

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."

Christians, Moslems Ally Against Falange

In Lebanon, key leaders of the Christian community — including leaders of the Maronite Catholic sect itself — have begun to join hands with Moslem leaders to work together to rebuild the institutions of the Lebanese state. With the full support of Syria, the Vatican, Saudi Arabia, and France, in particular, these Lebanese forces are putting together an ecumenical coalition that has already isolated the fascist militia of the Nazi Falangists and the allied followers of Camille Chamoun's National Liberal Party.

The leading event was the meeting last week in north Lebanon, when Walid Jumblatt the leader of Lebanon's Druze Moslem community and chairman of the Progressive Socialist Party met with Rashid Karami, the leader of the Sunni Moslems in Tripoli, and Suleiman Frangieh, a Maronite Catholic leader from Zharta, to discuss the formation of a national Popular Front.

This is virtually the same coalition which came together in 1958, during the civil war of that year, to oppose the unconstitutional re-election drive of then-President Chamoun.

Backing the efforts of Jumblatt, Karami, and Frangieh are the various bishops and patriarchs of the Maronite and other Christian sects. Greek Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Armenians, and Maronites are uniting to isolate the Nazis who, in the Falangist militia, have long terrorized even the Christian community.

— *Mary Sonnenblick*

Pope Urges Comprehensive Solution to Mideast

The following is the text of a statement by newly elected Pope John Paul I in a general audience on Sept. 7:

“Today at Camp David an important meeting between the heads of state of Egypt, Israel and the United States begins, to find a solution to the Middle East conflict. This conflict, which for more than thirty years has raged in the land of Jesus, has already caused casualties and much suffering both among the Arabs and the Israelis, and like an ugly disease, has infected the neighboring countries.

“Think about martyred Lebanon, disrupted by the repercussions of this crisis. Because of this, we would like to ask you to pray together for the success of the Camp David meeting, so that these discussions might smooth the way towards a just and complete peace. Just, that is, with satisfaction for all the conflicting parties. Complete, in the sense of not leaving any questions unresolved: the problem of the Palestinians, the security of Israel, the Holy City of Jerusalem.

“We beseech the Lord, praying that He might enlighten those responsible for all the interested peoples, that they might with foresight and courage make the decisions that will bring peace and tranquility to the Holy Land and the entire eastern world.”

Mediterranean-Mexican Development Is Focus Of Three-Way Trade Deals

The past week witnessed a flurry of negotiations about large-scale triangular development deals involving key Western and Eastern European nations and Japan, and such oil-producing states as Mexico, Libya, Iran, and Nigeria. While many details are yet to be released, as a whole, the discussed deals seem to represent the longer-term promise of the new monetary system initiated in Bremen, West Germany on July 8: the pooling of advanced sector, oil-producing sector, and Third World resources for a major world industrial boom.

Centered on the Mediterranean and Arab East-Gulf States regions, the geometry of projected deals is also meant, implicitly in most cases, to address the problem being explicitly addressed now by the government of Japan: how to ensure Middle East and world peace through development. The war danger had motivated Chancellor Schmidt's approach both to Bremen and to

the 25-year economic cooperation agreements with the Soviet Union in May. Now the governments of several nations aside from West Germany — including the Soviet Union and other East bloc states, Greece, Italy, and the above-named oil-producers — are acting along that perspective.

French-Arab Credit to Mexico

Intriguing in this context was an article in the Mexico City daily *Excelsior* suggesting that the multi-billion petrodollars of the French-Arab consortium UBAF will be available for Mexican development:

The Union de Banques Arabes et Francoises (UBAF) told *Excelsior* that it is willing to invest all the petrodollars our country needs for its rapid development, regardless of whether it (Mexico) is a member of OPEC.

This statement was made by Gerard Charvet, 2nd assistant to the director of international trade of the Union de Banques Arabes et Francoises (UBAF). The