

[10/25/78-Not Submitted] [CF, O/A 548]

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

for
summer

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 25, 1978

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: FRANK MOORE
TERRY STRAUB

F. Moore
Terry Straub

RE: PRESIDENTIAL DELEGATION TO THE PAPAL INVESTITURE

Mr. President, while memory still serves, we thought it would be useful to recount several incidents of interest that occurred during the delegation trip to Rome. In no particular order of importance I list the following:

1. As you might be aware there was some tension between Zbig Brzezinski and Speaker O'Neill as to who was actually leading the delegation. I only mention it because the Speaker made it evidenced to several other members of the delegation in a quiet way. Apparently he mentioned the same to Frank yesterday in a conversation.
2. Virtually all members of the delegation, particularly those with Polish and Italian backgrounds, were exceptionally proud to have been appointed by you to the delegation and very moved by the ceremonies in Rome. Most of these men are deeply religious and the appointment to the delegation had a very special meaning, particularly to Clement Zablocki, John LaFalce, Barbara Mikulski, and Joe Addabbo. On repeated occasions they mentioned how honored they were to have been appointed.
3. Clement Zablocki was particularly elated because in the audience they had with the Pope the Pope recognized and called Zablocki by name, apparently having met him a few years ago on his visit to Milwaukee when Zablocki hosted a reception for him.
4. Several members of the delegation had a special treat in that large numbers of their constituents from cities in their districts were in Rome for the investiture and they were able to spend time with them as well as with the regular

delegation. This was particularly true of the New York members (a large Buffalo delegation) and several of the Illinois members had Chicago constituents in attendance.

5. Luci Johnson Nugent remarked that, as a converted Catholic, this appointment meant more to her than anything else you could possibly do for her. She was very honored to have been a part of the delegation and mixed quite well with the other members. She feels deeply indebted to you.

6. Both Tip and Zbig briefed the rest of the delegation on the audience they had with the Pope and the exchange of letters. Members of the delegation were hungry for every bit of detail the Speaker or Dr. Brzenzinski could recall from that audience.

7. All members of the delegation were particularly moved by the ceremony itself. All those present felt that they were witnessing a very holy moment that was surely unique in their lifetime.

I have attached a copy of the Pope's remarks. As you know, he delivered his remarks in 11 different languages, reaching out all across the world and touching his congregation very personally. All the members of the delegation feel this Pope holds great promise not just for the church but as a spiritual leader to all the world. He has already imprinted the Holy See with his own very open and personal style. Particularly moving was his reception of each of the Cardinals during the ceremony, stopping to talk with and embrace each of them as they approached him.

Problems on the trip were few, the time was short and the days were very full, so the delegates were kept moving at a fairly rapid pace. They seemed to enjoy this as it made them feel much more a part of the events surrounding the Investiture. Several of us made a point to keep a particularly close eye on John Wojtyla, the Pope's cousin. He did just fine -- seemed to enjoy himself totally.

On unrelated matters but from discussions that came up during the trip with individual Members regarding the recent Congressional session, to the person the feeling was that your strong finish, particularly toward the end of the session, considerably improved relationships with

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRIEFING PAPER

Pope John Paul II

Karol Wojtyla was born at Wadowice, Krakow province, in 1920. He was a student at Krakow University reading Polish language and literature when Poland was invaded in 1939. Following the Nazi closure of Poland's universities he became a chemical worker, but in 1943 began attending a clandestine course in theology. He was ordained in 1946 and spent the next two years ministering to Polish emigre workers in Rome, France, and Belgium.

Father Wojtyla returned to Poland in 1948 and received a doctorate in theology from the University of Krakow in 1951. The same year he transferred to the Catholic University of Lublin, where he was appointed a professor in 1954. He became titular bishop of Ombi in 1958 and suffragan bishop of Krakow a month later. He took charge of the archdiocese of Krakow in June 1962, when the incumbent died, and acted in that capacity until his permanent appointment two years later.

Wojtyla came to the United States in 1976 to attend the 41st International Eucharistic Congress; he had visited this country previously in 1969. He has also traveled to Canada, and he has accompanied Cardinal Wyszynski to Rome on many occasions.

Described as a "man of the people," Wojtyla has enjoyed a broad personal appeal, especially among students and youth, the younger clergy, and intellectuals. Relatively progressive in Church affairs, he embodied the spirit of Vatican II in his approach to social problems. Earlier in his career, he remained aloof from the forefront of church-state disputes, apparently preferring to co-exist within reasonable limits with the system and regime rather than presenting himself as a symbol of the struggle against Communism as did the Primate of Poland, Cardinal Wyszynski. In an effort to keep lines of communication open between the Polish regime and the Polish Church and the Vatican, Wojtyla took a low-key approach to problems with the regime, preferring to seek a degree of mutual cooperation. More recently, however, Wojtyla became identified with a harder posture toward the Communist leadership. This led to considerable questioning whether the regime would accept him as Wyszynski's successor, for which on the merits he was the clear cut choice among the Polish Church hierarchy.

the Congress as well as with constituents in most of their districts. I think it's fair to say that most Members who are returning next year feel they're starting on even ground this time and are more accustomed to your style and relationships with the Congress than in the recent past. The White House receives high marks for its performance and execution the last several months. It was clear their feeling was your Presidency is on much stronger footing as a result of the dramatic legislative successes you engineered in the second session of this Congress.

Wojtyla's special popularity among young people began when he was a young priest. During the depths of the Stalin era, when any Catholic action among youth required great courage, Wojtyla would often take his pupils to the fields on the outskirts of Krakow, and there, dressed in civilian clothes, play ball with them. His methods of education and training were rather unorthodox and based on modern principles of teaching. Through his understanding, directness and high intelligence, he reportedly managed to win over all the students, including atheists who showed him not only respect but liking.

It was widely known that with all his Catholic diligence, Wojtyla managed to bring realism and respect into the most controversial discussions, combatting any signs of religious passion or intolerance. In particular, he vigorously combatted all signs and manifestations of anti-Semitism. In addition, long before the change in the Vatican approach to other denominations, Wojtyla sought to enter into friendly relations with Krakow's Protestants. This move was viewed with hostility by the older generation of the clergy, especially in the Krakow area, and by the majority of the Episcopate, who in any event looked askance at his openness to non-Catholics generally.

Another illustration of Wojtyla's unpretentious nature came when he received the news of his appointment to the bishopric. It reached him while he was on a canoe trip on the Vistula with a large group of students, including several party members. At the news of his appointment, the students gave him an ovation. Wojtyla did not break off his canoe trip and showed up only the next day to receive the official news at the Archepiscopal Palace. This further increased his popularity with Krakow students and most of the faithful, but was received by many older priests as a slight to the high honor that was granted him.

As a bishop, Wojtyla continued to meet his wide circle of acquaintances. He avoided all pomp, and made trips to even the most remote parishes. He soon found a common language with the younger clergy, particularly in the countryside. But he offended many older priests by condemning their lack of tolerance and their tendency to create conflicts with the local authorities over even the most insignificant subjects.

Even as a Cardinal Wojtyla has remained modest in his private life. Approachable and unassuming, he is brilliantly intelligent and has an excellent sense of humor. He has been given to walking alone around Krakow. An American Consulate Officer, while jogging through a Krakow park, recently came upon the Cardinal kneeling by himself in prayer under a tree. An excellent skier, Wojtyla is well known in the mountain resort of Zakopane.

Another anecdote illustrative of Wojtyla's character and style concerns his stay at a rest home for priests in Zakopane a few years ago. On that occasion, Wojtyla's immediate neighbor happened to be an elderly priest, who, not knowing the Cardinal, took him for a young, sport-loving priest. He often used Wojtyla for small personal errands and services, asked him to fetch tea, and so on. Wojtyla fulfilled all these requests without a murmur. Only later did the elderly priest learn by accident that his young neighbor was in fact a Cardinal.

A respected writer, Wojtyla has written a book titled "Love and Responsibility," (which is supportive of Pope Paul VI's stand on birth control) and has contributed philosophical essays and several treatises and articles on modern morals and ideologies to Polish religious periodicals.

Wojtyla participated in Vatican Council II and has made numerous trips to Rome. He visited Canada and the United States in 1969 at the invitation of Church leaders, and attended a bishop's conference in the US in 1976. He accompanied Cardinal Wyszynski on his recent trip to West Germany. Wojtyla speaks French, German, English (self-taught), and Italian.

HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II AT THE MASS MARKING
THE BEGINNING OF HIS PASTORAL MINISTRY, 22 OCTOBER 1978

1. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Mt 16:16).

These words were spoken by Simon, son of Jonah, in the district of Caesarea Philippi. Yes, he spoke them with his own tongue, with a deeply lived and experienced conviction - but it is not in him that they find their source, their origin: "... because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven" (Mt 16:17). They were the words of Faith.

These words mark the beginning of Peter's mission in the history of salvation, in the history of the People of God. From that moment, from that confession of Faith, the sacred history of salvation and of the People of God was bound to take on a new dimension: to express itself in the historical dimension of the Church. This ecclesial dimension of the history of the People of God takes its origin, in fact is born, from these words of Faith, and is linked to the man who uttered them: "You are Peter - the rock - and on you, as on a rock, I will build my Church".

2. On this day and in this place these same words must again be uttered and listened to:

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God".

Yes, Brothers and Sons and Daughters, these words first of all.

Their content reveals to our eyes the mystery of the living God, the mystery to which the Son has brought us close. Nobody, in fact, has brought the living God close to men and revealed him as he alone did. In our knowledge of God, in our journey towards God, we are totally linked to the power of these words: "He who sees me sees the Father". He who is infinite, inscrutable, ineffable, has come close to us in Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary in the stable at Bethlehem.

All of you who are still seeking God,
All of you who already have the inestimable good fortune to believe,
And also you who are tormented by doubt:

please listen once again, today in this sacred place, to the words uttered by Simon Peter. In those words is the faith of the Church. In those same words is the new truth, indeed, the ultimate and definitive truth about man: the son of the living God - "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God".

3. Today the new Bishop of Rome solemnly begins his ministry and the mission of Peter. In this City, in fact, Peter completed and fulfilled the mission entrusted to him by the Lord.

The Lord addressed him with these words:

"... when you were young you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you grow old you will stretch out your hands and somebody else will put a belt round you and take you where you would rather not go" (Jn 21:18).

Peter came to Rome!

What else but obedience to the mandate received from the Lord guided him and brought him to this City, the heart of the Empire? Perhaps the fisherman of Galilee did not want to come here. Perhaps he would have preferred to stay there, on the shores of the Lake of Genesareth, with his boat and his nets. But guided by the Lord, obedient to his mandate, he came here!

According to an ancient tradition (given magnificent literary expression in a novel by Henryk Sienkiewicz), during Nero's persecution Peter wanted to leave Rome. But the Lord intervened: he went to meet him. Peter spoke to him and asked: "Quo vadis, Domine?" - "Where are you going, Lord?" And the Lord answered him at once: "I am going to Rome to be crucified again." Peter went back to Rome and stayed here until his crucifixion.

Yes, Brothers and Sons and Daughters, Rome is the See of Peter. Down the centuries new Bishops continually succeeded him in this See. Today a new Bishop comes to the Chair of Peter in Rome, a Bishop full of trepidation, conscious of his unworthiness. And how could one not tremble before the greatness of this call and before the universal mission of this See of Rome!

To the See of Peter in Rome there succeeds today a Bishop who is not a Roman. A Bishop who is a son of Poland. But from this moment he too becomes a Roman. Yes - a Roman. He is a Roman also because he is the son of a nation whose history, from its first dawning, and whose thousand-year-old traditions are marked by a living, strong, unbroken and deeply felt link with the See of Peter, a nation which has ever remained faithful to this See of Rome. Inscrutable is the design of Divine Providence!

4. In past centuries, when the Successor of Peter took possession of his See, the trieregnum or tiara was placed on his head. The last Pope to be crowned was Paul VI in 1963, but after the solemn coronation ceremony he never used the tiara again and left his Successors free to decide in this regard.

Pope John Paul I, whose memory is so vivid in our hearts, did not wish to have the tiara; nor does his Successor wish it today. This is not the time to return to a ceremony and an object considered wrongly to be a symbol of the temporal power of the Popes.

Our time calls us, urges us, obliges us to gaze on the Lord and immerse ourselves in humble and devout meditation on the mystery of the supreme power of Christ himself.

He who was born of the Virgin Mary, the carpenter's Son (as he was thought to be), the Son of the living God (confessed by Peter), came to make us all "a kingdom of priests".

The Second Vatican Council has reminded us of the mystery of this power and of the fact that Christ's mission as Priest, Prophet-Teacher and King continues in the Church. Everyone, the whole People of God, shares in this threefold mission. Perhaps in the past the tiara, this triple crown, was placed on the Pope's head in order to express by that symbol the Lord's plan for his Church, namely that all the hierarchical order of Christ's Church, all "sacred power" exercised in the Church is nothing other than service, service with a single purpose: to ensure that all the People of God shares in this threefold mission of Christ and always remains under the power of the Lord, a power that has its source not in the powers of this world but in the mystery of the Cross and Resurrection.

The absolute and yet sweet and gentle power of the Lord responds to the whole depths of the human person, to his loftiest aspirations of intellect, will and heart. It does not speak the language of force but expresses itself in charity and truth.

The new Successor of Peter in the See of Rome today makes a fervent, humble and trusting prayer: Christ, make me become and remain the servant of your unique power, the servant of your sweet power, the servant of your power that knows no eventide. Make me be a servant. Indeed, the servant of your servants.

5. Brothers and Sisters, do not be afraid to welcome Christ and accept his power. Help the Pope and all those who wish to serve Christ and with Christ's power to serve the human person and the whole of mankind. Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ. To his saving power open the boundaries of States, economic and political systems, the vast fields of culture, civilization and development. Do not be afraid. Christ knows "what is in man". He alone knows it.

So often today man does not know what is within him, in the depths of his mind and heart. So often he is uncertain about the meaning of his life on this earth. He is assailed by doubt, a doubt which turns into despair. We ask you therefore, we beg you with humility and trust, let Christ speak to man. He alone has words of life, yes, of eternal life.

Precisely today the whole Church is celebrating "World Mission Day"; that is, she is praying, meditating and acting in order that Christ's words of life may reach all people and be received by them as a message of hope, salvation and total liberation.

6. I thank all of you here present who have wished to participate in this solemn inauguration of the ministry of the new Successor of Peter.

I heartily thank the Heads of State, the Representatives of the Authorities, and the Government Delegations for so honouring me with their presence.

Thank you, Eminent Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church.

I thank you, my beloved Brothers in the Episcopate.

Thank you, Priests.

To you, Sisters and Brothers, Religious of the Orders and Congregations, I give my thanks.

Thank you, people of Rome.

Thanks to the pilgrims who have come here from all over the world.

Thanks to all of you who are linked with this Sacred Ceremony by radio and television.

7. I speak to you, my dear Fellow-countrymen, Pilgrims from Poland, Brother Bishops with your magnificent Primate at your head, Priests, Sisters and Brothers of the Polish Religious Congregations - to you representatives of Poland from all over the world.

What shall I say to you who have come from my Cracow, from the See of Saint Stanislaus of whom I was the unworthy successor for fourteen years? What shall I say? Everything that I could say would fade into insignificance compared with what my heart feels, and your hearts feel, at this moment.

So let us leave aside words. Let there remain just great silence before God, the silence that becomes prayer. I ask you: be with me! At Jasna Gora and everywhere. Do not cease to be with the Pope who today prays with the words of the poet: "Mother of God, you who defend Bright Czestochowa and shine at Ostrobrama". And these same words I address to you at this particular moment.

8. That was an appeal and a call to prayer for the new Pope, an appeal expressed in the Polish language. I make the same appeal to all the sons and daughters of the Catholic Church. Remember me today and always in your prayers!

I open my heart to all my Brothers of the Christian Churches and Communities, and I greet in particular you who are here present, in anticipation of our coming personal meeting; but for the moment I express to you my sincere appreciation for your having wished to attend this solemn ceremony.

And I also appeal to all men - to every man (and with what veneration the apostle of Christ must utter this word: "man"!)

- pray for me!

- help me to be able to serve you! Amen.