

POPE WILL MEET PATRIARCH TWICE

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Orthodox churches favored the meeting.

The Orthodox Patriarch was said to be "very happy" at the prospect of meeting the Pope in the Holy Land. The spokesman emphasized, however, that the meetings would be on a personal basis, although religious matters of mutual interest were likely to be discussed.

The meeting was suggested by Patriarch Athenagoras early this month after it was announced that Pope Paul would visit the Holy Land. At the time the Patriarch said it would be a wonderful thing if all church leaders of East and West could meet in Jerusalem.

Metropolitan Athenagoras of Thyatira, who is in Rome to discuss details of the meeting, presented a gold cross embedded with jewels to the Pope as a gift from the Patriarch, the spokesman said. Athenagoras is expected to return to Istanbul Wednesday.

The Patriarch plans to remain in the Holy Land for three days. He will fly to Beirut, Lebanon, Saturday. While in Jerusalem he will stay at the Orthodox monastery.

Pan-Christian Talks Possible

By PAUL HOFMANN

Special to The New York Times

ROME, Dec. 30—The Vatican indicated today that Pope Paul VI was considering a suggestion by the Orthodox Church that he should call a pan-Christian conference.

Talks between all branches of Christianity for a common struggle against atheism and tyranny were proposed as a chief purpose of such a gathering.

The proposal was made by an envoy of Patriarch Athenagoras in a formal address to the Pontiff Saturday.

Parts of the address delivered by Metropolitan Athenagoras of Thyatira, the envoy, were published by the Vatican Saturday and yesterday, but the key passage concerning the proposed conference was withheld.

Its publication today by L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper, was considered strong evidence that the Pope had favorably received the Orthodox suggestion and was examining it.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul announced today that Patriarch Athenagoras would meet Pope Paul next Sunday on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, the scene of the agony and ascension of Jesus. No immediate comment was made by the Vatican, but informed sources said an official confirmation of the meeting would soon be forthcoming here.

The sources indicated that the Pope would acknowledge his agreement with the Patriarch on the place, time and procedure of their meeting in a communication to Istanbul, probably tomorrow.

To Embrace All Churches

The pan-Christian conference, as envisaged by the Orthodox Patriarchate in Istanbul, would be convened as a meeting of representatives of all Christian churches.

Its purpose would be to "discuss in love and conviction how to combat sin, how to protect the Church and the peace and freedom of the world, threatened by a common enemy, atheism and tyranny."

Metropolitan Athenagoras said in his address that Pope Paul, "as the First Bishop of the Church, with the consent of the other church patriarchs and leaders of the East and West," could call a gathering of delegates from all Christian communities.

The Orthodox spokesman recalled that John XXIII summoned the Ecumenical Council of the Roman Catholic Church in the Vatican in 1962 for an "aggiornamento"—Italian for bringing up to date—of the Western church. The Metropolitan hinted that a pan-Christian conference might be a corollary to the Vatican Council.

Although the agenda of the great assembly of Roman Catholic prelates from the entire world is still crowded with unresolved issues, there have been recent hints that the Pontiff hopes the Council may wind up its work in the third session.

No official Vatican reaction to the proposal of a pan-Christian conference was available

cuss further the idea of a pan-Christian conference.

Church Group Favors Talks

Commenting on the proposed pan-Christian conference, the Rev. Dr. R. H. Edwin Espy, general secretary of the National Council of Churches, said yesterday:

"We welcome all initiatives on the part of Christians and Christian churches to confer together on the problems that beset mankind. We further welcome efforts toward a common program of all branches of Christendom to combat these problems. We await with deep interest possible developments toward this goal."

Dr. Espy said his observation was of a preliminary nature until the situation "crystallized." The council is a federation of 31 Protestant and Eastern Orthodox bodies with a combined membership of 40,000,000 persons.

Plane Altered for Pope

Special to The New York Times

ROME, Dec. 30 — Modifications of the commercial four-engine jet airliner that will fly Pope Paul VI to and from the Holy Land next month are "few and of a minor nature," an airline spokesman said today.

The spokesman for Alitalia Airlines said the company name on the fuselage of the aircraft would be painted over in white. The rudder of the new DC-8, normally painted red, white and green, the colors of the Italian flag, will be painted white and yellow, the colors of the Vatican flag.

The pontifical coat of arms, about a yard high, will be painted on both sides of the plane near the forward doors, through which the Pope will enter the aircraft.

The same insignia in a smaller size will be in the compartment. A statue of the Madonna of Loreto and a crucifix will also be placed in the compartment.

30 Occupied Seats

The spokesman said there would be no altar. Only 30 of the 64 seats will be occupied, he said. The crew of 12 will include eight stewards.

The Pope will sit in the compartment behind the area that is normally the first-class lounge. He will be in a window seat on the left facing the front of the aircraft. The seat beside him and two behind him will be empty.

On the opposite side of the aisle will be three rows of two seats each and a table where he will have a light lunch during his flight to Jordan, the spokesman said.

Behind the Pope in the normal tourist section and in the lounge, cardinals and other members of the papal party will sit.

The Pope will leave from Fiumicino airport at 8:30 A.M. Saturday and will be in Amman 3 hours 20 minutes later. On the return flight he will leave Amman Monday at 2:50 P.M. and arrive in Rome at 7 P.M.

POPE WILL MEET PATRIARCH TWICE

Exchange of Visits Planned
for Jerusalem Program

Text of remarks by envoy of
Patriarch is on Page 4.

Special to The New York Times

ISTANBUL, Turkey, Dec. 30

—Pope Paul VI and Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras I of Constantinople, leader of the Eastern Orthodox Church, will exchange visits in Jerusalem next Sunday and Monday during the Pontiff's pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

A spokesman for the Patriarchate's secretariat said today that the Patriarch, who is 77 years old, would meet the Pope on Sunday at 8 P.M. at the house of the Vatican's representative in Jerusalem.

Pope Paul will return the visit Monday morning in the Greek Orthodox monastery in Jerusalem.

The meeting will be the first between a Pope and an Orthodox Patriarch since the 15th century, when Patriarch Joseph met Pope Eugene IV in Italy.

[In Rome, the Vatican indicated that the Pope was considering an Orthodox suggestion that he call a pan-Christian conference of all church branches.]

The spokesman said church leaders of eight patriarchates and four independent Orthodox churches had agreed that Patriarch Athenagoras, as "first among equals" in the Eastern leadership, should meet Pope Paul. He said all the responses from the heads of other Ortho-

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Orthodox Prelate's Remarks to Pope

ROME, Dec. 30 (Reuters)—Following is the text of remarks by Metropolitan Athenagoras of Thyatira during his audience with Pope Paul Saturday:

Your Holiness: Conscious of the significance of this historic moment, I am indeed overwhelmed with emotion.

For after so many centuries of silence, the Latin West and the Greek East want now, in mutuality of love and respect dictated by the Gospel and the hearts of all Christians, to meet each other.

They want now to exchange views and brotherly greetings and embark, if possible, on a dialogue of Christian understanding for the peace of the world and the progress of all the holy churches of God.

This is the reason why I am overwhelmed with emotion.

But trying to collect myself, I hand to Your Holiness a letter which your brother in Christ, Athenagoras, the Ecumenical Patriarch, entrusted to me to bring to you and to express, on his behalf and on behalf of the Holy Synod of Metropolitans, greetings of love and peace and goodwill.

To Climb the Same Mountain

It seems that you are called to climb the same mountain, the mountain of the Lord.

Your Holiness climbs from

one side and the Ecumenical Patriarch from the other side.

They who understand the significance of this daring climbing pray that you both may meet on the top, in the land sanctified by our common Redeemer, near His cross, near the empty tomb, and from then on you may walk together, trying under the cross to reconstruct in Christian solidarity the broken bridges and build the abandoned roads, knowing that Christ has nothing else to teach but one old lesson of love, that we may be one as He is one with the Father.

St. Peter and St. Andrew were brothers.

For centuries they were not on speaking terms.

But now they express a mutual desire to meet and talk and walk together with their Master.

May the Lord help that this apostolic meeting be realized for the glory of the Church and the encouragement of the faithful.

Pope John's Role Recalled

Your predecessor of blessed memory, John XXIII, called the Second Vatican Council for the "aggiornamento" of the Western Church.

Perhaps Your Holiness, as the First Bishop of the Church, with the consent of

the other church patriarchs and leaders of the East and West, is destined to call, in a pan-Christian conference, all the representatives of the Christian churches to discuss in love and conviction how to combat sin, how to protect the Church and the peace and freedom of the world, threatened by a common enemy, atheism and tyranny.

With the prayer that the Holy Spirit guide you and grant you health and length of life for a great task for the glory of the Church, which is the prayer of His Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch, may I present to you holiness this letter.

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Although the agenda of the great assembly of Roman Catholic prelates from the entire world is still crowded with unresolved issues, there have been recent hints that the Pontiff hopes the Council may wind up its work in the third session.

No official Vatican reaction to the proposal of a pan-Christian conference was available today beyond the publication in the Vatican newspaper. An editorial note said the text of the Orthodox envoy's remarks was printed "for documentation," that is, to put them on record.

Metropolitan Athenagoras, who is also the Greek Orthodox Archbishop of Britain and has served in the past in the United States and Canada, addressed Pope Paul in English. The original version was printed without translation into Italian, in which the Vatican paper is published.

The Orthodox envoy delivered his address to the Pope Saturday before handing him a letter from Patriarch Athenagoras. The message was understood to concern the proposed meeting between the Pontiff and the Patriarch in the Holy Land during Pope Paul's pilgrimage there from Saturday to Monday.

It was suggested that the two religious leaders might informally and confidentially dis-

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