

# Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

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**Collection:** Executive Secretariat, NSC: Head of State  
File: Records

**Folder Title:** The Vatican: Pope John Paul II  
(8100301-8106715)

**Box:** 41

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*Last Updated: 02/11/2025*

# WITHDRAWAL SHEET

## Ronald Reagan Library

**Collection Name** EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, NSC: HEAD OF STATE FILE

**Withdrawer**

CAS 4/19/2011

**File Folder** THE VATICAN: POPE JOHN PAUL II (8100301-8106715)

**FOIA**

M10-347

**Box Number** 41

STUMMVOLL

4

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
108401	MEMO	JAMES RENTSCHLER TO RICHARD ALLEN VIA CHARLES TYSON RE PRESIDENTIAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE POPE'S BRIEF LAYOVER IN ANCHORAGE (2/26) <b>R 7/18/2000 NLSF99-010 #22</b>	2	2/5/1981	B1
108402	MEMO	ALLEN TO REAGAN VIA MICHAEL DEEVER RE POPE'S PRESENCE IN ANCHORAGE <b>R 7/18/2000 NLSF99-010 #23</b>	1	ND	B1
108403	CABLE	161931Z JAN 82 <b>R 7/18/2000 NLSF99-010 #24</b>	1	1/16/1982	B1
108404	LETTER	REAGAN TO POPE <b>R 7/18/2000 NLSF99-010 #25</b>	1	1/11/1982	B1
108405	DRAFT LETTER	REAGAN TO POPE <b>R 7/18/2000 NLSF99-010 #26</b>	2	ND	B1
108406	LETTER	POPE TO REAGAN <b>D 7/18/2000 NLSF99-010 #27; D 5/11/06 NLRRM04-010 #1; D UPHELD 6/27/2013 M347/1</b>	3	12/9/1981	B1
108407	LETTER	POPE TO REAGAN <b>D 7/18/2000 NLSF99-010 #28; D 5/11/06 NLRRM04-010 #2; D UPHELD 6/27/2013 M347/1</b>	4	12/7/1981	B1

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

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ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
108408	MEMO	JAMES NANCE TO REAGAN RE POPE'S LETTER TO GENEVA NUCLEAR WAR <b>R 7/18/2000 NLSF99-010 #29</b>	1	12/4/1981	B1
108409	MEMO	PAUL BREMER TO NANCE RE REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT: VATICAN SECRETARY OF STATE CASAROLI <b>R 7/18/2000 NLSF99-010 #30</b>	1	12/3/1981	B1
108410	BIO	SAME TEXT AS 67678 <b>D 7/18/2000 NLSF99-010 #31; D 12/14/05 NLRRM04-010 #3</b>	2	4/23/1981	B1 B3
108411	MEMO	RENTSCHLER TO ALLEN VIA TYSON RE PRESIDENTIAL MEETING WITH CASAROLI <b>R 7/18/2000 NLSF99-010 #32</b>	1	11/27/1981	B1
108412	LETTER	POPE TO REAGAN <b>D 7/18/2000 NLSF99-010 #33; D 5/11/06 NLSRRM04-010 #4; D UPHELD 6/27/2013 M347/1</b>	4	11/25/1981	B1

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# WITHDRAWAL SHEET

## Ronald Reagan Library

**Collection:** National Security Council Executive Secretariat: PA:  
Head of State File

**Archivist:** dlb

**File Folder:** The Vatican: Pope John Paul II (8100301-8106715)

**Date:** 8/6/98

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
NSC Casefile #8100301			
1. Memo	James Rentschler to Richard Allen via Charles Tyson, re: Presidential Involvement in the Pope's Brief Layover in Anchorage (Feb 26) 2 p. <i>R 7/18/00 NLS499-010 #22</i>	2/5/81	P1/F1
2. Memo	Allen to Reagan via Michael Deaver, re: Pope John Paul's Presence in Anchorage, 1 p. <i>R " " #23</i>	n.d.	P1/F1
NSC Casefile #8106715			
3. Cable	#161931Z Jan 82, 1 p. <i>R " " #24</i>	1/16/82	P1/F1
4. Letter	Reagan to Pope John Paul II, 1 p. <i>R " " #25</i>	1/11/82	P1/F1
5. Draft Letter	Reagan to Pope John Paul II, 2 p. <i>R " " #26</i>	n.d.	P1/F1
6. Letter	Pope John Paul II to Reagan, 3 p. <i>D 7/18/00 NLS499-010 #27 D</i>	12/9/81	P1/F1
7. Letter	Pope John Paul II to Reagan, 4 p. <i>D " " #28 D</i>	12/7/81	P1/F1
8. Memo	James Nance to Reagan, re: Pope's Letter on Geneva Nuclear War, 1 p. <i>R 7/18/00 NLS499-010 #29</i>	12/4/81	P1/F1
9. Memo	Paul Bremer to Nance, re: Request for Appointment with the President: Vatican Secretary of State Casaroli, 1 p. <i>R " " #30</i>	12/3/81	P1/F1
10. Bio	2 p. <i>D 7/18/00 NLS499-010 #31 D 12/14/05 MOY-010 #3</i>	4/23/81	P1/F1, P3/A3

### RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P-1 National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA].
- P-2 Relating to appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA].
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA].
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA].
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA].
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA].

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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**Head of State File**  
**File Folder:** The Vatican: Pope John Paul II (8100301-8106715)

**Archivist:** dlb  
**Date:** 8/6/98

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
NSC Casefile #8106715, cont.			
<del>11. Memo</del>	<del>Rentschler to Allen via Tyson, re: Presidential Meeting with Casaroli, 1 p.</del>	<del>11/27/81</del>	<del>P1/F1</del>
12. Letter	<p>R 7/18/00 NLS499-010 #32</p> <p>Pope John Paul II to Reagan, 4 p.</p> <p>D 7/18/00 NLS499-010 #33 D</p>	<p>11/25/81</p> <p>5/11/06</p>	<p>P1/F1</p> <p>M04-010 #4</p>

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RECEIVED 05 FEB 81 18

TO ALLEN

FROM RENTSCHLER

DOCDATE 05 FEB 81

TYSON

05 FEB 81

KEYWORDS: VATICAN

VISIT

H/S

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDED PHONE CALL TO POPE FM PRES

ACTION: FWD TO PRES FOR DECISION

DUE: 12 FEB 81 STATUS X FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR COMMENT

FOR INFO

ALLEN

Re: 0301

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Message sent to Pope.

Phone call OBE'd

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL  
OF CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE(S)

dlb 1/1/95

NSC/FID

( M / )

(per RVA's office, the letter  
to the Pope was handcarried  
by Phil Wilson, new Personal  
Envoy to the Holy See)

REQUIRED DUE COPIES TO

Lson. + RVA w/comment

Action 2/10

Allen

X 2/19

Forward to Pres for Decision

C 2/27

may sent to Pope; phone call OBE'd

Re: s/s

DISPATCH

2/10 (s/s)

W/ATTCH FILE

PA

(C)

MB

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

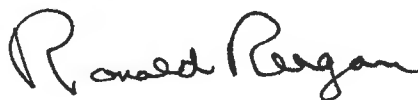
February 25, 1981

Your Holiness:

I join all of my countrymen in extending to you, personally and as a representative of millions of Catholics around the world, a warm welcome to the United States. Americans of every faith treasure the memory of your historic visit to our shores in October, 1979. We are indeed delighted at this chance to have you among us again. We only regret that your stay must be so brief that you will be unable to visit parts of the country that you have yet to see. Pride in my home state forces me to recommend that someday you should visit California. But all of the people of this country, today, with open hearts, bid you welcome.

As you know, I have asked a trusted friend, Mr. William Wilson, to serve as my Personal Envoy to the Holy See. When Mr. Wilson calls at the Vatican in the very near future he will seek an appropriate opportunity to present to you a formal letter of introduction and credence. Mr. Wilson has my complete confidence, and I hope you will not hesitate to use him as the channel for any sensitive matters you or your associates may wish to communicate to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ronald Reagan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" at the beginning.

His Holiness  
John Paul II  
Vatican City

REFERRAL

DATE: 10 MAR 81

MEMORANDUM FOR: STATE SECRETARIAT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: JOHN PAUL II

FROM: PRES

DATE: 25 FEB 81

KEYWORDS: VATICAN

GUAM

POPE JOHN PAUL II

VISIT

HS

WILSON, WILLIAM

SUBJ: RECOMMENDED PHONE CALL TO POPE RE VISIT TO GUAM &amp; ALASKA &amp; NAMING

---

REQUIRED ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

DUE DATE:

COMMENTS: RE: S/S 8104016 &amp; 8102342

  
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

---

FOR NSC USE ONLY

FOR INFO

F PA

O MB C HW



NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
February 19, 1981ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR: RICHARD V. ALLEN *J.*  
FROM: JAMES M. RENTSCHLER  
SUBJECT: Pope in Anchorage: Personal letter from the President

As I indicated earlier, I think it would be very appropriate for whoever is leading the delegation to Anchorage next week to hand-carry a personal message from the President for the Pope. I have done up the text at Tab A and cleared it with State and the speechwriters. \*

Your transmittal memo to the President is at Tab I.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ AS AMENDED \_\_\_\_\_

\* latter made it pretty flowery, but if it's o.k.  
with you it's o.k. with me! *J.*

## MEMORANDUM

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN

SUBJECT: Personal message to the Pope

When the Presidential delegation travels to Anchorage next week to greet the Pope during his stopover en route home from the Far East, I believe it would be very appropriate for the delegation leader to hand-deliver a personal message from you. A text for this purpose is at Tab A; it has been cleared by the State Department and the speechwriters.

Once you have signed the letter, I can ensure that it is turned over to the Anchorage delegation.

RECOMMENDATION

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

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

AS AMENDED \_\_\_\_\_



8104016  
Add-on 0301

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

February 10, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. RICHARD V. ALLEN  
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Naming William Wilson as Presidential  
Representative to Greet the Pope in  
Guam and Anchorage

The Department recommended on February 6 (Memo at Tab 1) that the President consider designating a Personal Representative to welcome Pope John Paul II on his arrival in Guam (February 22) and Anchorage (February 26). We proposed that if possible the President choose for this mission the person he intended to name as his Personal Envoy to the Holy See.

Now that the President has proposed, and the Vatican has accepted, Mr. William A. Wilson as Personal Envoy, we suggest that the President ask Mr. Wilson to go to Guam and Anchorage. Our Vatican Office has discussed the matter informally with Vatican officials who say the Pope would be pleased to meet Mr. Wilson at one or both of his U.S. stops.

Mr. Wilson might further be asked to carry with him a short message of welcome from the President to the Pope. A proposed draft is attached at Tab 2.

We request an early decision to allow time for the necessary arrangements to be made.

L. Paul Bremer III  
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

1. Memorandum of February 6
2. Draft Presidential Letter to the Pope
3. Schedule of Pope's Visit to Far East

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~

Summary Schedule of Pope's Trip to Asia

February 16

0730 Depart Rome

February 17

0800 Arrive Manila

February 18 - 21

In Philippines

February 22

1230 Depart Manila

1840 Arrive Guam

February 23

1200 Depart Guam

1500 Arrive Tokyo

February 24 - 25

In Japan

February 26

2200 Depart for Anchorage (cross dateline)

1040 Arrive Anchorage

1340 Depart Anchorage for Rome

February 27

1130 Arrive Rome



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

S/S 8102342

9 FEB 1981

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ dlb  
NSC 0301 ?

February 6, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. RICHARD V. ALLEN  
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: The Pope's Visit to Guam and Anchorage

Pope John Paul II will travel to the Far East in February to visit the Philippines and Japan. He will stop briefly on U.S. soil: in Guam (February 22-23) and in Anchorage, Alaska (February 26). The Department recommends that the President consider designating a Personal Representative to represent him at the welcoming ceremonies in Guam, in Anchorage, or possibly both.

Vatican officials have told us that the Pope does not expect any U.S. Government officials to be on hand in Guam. Nevertheless we believe it would be a fitting gesture of hospitality and respect if the President did in fact name someone. The Department of Interior, which has primary responsibility for Guamanian affairs, may wish of course to make its own recommendation. The Republican Governor of Guam, Paul M. Calvo, would be on hand in any case.

The papal stop in Alaska--primarily for refueling--will last only about three hours. Even so, public interest in the visit is running very high among Alaskans. We believe that the absence of some sign of the President's personal interest would surely draw public notice in Alaska.

Either papal stop provides an excellent opportunity for the Administration to establish an early, personal relationship with the Pope. Participation by the Vice President would lend a touch of drama and would greatly please both the Pope and his hosts. But a lower level of representation would be entirely adequate.

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~  
dlb



We believe the best choice would be the person the President intends to name as his Personal Envoy to the Vatican, if this person has been designated by that time. (Personal Envoys have not been subject to confirmation in the past.) A senior Administration official or a close associate of the President from private life would be other possibilities.



L. Paul Bremer III  
Executive Secretary

## MEMORANDUM

## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

February 5, 1981

## ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR: RICHARD V. ALLEN

THRU: CHARLES P. TYSON

FROM: JAMES M. RENTSCHLER

SUBJECT: Presidential involvement in the Pope's Brief Layover  
in Anchorage (Feb 26) (U)

FILED F99-010 #22  
BY CAS NARA DATE 7/18/00

State's memo at Tab B, in conjunction with an earlier recommendation from our Deputy Personal Envoy in the Vatican, summarizes the Pope's projected Far East visit, notes his intention to spend time in Guam (24 hours) and Anchorage, Alaska (3 hours), and favors appropriate Presidential involvement for the reasons essentially spelled out in my recommended phone call at Tab I-A. (U)

I see no need for any White House activity during the Guam portion of his itinerary (though as State notes, the Secretary of the Interior may want to make a separate recommendation; I am trying to get a firmer fix on this) but I do strongly favor the interjection of a personal Presidential note via a phone call to Anchorage. (C) ?

In addition, given the domestic political resonance of the Pope's identity and his prominent international role, I think we would do well to have a White House-connected personality on hand to greet the Pope during his refueling stop in Anchorage and to transmit a personal letter from the President (I will prepare in coordination with State). Though some might demur on protocolary grounds, I believe it would be appropriate to have the President's designated Personal Envoy to the Vatican perform this function (William Wilson?) whether or not he has yet been formally named to the post. The Envoy-designate could be accompanied by someone from State's Office of Protocol (note that the latter is likely to be rather stretched given the presence here of Maggie Thatcher & Co.; normally, since I am one of the few still in town who knows virtually everyone in the Papal party, especially Bishop Paul Marcinkus, His Holiness' all-around bodyguard/advance man/substantive conduit, I would volunteer for a modified Nanook-Of-The-North mission, but I look to be blitzed by the same Thatcher juggernaut). (C)

The memo from you to the President at Tab I transmits the needful on this caper. (U)

## RECOMMENDATION

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

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

DISAPPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Review February 5, 1987

1) Calron note  
2) RVA note  
3) RVA note

2/9/81  
1) This is on hand.  
See Tyson -  
We're sending a plane.  
Discover to head delegation.  
2) OK by me if you go, if there is room

CONFIDENTIAL

NB. If you are not comfortable with the format of this package, please let me know. A number of variants are possible (including butt-canning the whole thing), and it shouldn't be hard to configure the substance along the lines you prefer.

cc: Phyllis Kaminsky

CONFIDENTIAL

## MEMORANDUM

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIALACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

THRU: MICHAEL DEAVER

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN

SUBJECT: Pope John Paul II's Presence in Anchorage ~~(U)~~

The Pontiff's return home from his Far East pilgrimage later this month will include a three-hour refueling stop in Anchorage, Alaska (February 26). Both our Deputy Vatican Envoy and the State Department believe some Presidential acknowledgement/participation would be very appropriate while the Pope is on North American soil. ~~(U)~~

I concur with that view and favor a phone call to His Holiness (recommended talking points are at Tab A.) In addition, I believe it would be a gracious gesture on your part to have a White House-connected personality on hand to welcome the Pope and to transmit a personal letter from you. This will help establish a cordial and productive relationship between you and the Pontiff early in your Administration and appeal to the many millions of Americans who avidly followed his triumphal tour of the U.S. in October, 1979. Should you favor a personal representative greeting the Pope during his brief Anchorage layover, you might want to consider your choice of the Personal Envoy job in the Vatican for that purpose (State could ensure that he is accompanied by appropriate protocol people). ~~(U)~~

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That you approve a Presidential phone call to the Pope in Anchorage (for February 26). ~~(U)~~

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ DISAPPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

2. That you approve the designation of a personal representative to greet the Pope in Anchorage and to deliver a letter from you. ~~(U)~~

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ PREFERRED INDIVIDUAL(s) \_\_\_\_\_

DISAPPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

CONFIDENTIAL

Review February 5, 1987

DECLASSIFIED

NLS F99-010 #23

BY CAS NARA, DATE 7/18/00

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

### RECOMMENDED TELEPHONE CALL

TO: Pope John Paul II

DATE: February 26, 1981 during the Pope's three-hour refueling stop in Anchorage, Alaska

(call should occur between 3:40 and 6:40 in the afternoon, Washington time)

PURPOSE: To establish an early, personal relationship with the Pope while welcoming him back to North American soil.

BACKGROUND: The Pope will be en route home following a major pastoral trip to the Philippines and Japan, punctuated by a 24-hour stop in Guam. American, and especially Alaskan, interest in the Pope's return to the North American continent (a little over a year following his first triumphal visit to the U.S.) is likely to be high. A call from you, in conjunction with other courtesies (subject of separate memo), would be especially gracious in these circumstances.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

1. Cordial welcome to U.S. soil.
2. U.S. appreciation for the Vatican's help to us during the hostage crisis.
3. His impressions of the Far East in general and of Guam in particular.
4. Your satisfaction that Archbishop Pio Laghi has newly arrived from Buenos Aires as Apostolic Delegate to the U.S.
5. Your full confidence in your Personal Envoy to the Holy See and your hope that the Vatican, and the Pope himself, will not hesitate to use him as the channel for any sensitive matters the Pope may wish to communicate to us.
6. Invite him to revisit the U.S. (the Pope has expressed great interest in covering the Western part of the U.S., which he did not have time to do during his October, 1979 travels here).



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 22, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: LARRY SPEAKES

FROM: MORT ALLIN 

Attached is the Presidential letter to Pope John Paul that has been carried to Rome by Congressman Rodino for Sunday night delivery. His office has been authorized to state that he is carrying a message expressing the President's best wishes and admiration for the Pope. I told him any further comment about the contents should be left to the Vatican.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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!

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.

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,

His Holiness  
John Paul II  
Vatican City

RECEIVED 23 NOV 81 11

TO ALLEN FROM DEEVER, M DOCDATE 20 NOV 81  
 RENTSCHLER 27 NOV 81  
 TYSON 27 NOV 81

KEYWORDS: VATICAN AP WILSON, WILLIAM  
 HS TNF CARDINAL CASAROLI  
 POPE JOHN PAUL

SUBJECT: REQUEST FM CARDINAL CASAROLI FOR RESCHEDULING APPT W/ PRES TO DEC 12 -  
 13 ALSO A LTR TO PRES FM POPE JOHN PAUL RE NUCLEAR WEAPONS

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR ALLEN DUE: 07 JAN 82 STATUS X FILES

FOR ACTION FOR CONCURRENCE FOR INFO  
 RENTSCHLER TYSON

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL  
 OF CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE(S)  
 811 11/6/99

COMMENTS \*\*NSC/S HAS NO RECORD OF INITIAL REQUEST FOR MTG

RECD WW 11/27 1635 HR / ADDON RECD WW 12/3 0915 HR

REF# LOG 8106703 8106794 NSCIFID ( C / )

ACTION OFFICER (S)	ASSIGNED	ACTION REQUIRED	DUE	COPIES TO
Claude	X 1/6	Fwd Pres for Sig	1/7	CC
Pres	P 1/11	for signature		
	C 1/11	Pres app etc		
Stante	C 1/2	La Delegated		cc, AB

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH FILE

PA (C) 11/2

RECEIVED 23 NOV 81 11

TO ALLEN

FROM DEAYER, M

DOC DATE 20 NOV 81

RENTSCHLER

27 NOV 81

TYSON

27 NOV 81

KEYWORDS: VATICAN

AP

WILSON, WILLIAM

HS

TNF

CARDINAL CASAROLI

POPE JOHN PAUL

SUBJECT: REQUEST FM CARDINAL CASAROLI FOR RESCHEDULING APPT W/ PRES TO DEC 12 -  
13 ALSO A LTR TO PRES FM POPE JOHN PAUL RE NUCLEAR WEAPONS

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR ALLEN

DUE: 14 DEC 81 STATUS IP FILES

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR ALLEN

DUE: 24 NOV 81 STATUS S FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

RENTSCHLER

TYSON



COMMENTS \*\*NSC/S HAS NO RECORD OF INITIAL REQUEST FOR MTG

REF#

LOG

8106703  
8107123

NSC/FID

( C / )

ACTION OFFICER (S)

ASSIGNED

ACTION REQUIRED

DUE

COPIES TO

Auten	X	11/27	for signature	
Rentschler	S	12/1	noted by Carlson w/ comment	
Nance	X	12/10	for signature	
Pres	IP	12/4	for info	

ACTION OFFICER (S)

ASSIGNED

ACTION REQUIRED

DUE

COPIES TO

State	S	12/4	Rene prof memo to Pres	
		12/9	pending S/S draft	12/11
		12/12	Rec'd S/S 8135434	
Rentschler	S	12/12	Prep memo to Nance	CT
Rene	4	12/23	Send Pres for Sig	12/26
BLAIR	S	12/24	Further Action	cc, RP

DISPATCH

WATCH FILE

(C)



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6715

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
MESSAGE CENTER

PAGE 01 SECSTATE WASHDC 1712 DTG: 161931Z JAN 82 PSN: 034311  
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HIS HOLINESS  
JOHN PAUL II  
VATICAN CITY

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE 0070

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FOR VATICAN OFFICE  
E.O. 12065: RDS 1/14/88 (HOLMES, H. ALLEN)

TAGS: VT, US, PARM

SUBJECT: REPLY TO POPE'S LETTER ON NUCLEAR WAR, S/S 8200783

1. ~~(C - ENTIRE TEXT)~~.

2. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT  
TO THE POPE. THE ORIGINAL IS BEING POUCHED TO YOU.

BEGIN TEXT:

YOUR HOLINESS:

FOR THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS WE HAVE CONSULTED CLOSELY ON  
THE EVENTS IN POLAND BY MESSAGE, TELEPHONE AND THROUGH  
OUR DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES. I WOULD LIKE TO RESPOND  
IN THIS LETTER TO ANOTHER JOINT CONCERN, THE PREVENTION  
OF NUCLEAR WAR. YOUR LETTER OF NOVEMBER 25 AND A DELE-  
GATION FROM THE PONTIFICAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES DESCRIBED  
ELOQUENTLY YOUR CONVICTIONS ABOUT THE NATURE OF NUCLEAR  
WAR AND THE NECESSITY OF PREVENTING ITS OUTBREAK. ON  
DECEMBER 15, CARDINAL CASAROLI AND I HAD AN EXCELLENT AND  
THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT WHICH I AM SURE HE HAS  
REPORTED TO YOU IN DETAIL.

I FULLY SHARE YOUR HORROR AT THE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES  
OF NUCLEAR CONFLICT, THE "LAST EPIDEMIC OF MANKIND."  
I AM DETERMINED TO PREVENT SUCH A CATASTROPHE. YOUR  
WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT WERE WELCOME AS WE BEGIN OUR  
NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION IN GENEVA. WE HOPE  
THAT OUR PROPOSAL FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL INTER-  
MEDIATE-RANGE NUCLEAR MISSILES WILL BE THE FIRST  
STEP IN A DISARMAMENT PROCESS WHICH WILL GO FAR TOWARD  
REMOVING THE SPECTRE OF FEAR WHICH HAUNTS MANKIND.

FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO SEND YOU BEST WISHES FOR THE  
COMING YEAR. MAY WE BOTH SUCCESSFULLY CARRY OUT OUR  
RESPONSIBILITIES TO MANKIND.

SINCERELY,

RONALD REAGAN

DECL. SIGNED  
NLS F99-010 # 24  
BY C45 NARA DATE 7/18/00

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 11, 1982

Your Holiness:

For the past several weeks we have consulted closely on the events in Poland by message, telephone and through our diplomatic representatives. I would like to respond in this letter to another joint concern, the prevention of nuclear war. Your letter of November 25 and a Delegation from the Pontifical Academy of Sciences described eloquently your convictions about the nature of nuclear war and the necessity of preventing its outbreak. On December 15, Cardinal Casaroli and I had an excellent and thorough discussion of the subject which I am sure he has reported to you in detail.

I fully share your horror at the disastrous consequences of nuclear conflict, the "last epidemic of mankind." I am determined to prevent such a catastrophe. Your words of encouragement were welcome as we begin our negotiations with the Soviet Union in Geneva. We hope that our proposal for the elimination of all intermediate-range nuclear missiles will be the first step in a disarmament process which will go far toward removing the spectre of fear which haunts mankind.

Finally, I would like to send you best wishes for the coming year. May we both successfully carry out our responsibilities to mankind.

Sincerely,

*Ronald Reagan*

His Holiness  
John Paul II  
Vatican City

DECLASSIFIED / RELEASED  
NLS F99-010 #25  
BY CAS NARA, DATE 7/14/00

REFERRAL

DATE: 12 JAN 82

MEMORANDUM FOR: STATE SECRETARIAT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: TO: JOHN PAUL II

SOURCE: PRES

DATE: 12 JAN 82

KEYWORDS: VATICAN

AP

WILSON, WILLIAM

HS

TNF

CARDINAL CASAROLI

SUBJ: RESPONSE TO POPE LTR RE NUCLEAR WAR &amp; RUSSIA

---

REQUIRED ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 14 JAN 82

COMMENTS:

  
FOR ALLEN J LENZ

STAFF DIRECTOR

---

FOR NSC USE ONLY

---

FOR INFO TYSON

F

O CM C MB

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

6715 add-on

January 8, 1982

The President has seen 151 / 1/11/82

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: WILLIAM P. CLARK, JR. *WPC*  
SUBJECT: Letter to the Pope on Effects of  
Nuclear War

Although we have been exchanging frequent messages with the Pope on the events in Poland, we have not yet responded formally to the letter and Delegation which he sent last month concerning the Pontifical Academy's study on the effects of nuclear war.

Attached for your signature at Tab A is a short letter to the Pope which acknowledges his letter and the study and mentions your conversation on December 15th with Cardinal Casaroli. The letter tells the Pope that we share his opinion of the effects of nuclear war, and that we are committed to deterring it and lowering the levels of nuclear weapons in the world.

The letter has been cleared by the State Department and by speechwriters.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Approve *WPC* Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Attachment

Tab A Letter to the Pope

cc: The Vice President  
Ed Meese  
Jim Baker  
Mike Deaver

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

5 January 1982

6715 add-on *DRB*  
~~0032~~ *af*

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM P. CLARK, JR.

FROM: DENNIS C. BLAIR *DCB*

SUBJECT: Letter to the Pope on Nuclear War

Messages have been flying back and forth between the White House and the Holy See on Poland. We have not yet acknowledged the study on nuclear war which the Pope sent over last month. The attached memorandum from you to the President forwards a letter which closes the loop.

The letter has been previously cleared by State and speechwriters.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum at Tab I.

Approve *WPC* Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments

Tab I Clark Memo to President  
Tab II Incoming letter from Pope





DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

December 11, 1981

(WITH CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT)

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addon  
8135254

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WHITE HOUSE  
SITUATION ROOM

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JAMES W. NANCE  
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Draft Reply to the Pope's Letter to the  
President on Nuclear Disarmament

Attached is a proposed draft reply for the  
President's use in responding to John Paul II's letter  
of November 25 on nuclear disarmament.

*L. Paul Bremer, III*

L. Paul Bremer, III  
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

As stated.

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(WITH CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT)

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CLASSIFIED  
NLS F99-010 #26

BY \_\_\_\_\_, NARA, DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Draft Reply to the Pope's Letter of November 25

Your Holiness:

I have received your letter of November 25 and read it with great care. I wholeheartedly share your hopes for peace and believe with you that the prevention of war -- whether nuclear or conventional -- must remain our most urgent task.

I am most grateful for your warm words of encouragement and good wishes as we begin our negotiations with the Soviet Union on intermediate nuclear weapons. The Geneva talks have great potential for reducing the danger of war, and for that reason have attracted widespread interest. The US approaches them seriously and in good faith. Our objective is an equitable agreement which will not only achieve significant reductions, but give neither side cause to feel its security is threatened, for only such an equitable outcome can lay the basis for lasting stability and peace, and thus reduce the likelihood that nuclear weapons will be used. To this end, as I stated in my speech of November 18, the US is prepared to agree to the elimination of all intermediate-range nuclear missiles. This would be a far-reaching step that would respond to mankind's hopes for these talks.

I reject, as you also do, Your Holiness, the doctrine that sees us as helpless creatures of inexorable fate. I am utterly convinced that we have it in our power to spare ourselves and our posterity the terrible catastrophe that war would bring. I accept your injunction -- heavy burden though it is -- that

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-2-

those of us who lead the world's great nations have a special moral duty to remove for all time the danger of war of any kind.

I look forward to reviewing the study that your representatives will bring. I look forward as well to Cardinal Casaroli's visit as an opportunity to pursue our dialogue. Most of all, I am grateful for your prayers and your counsel.

Most sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

His Holiness  
John Paul II,  
Vatican City.

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WITHDRAWAL SHEET AT THE FRONT OF THIS FOLDER.

MEMORANDUM

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 4, 1981

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JAMES W. NANCE *Bud*

SUBJECT: Pope's Letter on Geneva and Nuclear War (U)

The letter from Pope John Paul II (Tab A), the text of which Bill Wilson earlier cabled, provides a kind of Papal keynoter for the INF negotiations which have just opened in Geneva. As foreseen, he has sent essentially the same text to Brezhnev. (U)

While alluding to the horrors which nuclear warfare would impose on humanity and expressing the hope that the Geneva talks will eventually lead to complete elimination of nuclear weaponry, His Holiness makes a specific request: that you meet with a delegation from the Pontifical Academy of Sciences later this month for the purpose of receiving a study which the Academy has completed on the dangers of, and catastrophic consequences likely to flow from, the resort to nuclear weapons. (C)

In this connection - though not specifically mentioned in the Pope's message - Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Casaroli is planning to visit Washington December 15 and may well refer to the Academy's study (Casaroli will also have a number of other prominent issues on his mind, notably East-West relations, human rights, and Central America which he discussed with General Walters earlier this week). I understand that Bill Wilson has communicated directly with Mike Deaver on this subject and that Casaroli's visit is already under study in the schedulers' office. In the meantime, we feel that any decision to meet with the Academy delegation should depend on the actual contents of the study in question, particularly since a similar delegation will be planning to call on Brezhnev. We obviously want to avoid any suggestion that the Soviet Union and the U.S. are to be equated in the Vatican's anti-nuclear campaign. (C)

The State Department will shortly provide a suggested draft response to the attached letter, as well as specific recommendations concerning both the Casaroli visit and the Pontifical Academy initiative. (U)

Tab A Letter from Pope John Paul II  
cc: The Vice President  
Ed Meese  
Jim Baker  
Mike Deaver

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Review on 12/2/87

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

6715

→ sent to Deaver 12.15.  
return to NSC

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NLS F99 010 #29

BY CTS, NARA, DATE 7/18/00





DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

8134942

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

December 3, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JAMES W. NANCE  
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Request for Appointment with the President:  
Vatican Secretary of State Casaroli

Agostino Cardinal Casaroli, the Vatican Secretary of State, will be in Washington on Tuesday, December 15 on a private visit. The Department recommends that the President agree to meet with Casaroli on that date. If the President's schedule permits, it would also be appropriate for him to host a small luncheon in Casaroli's honor.

Casaroli was scheduled to meet with the President on May 15 during an earlier private visit. He was en route to the United States when news was received of the attempt on the Pope's life, and he returned immediately to Rome.

Casaroli is John Paul II's principal advisor, with the functions and rank of a Prime Minister. During the Pope's recuperation he has emerged as a very powerful, influential, and trusted number two. He is responsible inter alia for the conduct of Vatican foreign policy, which often bears directly on our interests in Poland, Lebanon, Central America, and elsewhere. It is important that he receive attention at the highest level while he is in Washington.

We understand that Envoy to the Vatican William Wilson has also discussed this request with Presidential Assistant Michael Deaver.

*L. Paul Bremer, III*  
L. Paul Bremer, III  
Executive Secretary

Attachment:  
Biographic Sketch of Casaroli

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RDS-3-12/1/91

DECLASSIFIED  
NLS F99010 H30

BY AS NARA DATE 7/18/01

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

6715 *agf*

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CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT

December 2, 1981

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR BUD NANCE *B.N.*

FROM: JIM RENTSCHLER

SUBJECT: Pope's Letter to the President on Geneva  
and Nuclear War

Your memo to the President (Tab I) transmits the original text of the Pope's "Geneva keynote" letter concerning nuclear weapons and notes his specific request that the President meet with a Pontifical Academy delegation later this month. At the same time, your memo flags Cardinal Casaroli's upcoming visit and alludes to the guidance we anticipate receiving from State on all facets of relevant Vatican activity.

*deh* Dennis Blair and Bill Stearman concur. *W*

RECOMMENDATION:

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

Approve *B.N.* As Amended \_\_\_\_\_

Tab I Memo to the President  
A - Letter from Pope

cc: Chuck Tyson

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CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM

6715 *887*

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

November 27, 1981

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~W/SECRET ATTACHMENT~~

ACTION

*NLS F99-010 # 32*

*BY CTS NARA, DATE 7/1/00*

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD V. ALLEN

THROUGH: CHARLES P. TYSON *CT*

FROM: JAMES M. RENTSCHLER *J.M.R.*

SUBJECT: Presidential Meeting with Casaroli? (C)

What's up with the President and the Vatican? Deaver's memo (Tab A) is the first your Western Europe Cluster has heard of a meeting here with Cardinal Casaroli. Is there anything particular you would like us to do? (We have no objection concerning a Papal "missile" to both the President and Brezhnev on disarmament.) (C)

On an indirectly related matter, I commend your attention to Bill Wilson's report of the debrief Zbig gave him of the latter's recent meeting with the Pope (Tab B). If a Casaroli visit here is in prospect, the substance reflected in Bill's report is likely to figure prominently in such a meeting, at least on Casaroli's side. (C)

RECOMMENDATION:

That you provide follow-up guidance on the Deaver memo at Tab A.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments:

Tab A Deaver memo to RVA  
Tab B Wilson cable to State

cc: Dick Pipes  
Paula Dobriansky

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~W/SECRET ATTACHMENT~~

Review on 11/27/87

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

*Jim: Louis message arrived Fri (11/27); we had sent an earlier copy to the Pope. Re: Casaroli, suggest you talk to Tyson. Jamb*

*11/28*



3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20008

November 28, 1981

Dear Mr. President:

It is my privilege to present to you, at the direction of the Papal Secretary of State, Agostino Cardinal Casaroli, the enclosed letter of Pope John Paul II.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, Mr. President, I remain

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Pius Laghi".

Most Reverend Pio Laghi  
Apostolic Delegate

The Honorable  
Ronald Reagan  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

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