

Religion by Augustinus

The Vatican and *Mittleuropa*

There was a very specific flavor in the Pope's remarks in Vienna on theology, ecumenicism, and politics.

Could there be an agreement between the ideologues of "Moscow as the Third and Final Roman Empire" currently running the Soviet Union, and the Vatican circles that prepared Pope John Paul II's trip to Vienna in September? At this point it would be hard to answer no.

The timing was apt: the Pope's visit to Austria, the country which hosted the Congress of Vienna, coincided with the 300th anniversary of the victory of Christendom over the Turks, just as a *Mittleuropa* conference was beginning Sept. 19 at Duino castle near Trieste.

Vienna's Franz Cardinal Koenig had worked hard. He had put off the Pope's visit to Austria twice, and finally the right moment had arrived.

The speeches by the Pope in Austria give an alarming picture of the confusion and manipulation which the Roman Curia is exercising over him. Praise of Pope Pius II (Enea Silvio Piccolomini), the great humanist of the 15th century, was mixed in with exaltations of the Congress of Vienna of 1815, which ended the creative upsurge represented by the Italian Renaissance, and brought back the banned Jesuit order.

The Pope's speeches stressed the "danger of industrialization," a line of thought promoted by the Jesuits and the Club of Rome, as well as the Kremlin, which fears the prospect of a real economic recovery in the West. "No project, even the most technically perfect and industrially sound can be justified if it jeopardizes human dignity and the rights of peoples," said

John Paul II. The Pope invited "Western Christians to re-discover their Oriental soul." He celebrated a mass together with the Metropolitan of the Orthodox Church, Chrisostomos Tsister, under the approving eyes of Cardinal Koenig.

But the characteristic element, and in a certain sense the only consistent note, in the pontiff's speeches was his repeated expounding of the concept of *Mittleuropa*, Central Europe, a Europe, as *Panorama* aptly put it, "of the cathedrals, with one origin and substance, with its autonomous and unified cultural tradition, to East and to West, without any more barriers." That is, a Europe of a separate peace with Yuri Andropov, regionalized into ethnic pockets controlled by the old Austro-Hungarian nobility.

We can imagine with how much cynical determination the functionaries of the Vatican Secretariat of State penning the Pope's speeches wanted to underline their desire to forge an alliance with the Russian Orthodox Church when they wrote: "The unity of the Church has its absolute foundation in the mystery of the Trinity of God," to be read in the sense given to it "by the Christians who met in Vancouver at the General Assembly of the Ecumenical Council of the Churches." That was the World Council of Churches, where the Russian Orthodox delegation led a savage attack on the Judeo-Christian tradition of morality based on man's increasing dominion over nature!

The Pope's speeches were echoed by the statements of the Austrian jour-

nalist Dalma at the Duino gathering on the "European Significance of *Mittleuropa*," staged at the castle of the Torre e Tasso, the Italian branch of one of Europe's most evil and powerful oligarchies, the Thurn und Taxis. Dalma boasted, "We are not making an error of judgment. *Mittleuropa* is not just the old Austro-Hungarian empire, but it is the idea of John Paul II. *Mittleuropa* is open to the East and to the West. The Pope offers the Russians a unified, stable central Europe."

A dossier titled "The Pope on Trial" sheds light on what is being readied as the new image of John Paul II's pontificate. The Vatican daily *L'Osservatore Romano* dedicated only a few lines of feeble protest on its back page Sept. 22 to the *Panorama* article, which was patiently cooked up between Monsignor Silvestrini of the Vatican State Secretariat, Cardinal Koenig, and the Roman Curia. The article claims that Koenig was responsible for the Pope's election, and insinuates that he is therefore entitled to run the Vatican.

One significant detail: the guest list at Duino included Aurelio Peccei, the founder of the Club of Rome. Of course, the Club of Rome is a major promoter of the "Europe of the Regions" project of Count Coudenhove-Kalergi, founder of the racist Pan-European Union, which in turn was a major organizer of the Duino gathering. But the Club of Rome has also recently declared its homicidal hatred for the Pope and his defense of the principle of life.

Club of Rome co-founder Alexander King bragged in a June 1981 *EIR* interview: "The Club of Rome has excellent contacts with the Vatican through Cardinal Koenig of Vienna; he has participated in various of our meetings, and has spoken for us to the Pope."