

Carter Letter to Andreotti

The following is a translation of the personal letter sent by U.S. President James Carter to Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti.

"The meetings I had with you both in Washington and Bonn were most fruitful, and represented a source of great help for me personally.

"I am convinced that the Bonn Summit started very well, and it will solve the economic problems both of our countries are facing at the moment. And I know that if we continue to develop initiatives, these initiatives will bring success to the measures we discussed at Bonn.

"In the United States, we favorably support the efforts you have launched in Italy to reach those objectives to strengthen and revitalize the Italian

economy. You can count on our continuous support and on our commitment to the aims we established at Bonn.

"I asked Vice President Mondale to seek your assessment of the Camp David Summit and your advice will be of great help to me as we are fast approaching these critical meetings.

"I have gained from your wisdom and your capacity for evaluation, both in the quality of judgment which you showed in the future of Italy and in the future of both our countries.

"It is with eagerness that I look forward to the next meeting with you.

Warmest regards,
President Carter

Papal Intervention Into Middle East Conflict

In a general audience on Sept. 7, the Pope John Paul I expressed his hopes for the "success of the Camp David meeting, so that these discussions might smooth the way towards a just and complete peace . . . not leaving any questions unresolved: the problem of the Palestinians, the security of Israel, the Holy City of Jerusalem."

The three heads of state attending the meeting responded to the Pope on Sept. 8, with a joint telegram thanking him for his commitment to peace in the Middle East.

Widespread hopes that the Pope may intervene in some way in reaching a settlement in the Middle East were encouraged by the attendance of President Elias Sarkis of Lebanon, and of Patriarch Khoreish of the Maronite Church of Lebanon, at the official installation mass of Pope John Paul on Sept. 3.

Also attending the mass were the Israeli ambassador to Italy, Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, and West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. John Paul I requested certain government representatives attending the ceremony on Sunday to stay in Rome for a private summit meeting the next day.

The Pope's interest in finding a solution to the Lebanese problem dates from the first days after his election, when in a speech before a throng of 150,000 in St. Peter's Square, he identified "war-torn Lebanon" as one of the areas of the world he hoped to be able to positively affect.

The role of the Pope in rebuilding national unity in Lebanon was outlined to NSIPS on Sept. 1 by a West German diplomat, who said that John Paul "is the

most important person immediately involved" in building an alliance between the Druze Moslems and the Maronite Christians, which could prove crucial in the settlement of the Lebanese conflict. At the same time, the West German press reported that Palestine Liberation Organization head Yasser Arafat had sent a message to John Paul I, praising the role of the Vatican in the Middle East and expressing the hope that the new Pope would continue this effort. The Vatican has received a similar message from Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren of Jerusalem.

Pope John Paul's consciousness of the power of the Church to bring about this new order was evident in his speech Sept. 1 to an audience of diplomatic representatives to the Vatican from all over the world. There are two ways, he explained, in which Vatican diplomacy can work: first, on the highest levels, government-to-government relations. Secondly, there is "the forming of consciences . . . and through these forming wider public opinion — regarding the fundamental principles that guarantee authentic civilization and real brotherhood between peoples."

Expressing his knowledge of the immediate necessity for industrial and technological development as the basis for a lasting peace, John Paul went on in implicit support of the new European Monetary System: "Your countries are trying to build a modern civilization, dedicating to this task efforts that are often ingenious and generous and have our full encouragement . . . The Holy See will employ all its strength in that work. It also deserves your full interest."