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Last Updated: 08/30/2024

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 21, 1981

Your Holiness: (John Paul II)

I have asked my friend Peter Rodino to convey these words directly to you, written at a time when the whole Christian community and people of all faiths everywhere have reason to rejoice. I join them in expressing my relief and my delight in the encouraging news of your recovery. I join them, too, in wishing you a happy 61st birthday -- with your safe passage you have given all of us the best birthday present imaginable!

Happily, few leaders in the world today have the dubious distinction of knowing with some precision the kind of event you have just experienced. Fewer still can appreciate, as can I, the depth of courage and commitment on which you must have called, not only to survive that horrible event but to do so with such grace, nobility, and forgiveness.

Your heroism, and the universal outpouring of love and concern which it evoked, is proof that a single irrational act cannot prevail against the basic human decency which continues to inspire most people in most places. The qualities you exemplify remain a precious asset as we confront the growing dangers of the moment -- confront them with confidence and faith.

May I also take the opportunity of this letter to thank you for the silver plaque which you sent to me through Secretary Haig. The inscription is particularly appropriate to these troubled times.

NSC # 8102754 DD

NSC # 8102812 DD

Messages re the recovery of the Pope from President & Vice President

025877

3100

4500

MG
M4001-03

M4001-02

JL003-01

GI002

CO170

R4031

FB011

FG038

FG006-12

My prayers, and those of all Americans, are with you as your recovery progresses and as you resume the passionate leadership which has given so many parts of the world a spirit of optimistic renewal.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

His Holiness
John Paul II
Vatican City

DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE
TO HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II

Your Holiness:

I have asked my friend Peter Rodino to convey these words directly to you, written at a time when the whole Christian community and people of all faiths everywhere have reason to rejoice. I join them in expressing my relief and my delight in the encouraging news of your recovery. I join them, too, in wishing you a happy 61st birthday -- with your safe passage you have given all of us the best birthday present imaginable!

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Your heroism, and the universal outpouring of love and concern which it evoked, is proof that a single irrational act cannot prevail against the basic human decency which continues to inspire most people in most places. The qualities ^{✓✓} ~~which your~~ ~~person~~ [✓] exemplified so singularly remain a precious asset as we confront the growing dangers of the moment -- confront them with confidence and faith. [✓] My prayers, and those of all Americans, are with you as your recovery progresses and as you resume the passionate leadership which has given so many parts of the world a spirit of optimistic renewal.

Sincerely,

DECLASSIFIED
White House Guidelines, August 28, 1997
By 603 NARA, Date 4/29/08

Ronald Regan

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~
Department of State

INCOMING-
TELEGRAM

1051

PAGE 01

ROME 13047 281712Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SS-15 H-01 NSC-05 /034 W

-----330527 281715Z /50

P 281708Z MAY 81

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3790

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 13047

FROM VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: PPDC

SUBJECT: MAY 21 LETTER FROM PRESIDENT REAGAN TO POPE

1. (LOU - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. CONGRESSMAN PETER RODINO MET WITH VATICAN SECRETARY OF STATE CARDINAL CASAROLI ON MAY 27 AND HANDED HIM PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO THE HOLY FATHER. CASAROLI READ LETTER AND EXPRESSED ON BEHALF OF POPE DEEP APPRECIATION. CASAROLI SAID HE WOULD GIVE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO JOHN PAUL II IMMEDIATELY. HORNBLow

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

COB 4/29/06

REFERRAL

DATE: 22 MAY 81

MEMORANDUM FOR: STATE SECRETARIAT

URGENT

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: TO: POPE JOHN PAUL II

FROM: PRES REAGAN

DATE: 21 MAY 81

KEYWORDS: VATICAN

HS

JOHN PAUL II

SUBJ:

REQUIRED ACTION: PLEASE INFORM ENVOY MR. WILSON *

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

DUE DATE:

COMMENTS: * THE ORIGINAL LTR WAS GIVEN TO CONGRESSMAN RODINO TO

HAND CARRY TO THE POPE


FOR ALLEN J LENZ

STAFF DIRECTOR

FOR NSC USE ONLY

FOR INFO LILLEY

F WH

O MB C HW

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ACTION

May 20, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN *Allen*
SUBJECT: Letter to the Pope

At Tab A is a letter from you to the Pope which Peter Rodino can hand-deliver when he travels to the Vatican.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the letter to the Pope at Tab A.

Approve _____ As Amended _____

*Note: original given to map Friedersdorf
for hand-delivery to Rodino. 5/21/81*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ACTION

May 20, 1981

SIGNED

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN *Allen*

SUBJECT: Letter to the Pope

At Tab A is a letter from you to the Pope which Peter Rodino can hand-deliver when he travels to the Vatican.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the letter to the Pope at Tab A.

Approve _____ As Amended _____

MEMORANDUM

2813

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

May 18, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD V. ALLEN

FROM: JAMES M. RENTSCHLER

SUBJECT: Presidential Letter for the Pope

As you requested on Friday, here is a Presidential letter to the Pope which Congressman Rodino can hand-deliver (Tab A). State and the speechwriters have cleared. A covering transmittal is at Tab I.

You asked to be reminded Monday to call Rodino: CALL RODINO.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memo to the President at Tab I.

Approve *JMR* As Amended _____

cc: Jim Lilley

Attachments:

Tab I Memo to the President
A Presidential Letter to the Pope

RECEIVED

81 MAY 18 P 6: 33

Hand
walked
to O'Brien
5/20

JANET COLSON

BUD NANCE

DICK ALLEN

IRENE DERUS

JANET COLSON

BUD NANCE

KAY

CY TO VP

CY TO MEESE

CY TO BAKER

CY TO DEEVER

CY TO BRADY

SHOW CC

SHOW CC

SHOW CC

SHOW CC

SHOW CC

9/18/905
19/0915
Rw 1 20/831

Mark to get

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

May 18, 1981

MEMO FOR SPEECHWRITERS *aed*

FROM JIM RENTSCHLER *JR*

SUBJECT: Birthday Message to Pope

Attached is a draft Presidential birthday greeting to Pope John Paul II for the President's signature. We need you comments and clearance by 12 noon today.

Thanks much.

Norm Hopkins

Telephone 5026

Artisan Gith

John Boni II

His Hopkins



From the desk of

TERRY DUNICAN

Secretariat:

Dennis Blair informs me that
this package can be closed
out.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

S/S 8115148
NSC 2754
2701

May 13, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. RICHARD V. ALLEN
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Messages on the Pope

Attached are messages for the President and
the Vice President to send to Cardinal Casaroli
expressing hope for the Pope's recovery.

L. Paul Bremer, III
Executive Secretary

Attachments:
Messages for the
President and Vice President

*Terry -
Close this
package out -
The messages
were sent
JOS*

Draft Message from the President to Cardinal Casaroli

Your Eminence:

I was stunned and horrified by the news of the senseless attack on the life of His Holiness the Pope. Along with all my fellow Americans I pray for his recovery. We stand with you in this time of crisis.

Ronald Reagan

750-444-1111

Draft Message from the Vice President to Casaroli

Your Eminence,

All Americans were profoundly shocked by the
attack on His Holiness the Pope. This irrational act
has affected us all deeply, and we are praying for
his recovery.

*Along with millions of people the world over, both inside the
Christian community
and beyond,*

George Bush

DECLASSIFIED
White House Guidelines, August 28, 1997
By EOB NARA, Date 4/29/08

TO: PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

"With great sorrow I learned of the attempt on your life and of the injury on you and your assistants by a senseless and violent act. I ask Almighty God to comfort and sustain you at this time and to restore you to perfect health. As I assure you of my sentiments of solidarity and support, I join in denouncing all manifestations of violence and terrorism and every act that violates human dignity in any individual. Please accept, Mr. President, the expression of my sincere respect and esteem and know of my continued prayers for your well-being, for the recovery of the other victims and for the welfare of all the American people."

/s/ Ioannes Paulus PP. II.

The Vatican

Mary -

This gift was brought down to me
by the Secretary's special assistant
who said that the Pope gave it to
Secretary Haig for the President during
his recent trip to Rome (May 1 - 5).

Midge

OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

File
RR-5/21/81

Gift for the President from Pope John Paul II

Inscription: Translated from Latin:

The voice of the Turtledove is heard
in our land.

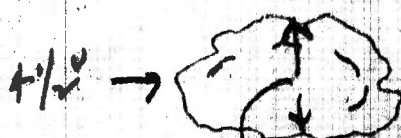
(from the Book of Psalms)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington DC

1) Gift of Pope John Paul II

Silver Plaque Oval Shape



3 5/8

on frame

6 1/8 x 6 3/4

in
case

Inscriptions around edge
Left, to right
AUDITA EST
IN TERRA NOBIS

Last LS (Sculpture - artist

Robb Scanzelli

La TORRE

with lower seal in Gold 18K
Papal Seal

Case, Inside w/ 18K Gold
Papal Seal 1 1/4 x 7/8

\$ 250-

Translation - from Latin

"The Voice of the Turtle Dove is
heard in our Land (from the book of Psalm)

NSC/S PROFILE

UNCLASSIFIED

ID 8102813

RECEIVED 18 MAY 81 16

TO

ALLEN

FROM RENTSCHLER

DOCDATE 18 MAY 81

KEYWORDS: VATICAN

JOHN PAUL II

SUBJECT: PRES LTR TO POPE

ACTION: FWD TO PRES FOR SIG

DUE: 19 MAY 81 STATUS X FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR COMMENT

FOR INFO

ALLEN

LILLEY

COMMENTS

REF#

LOG

NSCIFID

(M /)

ACTION OFFICER (S)

ASSIGNED

ACTION REQUIRED

DUE

COPIES TO

<i>Pres</i>	<i>P 5/20</i>	<i>for sig</i>		
	<i>C 5/21</i>	<i>Pres sigd ltr</i>		<i>LE, JF, CF</i>

Steel

DISPATCH

ed by WH

W/ATTCH

FILE

WH

(C)

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NSC/S PROFILE

UNCLASSIFIED

ID 8102754

RECEIVED 13 MAY 81 15

TO ALLEN

FROM BREMER

DOCDATE 13 MAY 81

KEYWORDS: VATICAN

HS

CASAROLI, CARDINAL

JOHN PAUL II

SUBJECT: PRES & VP MSG TO CARDINAL CASAROLI EXPRESSING HOPE FOR POPE RECOVERY

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR ALLEN

DUE: 14 MAY 81 STATUS S FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR COMMENT

FOR INFO

RENTSCHLER

FARRAR

COMMENTS

REF# 8115148

LOG 8102701

NSCIFID

(H /)

ACTION OFFICER (S) ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED DUE COPIES TO

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH. FILE

(C)

NSC/S PROFILE

UNCLASSIFIED

ID 8102754

RECEIVED 13 MAY 81 15

TO ALLEN

FROM BREMER

DOCDATE 13 MAY 81

KEYWORDS: VATICAN

HS

CASAROLI, CARDINAL

JOHN PAUL II

SUBJECT: PRES & VP MSG TO CARDINAL CASAROLI EXPRESSING HOPE FOR POPE RECOVERY

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR ALLEN

DUE: 14 MAY 81 STATUS C FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR COMMENT

FOR INFO

RENTSCHLER

FARRAR

COMMENTS

REF# 8115148

LOG 8102701

NSCIFID

(H / W)

ACTION OFFICER (S) ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED DUE COPIES TO

C 5/14 Msg sent per Blair

CO-DB

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH FILE

(C) [Signature]

C.F.

025877

IN

ME001-03

EOB693

*****~~CONFIDENTIAL~~***** COPY

FLASH
DE RUEHC #4335 1331926
Z 131923Z MAY 81 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK FLASH 7440

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 124335
FOR AMB. KIRKPATRICK FROM BREMER
F.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: PEPR

SUBJECT: MESSAGES ON THE POPE

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGES TO CARDINAL CASAROLI ON HIS ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK.

2. MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY HAIG:

"YOUR EMINENCE: I WAS PROFOUNDLY SHOCKED BY THE DESPICABLE ATTACK ON HIS HOLINESS THE POPE. I JOIN ALL MY FELLOW COUNTRYMEN IN PRAYING FOR HIS FULL AND EARLY RECOVERY. ALEXANDER M. HAIG, JR."

3. MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT REAGAN:

"YOUR EMINENCE: I WAS STUNNED AND HORRIFIED BY THE NEWS OF THE SENSELESS ATTACK ON THE LIFE OF HIS HOLINESS THE POPE. ALONG WITH ALL MY FELLOW AMERICANS I PRAY FOR HIS RECOVERY. WE STAND WITH YOU IN THIS TIME OF CRISIS. RONALD REAGAN."

4. MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT BUSH:

"YOUR EMINENCE: ALL AMERICANS WERE PROFOUNDLY SHOCKED BY THE ATTACK ON HIS HOLINESS THE POPE. THIS IRRATIONAL ACT HAS AFFECTED US ALL DEEPLY, AND WE ARE

SIT: SDO
EOB:
WHSR COMMENTS:

PAGE 01

SECSTATE WASHDC 4335

DTG:131923Z MAY 81
TOR: 133/1931Z

PSN:004393
CSN:HCE668

*****~~CONFIDENTIAL~~***** COPY

DECLASSIFIED
Authority State/NSC Waver 11/6/10
BY dh NARA DATE 7/16/2018

~~*****CONFIDENTIAL*****~~ COPY

PRAYING FOR HIS RECOVERY. I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING
WITH YOU ON YOUR NEXT VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES.
RESPECTFULLY, GEORGE BUSH. HAIG
BT

PAGE 02 OF 02 SECSTATE WASHDC 4335

DTG:131923Z MAY 81
TOR: 133/1931Z

PSN:004393
CSN:HCE668

~~*****CONFIDENTIAL*****~~ COPY

NSC/S PROFILE

UNCLASSIFIED

ID 8102754

RECEIVED 13 MAY 81 15

TO ALLEN

FROM BREMER

DOCDATE 13 MAY 81

KEYWORDS: VATICAN

HS

CASAROLI, CARDINAL

JOHN PAUL II

SUBJECT: PRES & VP MSG TO CARDINAL CASAROLI EXPRESSING HOPE FOR POPE RECOVERY

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR ALLEN

DUE: 14 MAY 81 STATUS S FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR COMMENT

FOR INFO

RENTSCHLER

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COMMENTS

REF# 8115148

LOG 8102701

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DISPATCH

W/ATTCH FILE (C)

S/S 8115148



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 13, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. RICHARD V. ALLEN
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Messages on the Pope

Attached are messages for the President and the Vice President to send to Cardinal Casaroli expressing hope for the Pope's recovery.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "L. Paul Bremer, III".

L. Paul Bremer, III
Executive Secretary

Attachments:
Messages for the
President and Vice President

Draft Message from the President to Cardinal Casaroli

Your Eminence:

I was stunned and horrified by the news of the senseless attack on the life of His Holiness the Pope. Along with all my fellow Americans I pray for his recovery. We stand with you in this time of crisis.

Ronald Reagan

DECLASSIFIED

Dept. of State Guidelines, July 21, 1997
BY dh NARA, DATE 7/16/2018

Draft Message from the Vice President to Casaroli

Your Eminence,

All Americans were profoundly shocked by the attack on His Holiness the Pope. This irrational act has affected us all deeply, and we are praying for his recovery.

George Bush

Dept. of State Guidelines, July 21, 1997
BY NARA, DATE 7/16/2018