



EL OBSERVADOR



Bids

Pope Proposes Prayer for Peace

VATICANCITY (AP)—Pope John Paul II, concerned about the continued impact on humanity of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, invited representatives of the world's religions to come to Assisi, Italy on Jan. 24 for a daylong prayer for peace.

In his weekly appearance at St. Peter's Square, the pontiff invited leaders of all faiths, but particularly Christians and Muslims, to "proclaim before the world that religion should never become a motive for conflict, hatred and violence."

"In these historic moments, humanity needs to see gestures of peace and hear words of hope," the pope said.

Assisi, a pilgrimage hilltown in central Italy, is the birthplace of St. Francis, the founder of the Roman Catholic Franciscan order. The pope has twice before invited leaders of various faiths to gather in Assisi to pray for peace.

During his appearance, the 81-year-old pontiff also asked Catholics to fast on Dec. 14 and pray to God for justice and an end to the many conflicts in the world. He noted that the date coincides with the holy month of Ramadan, the monthlong holiday of fasting and purification for Muslims.



Pope John Paul II

The pope has spoken out several times about the Sept. 11 attacks and has decried terrorism in the past several weeks. But while the Vatican has acknowledged the right of legitimate defense against terrorists, it has made clear that any "just war" needs to avoid harming innocent people.

The pope, appearing in relatively good form, spoke to a crowd of several hundred in St. Peter's Square on a drizzly Sunday after celebrating Mass at a newly built parish on the outskirts of Rome.

In his homily at the Mass, the pontiff recalled the words of Jesus, which he said gave believers faith that their lives, "despite dramatic upheavals, remain connected to the

hands of God."

As he left the parish on his way back to St. Peter's, the pope waved good-bye with his cane to the delight of the crowd.

His visit came after a former CIA counterterrorism chief, Vincent Cannistraro, warned in an interview published Sunday in the daily La Repubblica that the pope remained a target of terrorists, and suggested that they might strike during the holiday season that starts this week, with the American holiday of Thanksgiving, and Christmas on Dec. 25.

Vatican officials have previously dismissed reports of particular threats against the pope, and did so again Sunday.

The pope first proclaimed a day of peace on Oct. 27, 1986 and invited representatives of the world's religions to Assisi. He brought together Christian, Muslim and Jewish leaders in Assisi on Jan. 9-10, 1993 to pray for an end to the Bosnian war.

Some of the town's famed basilicas, including the basilica of St. Francis, were badly damaged following two earthquakes that jolted central Italy on Sept. 26, 1997. They have since reopened after major restoration projects.

Glosario/Glossary

- clave - key
- continuar o suspender los diálogos - continue or suspend the dialogues
- corazón - heart
- cumplirse - to expire
- El gobierno colombiano - The Colombian government
- falta - fault, flaw
- imponer - to impose
- la cadena Radionet - the Radionet channel
- misimos - the same
- plazo - time
- sectores obreros - working sector
- sello - stamp, seal
- sur del país - south of the country
- tregua - truce
- vislumbrar - to catch a glimpse of
- zona desmilitariza - demilitarized zone

The Portland Observer's commitment to cultural diversity includes the encouragement of a multilingual society. Readers can learn Spanish on this page by reading the words and phrases in bold print and gaining understanding of its meaning with this companion glossary.

Metro

Request For Proposals Tort Counsel Services

RFP No. 01R-61-OGC

Metro is a regional government responsible for urban growth and transportation planning; the management of the Oregon Zoo; St. Johns Landfill, Metro South Station, Metro Central Station, Metro Composter Facility; Oregon Convention Center and Portland Center for the Performing Arts.

Metro is soliciting written proposals for Tort Counsel Services to be utilized on an as needed basis for future litigation. Possible future litigation includes defense of any claims which are subject to the Oregon Tort Claims Act, including employment matters, personal injury, and property damage. It is also possible that future litigation will not be referred to outside counsel.

Proposals will be received at the business office of Metro, Office of General Counsel, 600 N.E. Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736, to the attention of Daniel B. Cooper, General Counsel, until 3:00 p.m. PST, December 3, 2001. Proposals submitted prior to that date should be delivered to the Office of General Counsel marked "Proposal - Tort Counsel Services."

The RFP documents can be obtained by calling (503) 797-1530 or by accessing Metro's web site at <http://www.metro-region.org/jobs/contract/bizlist.html>.

Each proposal must be submitted in a form as described in this proposal documents.

All bids must conform to the RFB format and be complete including the use of any required forms. Metro may accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, or waive irregularities not affecting substantial rights if such action is deemed in the public interest.

Metro and its contractors will not discriminate against any person(s) based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, physical handicap, political affiliation or marital status.

Metro extends equal opportunity to all persons and specifically encourages minority and women-owned businesses to access and participate in this and all Metro projects, programs and services.

Gobierno y guerrillas ante semana clave para la paz en Colombia

Bogotá (AP) - El gobierno colombiano enfrenta una compleja semana para la paz, ya que mientras espera que una guerrilla se decida a continuar o suspender los diálogos, también intenta que otra agrupación rebelde se comprometa a negociar.

El próximo miércoles se cumple el plazo dado por las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) al gobierno para levantar los controles militares impuestos en torno a la zona de distensión, que según los rebeldes impiden negociar.

Las FARC aseguraron que de no cumplirse sus demandas el proceso será "insuperable por el momento" e incluso pueden devolver el área desmilitarizada de 42.000 kilómetros cuadrados que les fue cedida hace tres años en el sur del país.

Hasta el momento, los escenarios que se plantean apuntan desde el rompimiento de las conversaciones hasta un relanzamiento de los diálogos en

los mismos términos o la definición de nuevas reglas que permitan guiar las negociaciones hacia una tregua.

"Yo creo que hay todavía una leve posibilidad de que el proceso se salve, tal vez entre un 5 y 10%", dijo a la AP Carlos Franco, analista político de la Fundación Progresar y ex guerrillero.

Franco considera que los principales obstáculos para la continuidad de los diálogos son la falta de iniciativa de las partes y la proximidad de las elecciones del 2002, donde los candidatos consideran impopular apoyar una salida negociada al conflicto.

El candidato liberal que puntea las encuestas, Horacio Serpa, aseguró que "resulta supremamente inconveniente que se siga hablando de paz y se siga incrementando la violencia", por eso es urgente "un acuerdo humanitario" que conduzca a un cese del fuego.

"Yo no quiero que este proceso se acabe", aseguró el aspirante

presidencial este lunes a la cadena Radionet, pero advirtió que las negociaciones deben derivar en mejoras para las condiciones de vida de los colombianos.

Luis Eduardo Garzón, el abanderado de los sectores obreros y de izquierda democrática, considera que es necesario darle el sello de política de Estado a los diálogos de paz y asegurar su continuidad.

"Lo que me parece que va a ser clave es que los acuerdos que se produzcan ahora logren tener continuidad en el proceso (de paz) de cualquiera que sea que llegue al próximo gobierno", dijo Garzón a la cadena Radionet.

En una sorpresiva visita a San Vicente del Caguán, en el corazón de la zona de despeje, la candidata independiente Noemí Sanín afirmó el domingo que el proceso de paz "necesita firmeza, reglas claras, verificación y tregua". Agregó que "después del 11 de septiembre el mundo cambió" y las FARC tienen que negociar.

El analista y ex comisionado de paz Carlos Eduardo Jaramillo también cree que este nuevo contexto internacional incidirá en el curso del proceso de paz.

"Esta mayor presión internacional permitiría vislumbrar en el horizonte una derrota militar de la guerrilla y esta perspectiva va a imponer la necesidad de entrar a nuevas negociaciones de paz con un horizonte claro", dijo Jaramillo a revista Semana.

A diferencia de lo que ocurre con las FARC, el insurgente Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN) ha vuelto a sentarse a dialogar con el gobierno en Cuba, tras tres meses sin contactos.

Aunque los diálogos se llevan en medio del hermetismo han surgido voces de apoyo para que se lance formalmente un proceso de paz, sobre todo porque los rebeldes no estarían solicitando una zona desmilitariza para negociar.



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Oregon University System Request For Proposals (RFP)

PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES
Responses Due 2:00 p.m. November 29, 2001

Qualified firms are asked to respond to a Request for Proposal for professional consulting services in the areas of architecture, landscape architecture, interior design, planning, land use, surveying, appraising, environmental assessment, construction management, and various engineering disciplines. From these proposals, a limited number of firms will be selected to form a list from which the seven OUS universities may select professional consultants.

For a copy of the RFP, fax a request to (541) 346-5757, or call (541) 346-5735 and leave your name and address. RFP packets may also be picked up in room 349, Susan Campbell Hall, 1431 Johnson Lane, Eugene Oregon 97403, on the University of Oregon campus. Responses received after 2 p.m., November 29, 2001 will not be considered. Any questions regarding this RFP should be directed to Robert Simonton, Director Capital Construction Budgeting and Planning, at (541) 346-5728.

OUS may reject any response not in compliance with all prescribed public bidding procedures and requirements, and may cancel this solicitation or reject any or all responses upon the finding of OUS that it is in the public interest to do so. OUS is an AA/EEO employer and encourages the submittal of responses from women, minority-owned, and emerging small business enterprises.

SUB-BIDS REQUESTED

Multnomah County - Wapato Corrections Facility

Pre-Bid Meeting: 10:00 am, November 28
Outreach Meeting: 4:30 pm, December 5

Concrete Work - Bids Due: 3:00 pm, December 18
At Multnomah County Purchasing

All Other Work - Bids due: 2:00 pm, December 20
At Hoffman Construction Company

Bid Documents-Willamette Print & Blueprint
(503/223-5011) or www.bxwa.com
Hoffman intends to submit a bid to self-perform the Concrete Work

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We are an equal opportunity employer and request sub bids from all interested firms including disadvantaged, minority, women, disabled veterans and emerging small business enterprises.

Other Subcontracting Opportunities - Internet <http://www.hoffmancorp.com>