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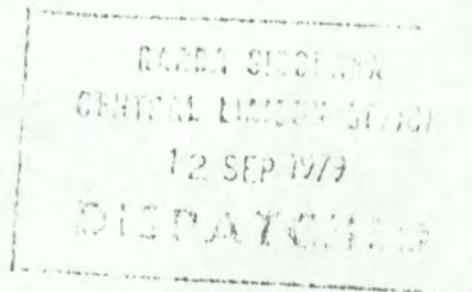
### IRELAND



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COMMISSIONER.

Pastoral Visit to Ireland of Pope John Paul II -  
29th September to 1st October, 1979.

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1. His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, will pay a pastoral visit to Ireland over period 29th September, 1979 to 1st October, 1979, incl.
2. An Aer Lingus Boeing 747 will carry the Pope and Papal suite from Rome Airport to Dublin Airport on 29th September, 1979. ETA Dublin is 10.00 am. The Aer Lingus aircraft will not carry fare paying passengers but will carry Aer Lingus staff, members of the Press and possibly some Aer Lingus and Aer Rianta Executives outward. On the journey Rome/Dublin the aircraft will carry, in addition to the Pope, Papal suite and the outward load, the Vatican and Italian Press.

Risks:

There are three security risks to be considered in respect of the air journey:

- (1) Sabotage of the aircraft at Dublin or Rome;
- (2) Hi-jacking of the aircraft;
- (3) Attack on the Pope while in the air.

Precautions:

- (1) The aircraft will be thoroughly searched prior to departure from Dublin and Rome.
- (2) All hold and cabin baggage will be thoroughly searched at Dublin and Rome.
- (3) All passengers will be accredited to the flight only after thorough screening and pro-board search.
- (4) Members of the Garda will travel on the Papal aircraft (2).
- (5) Two members of the Swiss Guards and two Gendarmes attached to Vatican Security will be on the Papal flight and these, together with the Garda members, will provide on board security.
- (6) The aircraft will be under armed guard at Rome Airport while over-nighting and similar cover will be provided at Dublin Airport pre departure.

3. Touch down of the Papal aircraft at Dublin Airport is ETA 10.00 am. The Pope will be at the Airport for approx. 40 minutes before departure by helicopter to Nunciature on the Navan Road.

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(2)

Risks:

- (1) Direct attack by sniper;
- (2) Direct attack by person on tarmac outside;
- (3) Bomb airside;
- (4) Attack from air;
- (5) Attack from vehicle airside.

Precautions:

- (1) All vantage points from which sniper fire could be directed are being identified by Gardai and Army and will be manned by Gardai;
- (2) All persons on open balconies and on tarmac airside will be pre-selected and security screened;
- (3) Airport security has been increased and will be further increased to ensure that no bombs are placed airside;
- (4) Air Traffic at Dublin Airport will be suspended between 0800 GMT and 1100 GMT on 29th September, 1979;
- (5) Air coverage will be provided by members of the Garda Task Force in a helicopter;
- (6) No vehicles will be permitted into the ceremonial area at the Airport (except screened vehicles for Press, etc.) and members of the Garda Task Force will supplement the Garda presence to ensure the personal safety of the Pope.

4. The Pope will arrive at the Nunciature by helicopter at ETA 10.40 - 10.50 and will be met at the helipad by a few people who will pose no security problems.

Risks:

- (1) Direct attack by sniper;
- (2) Direct attack by person on Nunciature Grounds;
- (3) Bomb in grounds or Nunciature;
- (4) Attack from air.

Precautions:

- (1) The Nunciature and grounds are currently under guard by Gardai and the level of security will be raised in the days prior to the Pope's arrival;
- (2) Vantage points from which sniper fire could be directed will be identified and manned in so far as this is possible in a built up area;
- (3) All persons at Nunciature and in grounds will be security screened;
- (4) Members of the Garda Task Force will provide close-in protection of Pope while at Nunciature.

5. The Pope will be conveyed by helicopter from the Nunciature to the Phoenix Park where he will land at about 11.45 hrs. He will celebrate an open air Mass from 12.00 pm to 2.00 pm and meet the people between 2.00 pm and 3.00 pm by driving through fenced off roads. Close on a million people



are expected to attend at the Phoenix Park. The main congregation will be enclosed in corals, each of 2,000 capacity. The risks applicable to the Pope in the Phoenix Park are considerable and can be itemised as follows:-

- (1) Bombs planted in vicinity of altar or on roads over which the Pope will be driven through the congregation - time or remote control;
- (2) Attack by sniper;
- (3) Attack by person in congregation or in the vicinity of altar;
- (4) Attack from air;
- (5) Sabotage of Pope's vehicle by bomb - time or remote control.

Precautions:

- (1) The altar and general area of the ceremonies in the Phoenix Park are currently under guard by members of the Garda Síochána and security levels will be increased in the days prior to the ceremonies;
- (2) The altar and immediate vicinity will be designated a high security zone and only persons who have been thoroughly security screened will be admitted into this high security zone. Every person (except perhaps President, Taoiseach, etc.) in the altar area will carry an Identification Card with photo. The high security altar area will be enclosed by steel barriers and immediately outside this zone there will be a corridor of approx. 10 feet wide which will be heavily guarded by members of the Force, including the Task Force;
- (3) Outside of the high security zone there will be a secondary security zone separated from the general congregation by steel barriers. In this secondary security zone all persons - Invalids, Back-up services, etc. - will be security screened and will wear I.D. Cards. This area will be heavily policed;
- (4) Vantage points for sniper attack are being identified and these will be manned during the ceremonies;
- (5) The altar area (high security), the secondary security area, roads over which the Pope will be driven and the general congregation area will be searched by Gardaí and Army prior to the ceremonies to detect any concealed bombs;
- (6) The Phoenix Park area will be declared a restricted area by order under Rule 9 of Air Navigation (Rules of the Air Order) 1973. No aircraft will be permitted in the air over the Phoenix Park for a period including 90 minutes prior to the Pope's arrival and 30 minutes after the Pope's departure;
- (7) Airspace over the Phoenix Park will be policed by Garda Task Force and Army Air Corps with helicopters and fixed wing aircraft;
- (8) The Pope's vehicle will be preceded by security personnel who will keep observation on the crowd to detect any hostile activity; Garda and stewards deployed through the congregation will be specially alerted to the possibility of hostile activity by a member or members of the congregation.



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6. The foregoing risks apply to all centres at which the Pope will officiate and the precautionary measures which will apply will be basically the same. The layout of the different venues - High Security and Secondary Security Zones - will also be basically the same although topography and other features may call for some changes in security.

7. While sizeable security risks apply to all venues, by far the greatest risk attaches to the motorcade through Dublin City en route from Dublin Airport to Aras an Uachtarain. This motorcade at slow pace and with the Pope exposed to the public will follow a route through built up areas which will become known to the public and which presents very many areas from which attacks could be launched against the Pope. Heavy security concentration along the route with air coverage of rooftops and close-in security of the Pope himself represents the main security measures which can be employed. Total screening of the route is not possible.

8. Next in the risk category is probably the site at Tullyesker near Drogheda. The abundance of timber cover coupled with proximity to the Border renders security at this venue difficult in that air space North of the Border (28 miles) is not subject to restrictions and the vantage points from which sniper fire could be directed at the Pope are numerous. This venue will receive air cover from at least two surveillance/interceptor aircraft, Air Corps Cessna and helicopter carrying members of the Task Force

9. Clonmacnoise on the banks of the Shannon is also a high risk area. Additional security measures at this venue include deployment of manpower on opposite bank of the river and a boat on the river in case of emergencies. The general area will be subject of an intensive search prior to the Pope's arrival.

10. To re-cap on the general risks and precautionary measures for the entire visit, it can be said that all outdoor appearances of the Pope pose sizeable security problems in that he could be targetted in a variety of ways:

- (1) Sniper fire - greatest risk attaches to motorcade;
- (2) Personal attack - greatest risk attaches to motorcade and when meeting the people at venues;
- (3) Bombs - These could be placed at venues with the object of killing the Pope or causing panic in the crowd;
- (4) Air - Incursion of aircraft over venues by subversives could produce a situation of panic or indeed a direct attack on the Pope.

To minimise the foregoing risks, all venues (except Clonmacnoise) provide for separation of the general public from the Pope by providing security zones and thoroughly screening people who will have close access to the Pope. When on the motorcade or meeting the people barricades and manpower will be used to provide the necessary controls. Venues will be thoroughly searched to detect hidden bombs and sniper vantage points will be identified and manned.

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Aerial cover - interception and surveillance - will be provided by the Garda Task Force and Army Air Corps. The route (aerial) which the Pope will use in travelling by helicopter to and from venues will be policed by the Garda Task Force and Air Corps. The Gardai at this time are endeavouring to obtain large helicopters from the German Police to facilitate air coverage and the transport of the Task Force from venue to venue.

11. The question of providing bullet proof glass for the vehicles which will be used by the Pope was discussed in depth and the unanimous opinion of the officers involved in co-ordinating operational and security matters was that bullet proof glass should not be used.

12. All measures which are reasonable and practical will be implemented to deter, detect and prevent any hostile activities against the Pope. It must be borne in mind however that if desperate persons plan to kill the Pope, then no security measures which the Gardai could implement would guarantee the Pope's safety. There is no such thing as absolute security. All that the Gardai can do is aim for optimum security and this we are actively engaged in providing.

for M.F. c/s.  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER.