

Pope's Visit To Holy Land Is Shrewd Move To Aid Unity

VATICAN CITY (UPI)—Pope Paul VI's planned pilgrimage to the Holy Land next month is a "shrewd and forceful move" to help Christian unity and ease political and religious problems in the area, a high Vatican source said today.

Leaders of other faiths welcomed the Pope's journey and there was speculation that the historic trip might be followed by others, possibly including a visit to the United States.

The Vatican source said the pilgrimage is certain to please the Orthodox Christians and could be a key move in the drive to bring them back into the Roman Catholic Church.

The source said the pilgrimage, although primarily religious, could play an important role in solving other problems.

"Extract Political Sting"

For one thing, the source said, by visiting the Arab nation of Jordan, the Pope could "extract the political sting" from an Ecumenical Council document that says there is no Biblical basis for anti-semitism.

Another possible result could be to help settle the arguments over the rights of various religious groups to the holy places. It might also serve to help ease the frontier situation between Israel and Jordan, or at least push them towards making it easier to cross the frontier.

Because of present tension, the border can be crossed only for 24 hours on Christmas.

Other Vatican sources stressed the religious motivation for the trip. They said the pontiff wanted to go to the land where Christianity originated as a matter of personal devotion and to implore heavenly guidance for himself and the council.

The pontiff surprised the 2,150 council fathers at their closing session for 1963 Wednesday when he announced his plans for the trip.

The two or three day trip will set a number of precedents. It will be:

First Holy Land Trip —The first journey to the Holy Land by a Pope since St. Peter, who is acclaimed by Roman Catholics as the first Pope, left Palestine in 64 A.D.

—The longest journey ever made by a reigning pontiff.

—The first papal trip by plane.

—The first time a Pope has visited a predominantly non-Christian nation; Muslim Jordan and Jewish Israel now share the Holy Land's shrines.

—The first time a Pope has left Italy in 151 years, the last time being the forced departure of Pope Pius VII to France on Napoleon's orders in 1812.

First reactions from Protestant and Orthodox circles here indicated the trip may also improve inter-faith relations. This is the first step toward the goal of Christian unity, pursued both by Paul and his predecessor, Pope John XXIII.

Hopeful Of U. S. Visit

American Catholic leaders were reported hopeful that the Pope will come to the United States, which with its 45 million Catholics has the second largest Catholic population in the world.

No date for the Holy Land trip has been announced, but one Vatican source said it might be by Jan. 8, two days after the Feast of the Epiphany, which commemorates the journey of the three wise men to Bethlehem.

A papal visit to the New York hem.

Church Leaders Move To Get Rights Bill Out Of Committee

PHILADELPHIA (UPI) — Protestant church leaders from all parts of the nation moved today to muster public support for a discharge petition to pry the administration's civil rights bill out of the House Rules Committee.

A resolution urging millions of church members to write to their congressman, supporting the discharge petition, was presented to the General Assembly of the National Council of Churches for adoption this morning.

The resolution, endorsed in advance by assembly leaders from major Protestant denominations, voiced strong support for prompt passage of the stalled civil rights bill, and bade church members to apply all possible public pressure to members of Congress to insure its speedy enactment.

It specifically endorsed the discharge petition which requires the signature of 218 House members to bring the bill to the floor without a go-ahead from the traffic-cop rules committee.

Bishop Rueben H. Mueller, Indianapolis, Ind., took over as president of the National Council today with a pledge to "make more prominent" in the group's activities "the basic purpose of the Christian faith."

Bishop Mueller, 66, an Evangelical Protestant, indicated he wants churches to put more emphasis on their basic mission of "bringing people into encounter with the living God."

He added that there should be no "subtracting" from any of the council's past concerns for social issues. He said he plans to "continue and intensify" the work of the National Council's Commission on Religion and Race, which is seeking to involve church members actively in the fight for racial justice.

Bishop Mueller was elected President Wednesday night at the group's triennial General Assembly here to succeed J. Irwin Miller, of Columbus, Ind., wealthy industrialist and the first layman to head the council.

The new president, who is senior bishop of the Evangelical United Brethren Church (EUB), will serve a three-year term as chief spokesman for the National Council, which represents 31 major Protestant and Orthodox denominations with 40 million members.

Congress Eyes Control Of Guns

WASHINGTON (UPI)—In the wake of the assassination of President Kennedy, Congress is coming to grips for the first time with far-reaching gun control legislation.

Senate and House committees are expected to consider bills during the next 10 days to place major restrictions on the sale of firearms throughout the nation.

Individuals still would be able to purchase guns—within limits set down by local and state laws—but not by mail.

The Justice Department recommended Tuesday that interstate shipment of guns be permitted only between manufacturers and licensed dealers.

The department filed its proposals in a report on a Senate bill that has been pending since August. It said the Kennedy assassination indicated an urgent need for broader legislation.

A spokesman for the influential National Rifle Association (NRA) said he was certain the NRA would oppose the Justice Department recommendation.

The NRA had endorsed legislation originally proposed by Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D-Conn. Dodd's bill was designed to curb mail order traffic of handguns to juveniles and criminals. Dodd added two amendments to strengthen his bill after Kennedy's death. The surprise Justice Department recommendations were even stronger.



NICK BEAL

NEWS REVIEW "newsboy of the month" for November is Nick Beal, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Beal, 817 W. Stanton St. During November Nick delivered 3,800 papers with only seven complaints and raised his route listing from 143 customers in October to 152 in November. He also paid his bill on time which rounded out his total of "points" for the month to 8,350. He started his route on May 1, 1962, and delivers The News-Review on W. Harvard Boulevard between Foothill Drive and Fair St.

Kawakita May Be Another Nathan Hale

SEATTLE (UPI)—The Japanese government today was studying the case of Tomoya Kawakita, 42, who was convicted of treasonable brutality against U.S. servicemen in a Japanese prisoner of war camp in World War II.

Kawakita was scheduled for early release from McNeil Island Federal Penitentiary near Tacoma on condition he return to Japan and never return to this country.

His conditional release was authorized by the late President Kennedy as one of his last official acts.

However, Kawakita may be a man without a country according to John P. Boyd, district director of immigration here. He said Wednesday Kawakita lost his U.S. citizenship in 1948 when he was convicted of brutality. Kawakita was an interpreter at the prisoner of war camp.

Kawakita would not be eligible for a passport according to Boyd's announcement Wednesday. Earlier this week in Tokyo the Japanese Foreign Ministry said Kawakita renounced his Japanese citizenship in 1946 and that Japanese passports may be issued only to Japanese citizens.

Kawakita has served 16 years at McNeil. Noboru Takasugi, Japanese consul general here, said at his request his government is studying the case carefully.

U Of O Peace Corps Chairman Gives Talk

Dan Dodd, chairman of the Peace Corps of the University of Oregon, and a graduate of Douglas High, gave a talk to the DHS American Problems class on the Peace Corps last Friday.

Applications for the Peace Corps were passed out to the students to give them a clearer idea of the qualifications required to be a member of the organization. He also told of some of the hardships and rewards of the Peace Corps.

After giving his talk Dodd held a question and answer period.

STAR TO MARRY

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — Sue Lyon, teen-age nymphomaniac who first gained fame as "Lolita," plans to marry actor Hampton Fancher III Dec. 22.

The 17-year-old actress, currently in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, working in "Night of the Iguana," announced through a representative here that they would be married at the home of designer Dorothy Jeakins.

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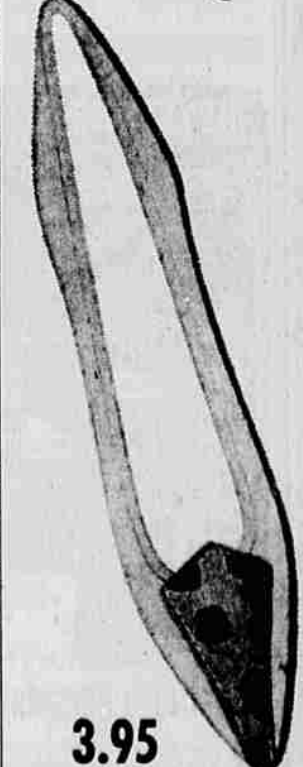
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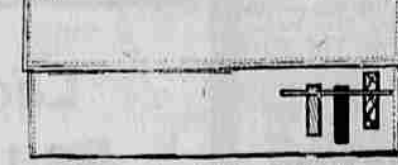
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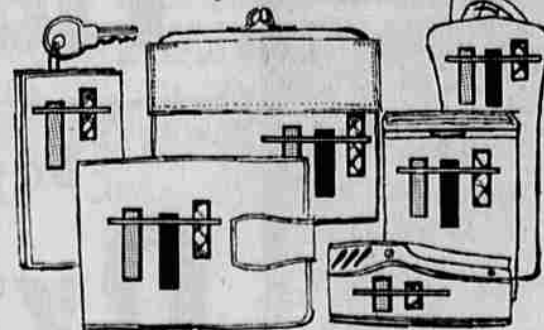
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