

Second Session of Ecumenical Council To Open Sunday

By LOUIS CASSELS
 United Press International.
 More than 2,500 Catholic cardinals, patriarchs, bishops and abbots from all parts of the world will gather in Rome next week to carry out the dying wish of Pope John XXIII.
 As his life was ebbing away last June, Pope John repeatedly voiced his fervent hope for continuation of the Ecumenical council which he had summoned to "let a little fresh air into the church."
 The first act of his successor, Pope Paul VI, was to announce that the council would be resumed.
To Start Sept. 29
 The second session will start in St. Peter's Basilica next Sunday, Sept. 29, and continue through Dec. 8.
 It may well prove to be the most important religious meeting of this century—or of many centuries.
 The primary goal of the council, slated by Pope John and forcefully reiterated by Pope Paul, is to bring about a far-reaching "renewal" of the 500 million-member Roman Catholic church.
 The council fathers will take up a tremendous variety of problems, ranging from use of modern languages in the mass to the church's stand on birth control. They will seek, in Pope John's phrase, to "bring the church up to date" without sacrificing any of its ancient truths.
The Long Range Hope
 The long range hope is that the council will advance the cause of Christian unity by reforming some Catholic practices and clarifying others that are stumbling blocks to protestant and orthodox Christians.
 But no one expects the council fathers to resolve all the differences which divide the Christian family. They won't be trying to produce a "new Catholicism" acceptable to Baptists and Methodists. Their purpose is to rediscover what is fundamental and enduring in the Catholic faith, and to prune away any accumulations of human error which collect around a church like barnacles on a ship.
 The determination of the council fathers to concentrate on the renewal of genuine Catholicism rather than on Christian unity per se is heartily endorsed by protestant leaders who have learned from their own experience in Ecumenical cooperation that the shortest road to reunion is for each body to be obedient to its own vision of the will of Christ. Of



LOOK TOWARD THRONE—Council fathers line up in this general view of the main nave of St. Peter's Basilica, looking toward Altar Major where Papal throne is located. This picture was taken during the first session of Ecumenical Council II. (UPI)

all churches more closer to their common center, these leaders say, they will inevitably draw closer together.
Will Be Represented
 Major protestant and orthodox communions will be represented at the second session of the council, as they were at the first session, by about 40 official observers who will be free to attend all the secret debates.

It is generally anticipated that things will move much faster and more smoothly at the second session. During the first session, which lasted from Oct. 11 to Dec. 8, 1962, the council fathers managed to take up only four of 70 items on their agenda, and did not complete action on any.
 The slow pace of the first session was probably inevitable. Since this is the first such worldwide meeting of Catholic bishops in nearly a century, none of the participants had any previous council experience. It took them time to get organized, work out rules of procedure and learn how to limit debate without stifling opposition. Most important, there had to be a feeling-out period, to test sentiment and determine whether a majority of the bishops really shared the Pope's desire for renewal.
Essential Preliminaries
 These essential preliminaries were accomplished at the first session. And it was made clear on every test vote that the advocates of renewal vastly outnumbered the stand-pat faction led by the conservatives of the Roman Curia.
 During the past nine months, while the council was in recess, committees have been hard at work in Rome, boiling down the unmanageable agenda and rewriting draft statements too reactionary or stuffy. The central coordinating commission, headed by Amleto Cardinal Cicognani, the Vatican secretary of state, succeeded in reducing the agenda for the second session to 17 items.
 Draft statements of "Schemata" which will serve as the vehicles for council debate on these 17 items have been circulated to all the bishops of the church for advance study. In several countries, bishops have held national conferences to discuss the issues before going to Rome. American bishops met in Chicago in early August for this purpose.

Another reason for anticipating a swifter action at the second session is that Pope Paul will insist on it. As Cardinal Montini of Milan, he made a stirring speech near the end of the first session, deploring the slow pace of the council and calling for a wholesale revision of the cumbersome drafts which had bogged down debate.
 Pope Paul is considered to be at least as progressive, and perhaps more progressive in his views than Pope John. As a veteran of the Vatican bureaucracy, he knows all about the strategies which Curia professionals can employ to slow or sidetrack reform movements of which they disapprove. And he is not likely to be as tolerant of genteel footdragging from his own official household as was the infinitely patient Pope John.
 The first completed work to emerge from the council—possibly within a few days after the second session convenes—is likely to be a statement of liturgy which the bishops debated for three weeks last fall. The general outlines of the statement already have been approved by a nearly unanimous vote and the fathers have only to examine the details at the second session before sending the document to the Pope for approval and promulgation.
Latin Is Retained
 It retains Latin in the main parts of the mass—the offertory, consecration and communion service—but authorizes the use of modern languages in other portions of the service, including scripture lessons and preliminary prayers and chants.
 Other major issues scheduled to come before the second session of the council include:
 —A "decentralization" plan which would grant considerably more local autonomy to bishops and to national Episcopal conferences, enabling them to decide many matters which now have to be referred to the Roman Curia.
 —Defining a more important

role for the laity in Catholic life.
 —A clear-cut statement upholding the right of every human being to worship according to the dictates of his own conscience, and the duty of every government to respect this religious liberty.
Modification of Canon
 —A modification of the Canon law on mixed marriages, which requires the non-Catholic partner to promise that children will be reared as Catholics.
 —Abolition of the index of forbidden books, which dates back to the inquisition.
 —A statement on divine revelation which will encourage Catholic biblical study and clarify the church's teaching that divine truth has been communicated both in written scripture and in the oral tradition of the church.
 —A catch-all statement on "the church in the modern world" which will touch on such topics of current controversy as birth control, racial justice, socialism, relations with Communist regimes and ways to preserve world peace.
Action Seen Doubtful
 Whether the fathers can act on all these and many other important matters contained in

the 17-item agenda for the second session is doubtful. With adjournment already set for Dec. 8 so that the bishops can return to their home dioceses in time for Christmas, some Vatican sources are predicting that it will be necessary to hold a third council session in the fall of 1964.
 One thing seems certain, Pope Paul will keep the council in session for as long as necessary to accomplish the "Aggiornamento," or renewal, which his predecessor launched, and for which he offered his last prayers on earth.

Second Anniversary of Peace Corps Being Observed Today

(Editor's note: The Peace Corps celebrates its second anniversary today. How do the Peace Corps workers feel about their jobs? Many want to go back. Some are disillusioned. A consensus is contained in the following dispatch.)
 By GEORGE WEEKS
 United Press International
 WASHINGTON (UPI)—With two years of work behind them, most Peace Corps volunteers feel the job was worth the doing. Those who don't, found the program blocked by red tape in underdeveloped nations. Some were bitter. They said they could not break through the inertia of the people they were sent to help. Still others were disappointed with their receptions in the nations they were supposed to aid.
 Peace Corps Director Sargent Shriver told United Press International that the corps asked for comments and criticisms from more than 700 volunteers who have completed their tours of duty.
 Here is a sampling of what they found:
 James Welcome, Bloomington, Ill., said "for actual accomplishments we may have been a failure, but maybe some of the ideas we tried to give them will take hold."
 Doug Darling, of Tulsa, Okla., said his work in the Philippines convinced him the Peace Corps was a "wonderful vehicle for winning new friends, and keeping the friends we already have."

In Tanganyika, Jerry Parsons of Albany, N.Y., said he was so well liked that he was offered a wife and a farm if he would stay on the job.
 But in Ethiopia, one volunteer said the government tried to discourage the Peace Corps workers "because they are afraid we will acquaint the common masses with a better way of life."
 Susan Johnson of Sausalito, Calif., reported that in the Philippines the people "were very dubious at having the great white Americans descend upon them... There was no hostility... But we could never overcome their underlying doubts about our mission."
 Today the Peace Corps is two years old. It has 6,634 volunteers assigned to, or training for, 49 countries.
 The Philippines has the greatest number of workers in the Far East. In Africa, there were about 2,208 volunteers either training for African assignments or already on duty.
Wants Ex-Volunteers
 Shriver said it is the goal of the corps to some day have the entire program managed by ex-volunteers. He said they have seen its shortcomings and successes, and that their help will be invaluable for a "flexible, dynamic Peace Corps."
 The consensus of the returning volunteers indicates that most of them feel their service was worthwhile.
 But the most frequent comment heard was that the public has the wrong "image" about the corps.

One Peace Corps volunteer said the "volunteer is portrayed in silhouette against a sun going down behind the palms. He has a shovel over his shoulder, a child at his feet, and he is looking onward and upward."
 This image, he said, is hard to equate with practice—but adds that the "Peace Corps is doing an amazingly good job from the standpoint of need."

Old Trail Marker Found by Surveyors
 LA GRANDE (UPI)—Two surveyors have discovered an old carved stone which apparently marked a branch of the Oregon Trail 10 miles east of here.
 Stowell Weimer and Ken Kelling, employee of the Boise Cascade Corp. forestry department, found the marker while surveying ownership boundaries.
 The rock, located in the middle of a field, was about three-quarters below the ground. In a smooth strip about 18 inches long and six inches high had been chisled the words "Oregon Trail" and "1859." In the center is a pyramid-shaped object and inside that, what appears to be the outline of a horse's head.
 The rock was found about 100 yards from the state's official "Emigrant Trail" location. Two trails about the width of wagon tracks and still discernible despite a covering of grass were nearby.



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