

Was Russia Behind Attempt on Pope's Life?

by JOHN M. HAFFERT



The Italian authorities have announced that the attempted assassination of the Holy Father was part of a complex plot.

It is certain that Agca, the Turk who actually pulled the trigger, had been hidden in different parts of Europe, was given the necessary travel documents, and was well-trained by an international organization. And we also know that Agca was trained in northeast Africa by the Communists. After being arrested by Italian police on May 13, Agca even identified himself as a Palestinian Communist!

It would be logical for the Communists to choose someone of Agca's mentality, so that it could be claimed that the act was one of an independent fanatic.

If all this reasoning is true, and if the Communist international was behind Agca, **there are two very heartening conclusions:**

- 1) The Communists would not have taken such a desperate chance **unless they saw this Pope as one who could turn the tide against them;**
- 2) He was **marvelously protected**, even though shot three times at

such close range by a trained assassin.

"More Serious than Imagined..."

It is interesting to note that just before Sr. Mary Ludovica, secretary of the Blue Army of Italy, was to leave Rome to come to Fatima for our international meeting, she received a message from the Policlinico Gemelli: The Holy Father wanted "the Fatima 'documents'."

Blue Army Supplied Documents

Sister took to His Holiness the large volume published by Fr. Martins, with a full size reproduction of all the handwritten memoirs of Lucia next to printouts in three languages. (The Martins edition is now out of print. - Ed.)

Doctors now say that after his recovery, the Pope's strength and condition should be just the same as it was before.

But from the reports we received from those who had seen the Holy Father just before July 16, the condition of the Pope was **far more grave than many realized**. Indeed so concerned were some that they were then talking in Rome about who the next Pope would be.

Not only were prayers offered by millions around the world for the recovery of the Holy Father, but we know of some Blue Army members who actually offered their lives to God if the Pope's life would be spared.

What is the end result?

That is something we shall perhaps only know in heaven, but quite certainly **it is a result rather on the side of the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary** than on the continuing spread of militant atheism from Russia throughout the entire world.

When I was in Rome last September 2, I was pleased to see the Holy Father (and to receive his blessing) as he was well on the way to full recovery. The day before, Sr. Ludovica had been summoned by the Pope and received a message which sent her "packing" to Fatima that same week to see Bishop Venancio. She could not share with me what the Pope had told her but over and over she said: "It is good news. It is good news."

The Pope was shot...and yet not killed...on May 13, Feast of Our Lady of Fatima.

THANKS for 800 PRAYERS!

About 800 Blue Army crusaders replied to a mailing early this year for a contribution towards the urgently needed pilgrimage facility at our Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Washington, N.J. with these words:

"I am not in a position to make a financial contribution at this time due to my own need. However, I

am praying for the triumph of Our Lady's Immaculate Heart, and I would like to be remembered in prayers at the Shrine."

All those who sent offerings, as well as those who sent pledges of prayer, are remembered daily in the Rosary before Mass, and in many Masses and spiritual functions at the Shrine, and also at our

chapels at Fatima and in Pontevedra.

We consider these 800 "prayers" to be equally worthy of heartfelt appreciation.

Together, all of us who work, who contribute, **and who pray** are united in spreading the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in the world!