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**Case File Number(s):** 190000-200999  
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*Last Updated: 12/22/2023*

# WITHDRAWAL SHEET

## Ronald Reagan Library

**Collection Name** WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT:  
SUBJECT FILE

**Withdrawer**

SER 6/3/2010

**File Folder** CO 170 VATICAN CITY (200000-204999)

**FOIA**

S10-0317/01

**Box Number** 1

SYSTEMATIC

2

DOC NO	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
1	LETTER <i>200281</i>	THE PRESIDENT TO WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY 200281	1	5/24/1983	B6
2	LETTER <i>200281</i>	THE PRESIDENT TO WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY (HANDWRITTEN VERSION OF ITEM 1) 200281	2	ND	B6

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]

B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]

B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]

B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]

B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]

B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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ID # 194703  
4000  
CO 170  
PL

**WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING  
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 83/12/17

Name of Correspondent: Rich Esterline

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Re: Diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

**ROUTE TO:**

**ACTION**

**DISPOSITION**

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
	<u>Co Kell</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>84 01 10</u>		<u>C 84 02 10</u>
	<u>do S</u>	Referral Note:	<u>R 84 10 13</u>		<u>A 84 02 27</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1 1</u>		<u>1 1</u>

- ACTION CODES:**
- A - Appropriate Action
  - C - Comment/Recommendation
  - D - Draft Response
  - F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure
  - I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
  - R - Direct Reply w/Copy
  - S - For Signature
  - X - Interim Reply
- DISPOSITION CODES:**
- A - Answered
  - B - Non-Special Referral
  - C - Completed
  - S - Suspended
- FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:**
- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
  - Code = "A"
  - Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.  
Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).  
Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.  
Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

807101

# RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

## CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: \_\_\_\_\_ Media: \_\_\_\_\_ Individual Codes: \_\_\_\_\_

Prime Subject Code: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Subject Codes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

## PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

### SIGNATURE CODES:

- CPn - Presidential Correspondence
- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
- n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
- n - 3 - Ron
- n - 4 - Dutch
- n - 5 - Ron Reagan
- n - 6 - Ronald
- n - 7 - Ronnie

- CLn - First Lady's Correspondence
- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

- CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence
- n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

### MEDIA CODES:

- B - Box/package
- C - Copy
- D - Official document
- G - Message
- H - Handcarried
- L - Letter
- M - Mailgram
- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

S/S # 8400970

DATE February 9 1984

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
TRANSMITTAL FORM

WHITE HOUSE  
SITUATION ROOM

FOR: Mr. Robert C. McFarlane  
National Security Council  
The White House

REFERENCE:

TO: President Reagan FROM: Pastor Rick Esterline  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ SUBJECT: U.S. Diplomatic Relations  
with Vatican

WHITE HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: 1/12/84 NSC # 194703

THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY  
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION TAKEN:

- \_\_\_\_\_ A draft reply is attached  
\_\_\_\_\_ A draft reply will be forwarded  
\_\_\_\_\_ A translation is attached  
X An information copy of a direct reply is attached  
\_\_\_\_\_ We believe no response is necessary for the reason  
cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other

REMARKS:

*for* Charles Hill  
Executive Secretary



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 7, 1984

The Reverend Rick Esterline  
Associate Pastor  
Seventh - Day Adventist Church  
455 Maitland Avenue  
Altamonte Springs, Florida 32701

Dear Mr. Esterline:

I am replying to your letter to President Reagan regarding the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Holy See. It was thoughtful of you to enclose a copy of Cosmic Conflict.

In the desire to further promote existing mutual friendly relations, the United States and the Holy See announced the establishment of diplomatic relations on January 10, 1984. This is not a question of recognition on our part. The United States has long recognized the Holy See as having an international personality distinct from the Roman Catholic Church.

The United States and the Vatican have maintained close contacts for some time. In recent years, we have had representation in Vatican City in the person of the President's Personal Representative to the Holy See. President Roosevelt established this practice in 1939. What we are doing now is establishing diplomatic relations.

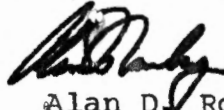
Our Ambassador will be accredited to the Holy See, an international focal point of diplomatic contact. We join 107 other nations, including all our major Western allies, in establishing diplomatic relations with the Holy See. It is an internationally-recognized sovereign entity which is represented at such international organizations as the United Nations and the Organization of American States. The Holy See has entered into international treaties, some of which the U.S. Government has also signed. Vatican City is an independent city state, under the jurisdiction of the Holy See. The Holy See is in effect the government with which our embassy will deal.

Before making the decision to establish diplomatic relations with the Holy See, the Administration consulted with appropriate members and committees of Congress. Moreover, Congress recently repealed an 1867 statute which stated that federal funds could be used for a diplomatic mission to the Vatican.

This step does not violate constitutional strictures on separation of church and state. Diplomatic relations between the United States and the Vatican do not confer any special status on the Roman Catholic Church in this country or elsewhere. I would note that the United States and the Holy See maintained diplo-

matic relations between 1848 and 1868. They were allowed to lapse for historical reasons which are no longer clear, but seem to have involved Italian unification and the Holy See's loss of the Papal States.

Sincerely,



Alan D. Romberg  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
for Public Affairs and  
Acting Spokesman

## T H E   W H I T E   H O U S E   O F F I C E

## REFERRAL

JANUARY 12, 1984

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

## ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

## DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 194703

MEDIA: LETTER

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: PASTOR RICK ESTERLINE  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
SEVENTH - DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH  
455 MAITLAND AVENUE  
ALTAMONTE SPRINGS FL 32701SUBJECT: REGARDING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE  
VATICANPROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN  
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE  
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE  
(OR DRAFT) TO:

AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE

SALLY KELLEY  
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON  
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE*Received 1/5/84  
1/12 at 11:55 AM (S)*



8400970

WHITE HOUSE GIFT UNIT

ID: 8390032    LOGGER'S INITIALS: JEH    DATES: LOGGED: 840107    ARRIVED: 831217

GIFT INTENDED FOR: PRESIDENT

CORRESPON. TRACKING: SL

DONOR: GENERAL PUBLIC

NAME:    LAST: ESTERLINE  
         PREFIX: MR.

FIRST: RICK  
SUFFIX:

TITLE:  
ORG:

STREET: 560 BIRCH COURT

CITY: ALTAMONTE  
COUNTRY:

STATE: FL    ZIPCODE: 32714

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

FORM:

DATE:

SALUTATION:

SPOUSE:

APPRAISED VALUE: NA

OVER MINIMUM VALUE(O/U): U

ARRIVAL FORM: MAIL ROOM

DESCRIPTION:

MISCELLANEOUS - N.E.C

BOOK: "COSMIC CONFLICT".

DISPOSITION: OTHER

IF TEMP, DESIG FOR:

ARCHIVE BOX NUMBER:

COMMENTS DONOR SENDS BOOK IN REGARD TO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BEING ESTABLISHED WITH THE VATICAN; BOOK AND CORRES. SENT TO SALLY KELLY; CC GIFT UNIT.

STAFF GIFT INFORMATION:

STAFF MEMBER:

TITLE:

GSA #:

COUNSEL APPROVAL(Y/N):

DATE:

*to PL Blac*

*A*

*84/01/09*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR SALLY KELLY

FROM:  JOHN HILBOLDT

SUBJECT: Issue Related Gift

I was told by Linda that we had been referring all questions of this nature to you for referral to State.

Should we now send them to Blackwell?

Our yellow sheet arrived in Central Reference and as you can see was a little confusing.

22

22

8400970

SEVENTH-DAY  
*Adventist* CHURCH

455 MAITLAND AVENUE / ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FL 32701 / PHONE 834-6789

Pastor Cliff Robbins  
Rick Esterline, Assoc. Pastor

194703

President Ronald Reagan  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I do appreciate the work that you have done so far for the benefit of the American people and the credibility of the Presidency. You are to be especially commended for your even-handedness in this very difficult period of history. Let us praise God together that we are not already in a world-wide war. However, there is one note of warning which I wish to sound. While I do appreciate the fact that it seems to be politically expedient as well as in the interest of world peace, I cannot agree with any moves in the direction of establishing diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

You may be somewhat curious as to why so many have taken interest in this subject. While I cannot speak for the rest, I can enlighten you somewhat as to the view of many Seventh-day Adventists. For many years now we have believed that the Papacy would regain its power and popularity. We have also believed that they would unite their efforts with the protestant world and use civil power to enforce their views upon the whole nation. For years we have been anticipating this awful day. We feel that to establish diplomatic ties with the Vatican is bringing the nation one step closer to the fulfillment of this dreadful prophecy. Let it not be written in the books of heaven that you were the one who was the instrumental in bringing this to pass.

So that you might better understand our point of view, I have included a book for you. I think you will find chapters 25, 35, 38, and 39 to be most relevant at this point in time. May God be with you as you consider these matters.

Sincerely yours,

*Rick Esterline*

Rick Esterline  
Associate Pastor



"INTO ALL THE WORLD"

0500018

Name	Date
<i>Intruder</i>	<i>5/14/87</i>

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 11, 1984

1169

195795  
1120  
C0170  
51002  
FG001-02  
FG018  
FG038

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT

FROM: ROBERT C. MCFARLANE *RCM*  
SUBJECT: Arrangements for Papal Stopover in Alaska

Thank you for sending me Archbishop Laghi's request for assistance during the Pope's transit of the United States in May. We have begun preparations for that brief stopover and plan to have Cabinet-level representation there to greet Pope John Paul II. Judge Clark has agreed to head our delegation that will be in Alaska during the refueling stop.

Dr. Ty Cobb of my staff is coordinating with State on the arrangements for the brief stopover and will continue to stay in touch with Don Gregg.

NSC #841169

## MEMORANDUM

## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

February 9, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. McFARLANE

FROM: TYRUS W. COBB *TWC* **SIGNED**

SUBJECT: Reply to the Vice President

The Vice President has written informing you of a call from Pio Laghi seeking authorization for the Pope's plane to land in Alaska during a refueling stop in May. The Vice President indicated that Laghi could assume permission was granted.

We have already coordinated with State on this matter, and have secured Judge Clark's agreement to go to Alaska to represent the United States during the refueling stop. Your memorandum to the Vice President at Tab I acknowledges his communication and informs him of the actions we have already taken to assist the Pope's transit.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memo to the Vice President at Tab I.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_

Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

## Attachment

Tab I - Memo to the Vice President

Tab II - Incoming Correspondence

RONALD REAGAN LIBRARY  
TRANSFER/PARALLEL FILE SHEET

Please circle "preservation" (put in AV, etc.), "classified" (parallel filed in vault/annex), "collection" (misfile, provenance), "RD/FRD" (parallel file), "NATO" (parallel file)

PRESERVATION CLASSIFICATION COLLECTION RD/FRD NATO

FROM:

Collection WHORM Subject File

Series \_\_\_\_\_

File Folder Title/Casefile #/NSC # \_\_\_\_\_

CO170 VATICAN City (180000 - 199999)

Box Number \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Material:

Memo, George Bush to Bud McFarlane,  
2/7/84, 1p.

TO:

Collection: Historic Preservation File

Series: \_\_\_\_\_

File Folder Title/Casefile #/NSC # \_\_\_\_\_

CO170 VATICAN City (180000 - 199999)

Box Number: \_\_\_\_\_

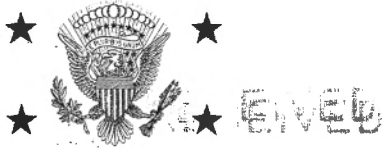
Transferred by: K. BARTON

Date: 8/2/07

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THIRD/FOURTH\* COPY FOR COLLECTION FOLDERS - \* IF TRANSFERRING TO/FROM TWO  
COLLECTIONS



FEB 7 1984



1169

THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

February 7, 1984

84 FEB 8 8:12

MEMORANDUM FOR BUD MCFARLANE

SUBJECT: PHONE CONVERSATION WITH ARCHBISHOP  
PIO LAGHI, APOSTOLIC DELEGATE IN THE  
UNITED STATES, February 1, 1984

Archbishop Laghi called last week to tell me that he was seeking authorization for the Holy Father's airplane to land at Anchorage, Alaska on May 2. The Pope will be enroute the Far East. Bishop Laghi very tactfully suggested that it would be appropriate to have a government representative there. I understand that Secretary Donovan was our representative the last time. He also wanted the various Senators and Congressmen to know of the arrival.

I told him that he could assume authorization had been granted and that I would convey his message to you. I mentioned this to Admiral Poindexter, but wanted to follow-up in writing.

GEORGE BUSH

983 ✓ CT

National Security Council  
The White House

RECEIVED

84 FEB 10 P5: 11

System # I  
Package # 1169

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bill Martin	<u>1</u>	<u>WFM</u>	<u></u>
Bob Kimmitt	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
John Poindexter	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
Wilma Hall	<u>2</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
Bud McFarlane	<u>3</u>	<u>M</u>	<u></u>
Bob Kimmitt	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
NSC Secretariat	<u>4</u>	<b>FEB 11 1984</b>	<u>D</u>
Situation Room	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>

I = Information    A = Action    R = Retain    D = Dispatch    N = No further Action

cc: VP Meese Baker Deaver Other \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS    Should be seen by: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date/Time)

RECEIVED

84 FEB 10 P 6: 05

NSC/S PROFILE

UNCLASSIFIED

ID 8401169

RECEIVED 08 FEB 84 18

TO MCFARLANE

FROM BUSH, G

DOCDATE 07 FEB 84

**URGENT**

KEYWORDS VATICAN

JOHN PAUL II

LAGHI, PIO

SUBJECT: VP CONVERSATION W/ ARCHBISHOP LAGHI RE POPE LANDING IN ALASKA ENROUTE TO FAREAST

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR MCFARLANE DUE: 09 FEB 84 STATUS S FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

COBB

FORTIER

SOMMER

HALL

COMMENTS NO ANSWER IN COBB'S OFFICE WHEN REC'D 1830 8 FEB.

REF# LOG NSCIFID ( JF )

ACTION OFFICER (S)	ASSIGNED	ACTION REQUIRED	DUE	COPIES TO
<i>Mcfarlane</i>	<i>X 2/10</i>	<i>For Signature</i>	<i>2/11</i>	
	<i>C FEB 11 1984</i>	<i>Mcfarlane sqd</i>		<i>CO ✓</i>

DISPATCH *dmr 0940* FEB 11 1984

W/ATTCH FILE *W/H* (C) *MR*

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 11, 1984

CO170

FO002

PR007-01

PR005

FG038

FG011

FG006-12

MEETING WITH ARCHBISHOP PIO LAGHI AND BILL WILSON

DATE: January 12, 1984  
 LOCATION: Oval Office  
 TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 10:05 a.m.  
 FROM: ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

I. PURPOSE

To provide a photo opportunity for Apostolic Delegate, Archbishop Pio Laghi and Bill Wilson.

II. BACKGROUND

On January 10 we and the Vatican announced the establishment of formal diplomatic ties between the United States and the Holy See. Bill Wilson will be in Washington on his way to Rome on January 12 and we thought it would be appropriate to provide a photo opportunity for Bill and Archbishop Pio Laghi, the Apostolic Delegate in Washington. The Pope has informed us of his intention to name the Archbishop as Papal Pro-Nuncio (Ambassador) to the U.S. The Archbishop's bio is at Tab A. Suggested talking points are also attached.

III. PARTICIPANTSU.S.

The President  
 Vice President  
 Robert C. McFarlane  
 William Wilson  
 Deputy Assistant Secretary John Kelly (State)  
 Peter R. Sommer, NSC  
 Meese, Baker, Deaver will attend at their discretion.

Holy See

Archbishop Pio Laghi

IV. PRESS PLAN

Photo opportunity in Oval Office.

Tab A Pío Laghi bio

Prepared by:  
 Peter R. Sommer

cc Vice President  
 Ed Meese  
 Jim Baker  
 Mike Deaver

NSC #8400265

TALKING POINTS FOR USE BY THE PRESIDENT IN HIS MEETING WITH  
APOSTOLIC DELEGATE PIO LAGHI AND WILLIAM WILSON

-- I am delighted with the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between the United States and the Holy See.

-- Our mutual relations have long been close and beneficial. We see formal diplomatic ties as further promoting and strengthening our already strong relationship.

-- The United States, and I personally, hold Pope John Paul II in high esteem. We respect the great moral and political influence which he and the Vatican exercise throughout the world. We especially admire the courageous stand the Pope has taken in defense of Western values and his efforts to achieve a significant reduction of the world's nuclear arsenals.

-- Eminence, I look forward to receiving you when you present your letters of credence.

-- Bill Wilson, I am confident you will make a great U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See.

Archbishop Pio Laghi

Papal Pro-Nuncio of the Holy See

Archbishop Laghi, 61, a native of Castiglione, Italy, entered the Vatican diplomatic service in 1952. He has served in Nicaragua, in India, and in the United States, as Secretary of the Apostolic Delegation from 1954 to 1961. He was Apostolic Delegate to Jerusalem and Palestine from 1969 to 1974 and Nuncio to Argentina from 1974 to 1980. He has also served in Rome with the Council for the Public Affairs of the Church. Since 1980 he has been Apostolic Delegate in Washington, D. C.

UNCLASSIFIED

GR —

C. F. —

200281

CD170

No copies to be made from this case  
per Kathy Osborne



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*DOC Document Type*

*No of Doc Date Restric-*  
*pages tions*

*NO Document Description*

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	200281			

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*pages tions*

*NO Document Description*

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