

GRS 237

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM HOLY SEE 111425Z JUN 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 37 OF 11 JUN 82

INFO IMMEDIATE UKMIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, AND ROME (ACTIONED)

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ACTION COPY
POPE

YOUR TELEGRAMS NOS. 22 AND 522 TO UKMIS NEW YORK.

THE POPE'S VISIT TO ARGENTINA

1. TELEGRAMS UNDER REFERENCE REACHED ME ONLY AN HOUR BEFORE THE POPE'S AIRCRAFT WAS DUE TO TAKE OFF. EFFECTIVE ACTION WAS NOT PRACTICAL.
2. ALL THE EVIDENCE HERE SUGGESTS THAT THE POPE WILL ESCHEW ANY POLITICAL INITIATIVE. WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT HIS OFFICIAL CONTACTS WILL BE RESTRICTED TO AN ARRIVAL CEREMONY WHICH GALTIERI WILL ATTEND (AND AT WHICH WE ARE TOLD THERE WILL BE NO SET SPEECHES) AND A PRIVATE MEETING AT THE CASA ROSADA.
3. THE NUNCIO IN BUENOS AIRES IS SAID BY VATICAN RADIO TO HAVE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON 9 JUNE THAT THE POPE'S VISIT WAS EXCLUSIVELY PASTORAL IN NATURE. VATICAN RADIO HAVE ALSO TOLD US THAT DURING THE BRIEF STOP IN RIO THE POPE REFERRED TO HIS VISIT TO BRAZIL IN 1980 AND SAID THAT THAT VISIT, LIKE THE ONE HE WAS ABOUT TO UNDERTAKE TO ARGENTINA, WAS MARKED BY ITS PASTORAL AND ECCLESIAL NATURE, AND HAD NO POLITICAL OVERTONES.
4. WHILST IT WOULD PROBABLY BE USEFUL TO BRIEF CARDINAL CASAROLI DURING HIS STAY IN NEW YORK IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT HE WILL BE GOING TO BUENOS AIRES TO JOIN THE POPE THERE. VATICAN SOURCES SUGGEST THAT HE IS LIKELY TO REMAIN IN NEW YORK FOR A DAY OR SO.

HEATH

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