

CN 82

X/13 VATICAN - (1ST ADD) POPE DEPARTS THINKING OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

(CN 80) X X X CZECHOSLOVAKIA

"BEFORE LEAVING WE FEEL OBLIGED TO SAY A WORD OF
OF THANKS AND GREETING TO ALL WHO, REGARDLESS OF THE EARLY
OF THE EARLY HOUR AND IN SPITE OF OURSELF, HAVE COME
TO THE AIRPORT TO WISH US A GOOD JOURNEY AND TO ASSURE US
THAT THEY ARE UNITED WITH US IN HEART AND PRAYER AT THIS INTERVENTION
BY US IN THE INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS OF BOGOTA AND
IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE LATIN-AMERICAN EPISCOPATE.

"WE HEARTILY THANK ALL THOSE PRESENT AND ALL WHO ARE
REPRESENTED HERE BY THEM. WE TOO WILL KEEP YOU PRESENT
IN OUR SPIRIT AT THE GREAT CELEBRATION OF CHARITY AND UNITY
THAT AWAITS US.

"BUT WE CANNOT LEAVE YOU AND ALL WHO SEE THE SCENE OF OUR
OUR DEPARTURE AND ARE LISTENING TO OUR VOICE BY RADIO
AND TELEVISION, WITHOUT CONFIDING TO YOU THE SHARP BITTERNESS
AND GREAT ANXIETY THAT WEIGH UPON OUR MIND BECAUSE OF THE EVENTS TAKING
PLACE 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. (MORE) BMCG/LA 0620/68 AUG 22 4