

C/S - POPE PAUL: BITTERNESS AND ANXIETY AT CS EVENTS

ROME, AUG. 22, REUTER--POPE PAUL SAID HERE TODAY HE WOULD BE WILLING TO RENOUNCE HIS TRIP TO BOGOTA IF HE KNEW THAT IT WOULD IN SOME WAY HELP AVOID THE ILLS NOW OPPRESSING CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

IN A PRE-DAWN SPEECH AT THE AIRPORT, BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR COLOMBIA, THE POPE EXPRESSED "SHARP BITTERNESS AND GREAT ANXIETY" AT THE EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

"WE WOULD WILLINGLY GIVE UP OUR JOURNEY THIS INSTANT IF WE KNEW THAT OUR PRESENCE AND ACTIVITY COULD IN SOME WAY SERVE TO HINDER THE WORSENING OF THE ILLS THAT ARE NOW OPPRESSING THAT NATION ALWAYS DEAR TO US, AND TO AVOID THE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES WHICH ALAS ONE CAN WITH REASON FORESEE."

"ONCE MORE THE FORCE OF ARMS SEEMS TO WANT TO DECIDE THE LOT OF A PEOPLE, OF ITS INDEPENDENCE OF ITS DIGNITY," THE POPE SAID.

THE TRANQUILITY OF EUROPE HAD BEEN SHAKEN, THAT OF THE WORLD WAS COMPRISED. "PEACE IS SAVAGELY WOUNDED! GOD GRANT THAT IT BE NOT MORTALLY," HE SAID.

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