Assembly a few days later on behalf of my country, Afghanistan, I recalled His Holiness' words and said that 'His statement that the people of the earth should turn towards the United Nations as the only place of hope and that this Organization is the source of the education of mankind in the ways of peace shall always be remembered by us.'

"Because of my own profound belief in the capacity of humanity and human institutions to preserve hope and to achieve progress even under the most difficult of circumstances, I would like to repeat today the exhortation for the future of the United Nations which His Holiness so eloquently addressed a year ago to all of us gathered in the General Assembly Hall: 'The building you have made must never again fall in ruins; it must be perfected and conformed to the demands world history will make. You mark a stage in the development of mankind: henceforth no turning back, you must go forward.'

(more)

"Above all, the message His Holiness brought to the United Nations was a cry for peace, a cry he expressed most movingly in the striking phrase: 'Never again war, war never again!' This indeed is the high purpose for which the United Nations was born: to be against war and for peace.

"I deeply appreciate the strong call for peace which His Holiness voiced at the United Nations and which he has reiterated again and again in the months since that time, joining his appeal to the calls of so many spiritual leaders and leaders of nations throughout the world.

"Yet we must recognize that all these efforts, these appeals, these suggestions have so far proved insufficient. They have fallen on almost barren ground and the tide of war runs unchecked. The moral duty of every individual, as of every individual nation, is clear -- our efforts must be renewed, redoubled, and every avenue, every suggestion must be explored. Only when our efforts are commensurate with the task of attaining peace will we see a final end to war.

"Can the conscience of man be cleansed of the blood of his fellows? Can man recognize that the stain of blood cannot be washed out with blood? Can we find the answer to the question His Holiness put to us: Will the world ever succeed in changing the exclusive and war-like state of mind which up to now has woven so much of its history?

"I am a firm believer in the possibility, not of perfection, but of progress. I believe in man's potential for change, for development. Mankind has created in the United Nations a moral and educational force which already has set some high principles and goals for the conduct of man's relations with his fellowmen.

"Thus, I share the faith of His Holiness that now is the time for us to learn to think of man in a new way, and in a new way also of men's life in common, in order that all spiritual and material human resources may be devoted to the cause of peace and to a happier human destiny."

21 September 1966

My dear Chief,

This is with reference to your letter dated 19 September addressed to the Secretary-General, in regard to which I called you on the phone yesterday morning.

In view of your recommendation, we have agreed that we shall have the symbolic ringing of the Peace Bell done by a selected group of children from the United Nations International School, on the morning of 4 October 1966 which, as you know, is the anniversary of the visit of His Holiness the Pope to the United Nations. We feel that this would be appropriate since His Holiness has suggested that this day may be observed as a day of prayer for peace.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

C.V. Narasimhan
Chef de Cabinet

His Excellency
Chief S.O. Adebo, C.M.G.
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Nigeria to
the United Nations
757 Third Avenue, 20th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10017

cc: Mr. Lemieux
Mr. Narasimhan

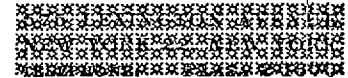
(Original with Mr. Narasimhan)



OUR REP.

PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

757 THIRD AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, NEW YORK
Telephone: HAnover 1-2610



19th September, 1966.

His Excellency U. Thant,
Secretary General,
United Nations Secretariat,
New York.

*Will discuss.
C.V. 1/19/7*

Excellency,

I am sure you know Mr. McConnell of the "Minute For Peace" Movement. He has been to see me with a suggestion which appears to me to be deserving of consideration.

Mr. McConnell's idea is that, a few minutes before the opening of this General Assembly session, there should be a symbolic ringing of the Peace Bell. The ringing would be done by a selected group of children from the United Nations International School, and it would be done in your presence. Following that you would proceed to the General Assembly for the opening ceremony.

Mr. McConnell feels that the ringing ceremony would encourage people all over the world to pause and reflect for one minute on how peace might be attained through their own personal thoughts and actions and that this would create renewed interest in your own often-expressed thought that "Peace begins in the minds of men".

I respectfully submit this proposal for your consideration.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

S. O. Adebo

(S. O. Adebo)
Permanent Representative.