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28 June 1963

Dear Mr. President:

I have given careful consideration to your request for suggestion of topics of discussion with His Holiness, Pope Paul VI, and have made some discreet inquiries with persons whose confidence I enjoy and whose advice I thought would be of value.

My views are as follows:

1. The question of United States representation to the Holy See should be avoided and in all probability will not be raised by the Holy Father. It is a fact that the concept of a "personal representative of the President" was not wholly satisfactory to the Vatican, and it is also a fact that the Vatican recognizes the disturbing problems which would be raised within the United States by any form of representation proposed at this time. However, I do believe that a suggestion that the Vatican strengthen the Apostolic Delegation here in Washington is appropriate. 50X1

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2. Undoubtedly His Holiness will wish to discuss the broad theme of peace, a subject in which you both are eloquent spokesmen. You may recall that President Roosevelt popularized the term "parallel endeavors" to describe the efforts by the Church and the Free World which sought to insure peace with freedom. I would suggest that this subject be the principal theme of a communique issued following your visit.

3. I feel you will find Pope Paul convinced, as was his predecessor, Pope John, that a vast body of public opinion within the Christian area of the Communist

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Declassified Under Authority of the Interagency Security
Classification Appeals Panel, E.O. 13526, sec. 5.3(b)(3)
ISCAP Appeal No. 2019-058, document 4
Declassification Date: January 2, 2025

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Bloc recognize that the Church under the Pope's leadership is a genuine and constructive force for peace. This will probably lead into some discussion of the differences which divide the Communist Bloc and the Free World. In seeking areas of understanding between the peoples of the Free World and the Communist Bloc, the Holy See is not inclined to compromise on fundamental principles of Christianity and Catholicism, nor on the questions of human dignity and the rights and freedoms of the individual. However, I have found them inclined to overlook or discount the dangers to the Free World from a country determined to preserve secrecy as it develops offensive armaments of the most lethal character. Hence, you might point out the necessity and importance of our insistence upon reasonable verification of all disarmament agreements as essential to Free World security.

4. I believe that you could most usefully discuss the issues which confront both our Government and the Church in Latin America as there are many areas in which the United States Government or private organizations can cooperate with the Church in combatting the inroads of Communist influence. In this connection, the Agency is supporting a number of Catholic Actions in Latin America and in Rome. However, there is a feeling that a closer cooperation in such areas as the distribution of surplus foods through Church facilities would be useful in promoting United States interests in Latin America.

5. If the question of civil rights is raised, and it might well be, a statement of your efforts to obtain equal rights for all Americans, regardless of color or creed, would, I am sure, strike a responsive chord in Pope Paul.

6. Pope Paul is identified as a progressive or liberal Catholic. However, he has in the past joined with others in the Italian Catholic hierarchy in fighting Communism in Italy. He came to the United States in

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1960 for the purpose of explaining why Catholic Action in the political field was a necessity in Italy and must be pursued. He explained that the same type of Catholic political action was neither a necessity nor desirable in the United States.

John A. McCone

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