

Pope John Helped Mediate In Cuba Crisis, Paper Says

ROME, June 4 (AP)—Late-night messages between the Vatican, Washington and Moscow and other details of Pope John XXIII's intervention in helping to settle the 1962 Cuban missile crisis were reported today by an Italian newspaper.

A public papal appeal, cleared beforehand by President John F. Kennedy and Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev was the "bridge" Washington and Moscow were waiting for to resolve the crisis, the daily La Stampa of Turin said.

The appeal was issued by the late pope Oct. 25, 1962, by radio. It called on the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union "to do all in their power to save the peace, saving the world from the horrors of a war." The same day the confrontation settled down.

Pope John's secretary, Msgr. Loris Capovilla, had reported after the pope died eight years ago, the pontiff's role in the missile crisis. But some details of the pope's activities as reported by La Stampa had not been made public previously.

The article was written in connection with the eighth anniversary Thursday of Pope John's death.

La Stampa said that Norman Cousins, editor of The Saturday Review and a friend of President Kennedy, first proposed Pope John as a mediator in the crisis. Cousins telephoned Msgr. Iginio Cardinale, then the Vatican's protocol chief, who relayed the request to the pope.

Pope John was quoted as saying at the time: "My person counts nothing, but it seems God wants to use the person who confides only in him."

The Vatican, Moscow and Washington were in "incessant telephone contact" the night between Oct. 23 and Oct. 24 La Stampa said. At 5 a.m., it added, Pope John sent his pro-

posed statement to Kennedy, who communicated it to Khrushchev on the "hot line." After Khrushchev's approval the message was read by Pope John, the paper said.

Reached at his ranch in Patagonia, Ariz., Cousins commented on his role in what he called a "complicated situation."

He said the Dartmouth Conference, a permanent series of talks between Russians and

Unity

Americans set up by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1959, had convened in Andover, Mass., the same day as the crisis.

"Father Felix Morlion, who is writing a book on this episode, came to Andover to ask both the Russians and Americans if the Pope's intervention would be acceptable."

Cousins said he and others asked what form the intervention would take. He said Father Morlion replied that "it would take any form to keep the crisis from destroying a large portion of mankind."

"I told Father Morlion I could think of no one more able to exert moral force and

that in my opinion his intervention would be not only welcome but a godsend," said Cousins.

Cousins said Father Morlion assumed that such intervention would seek an end to the blockade on condition the Soviet stop shipping and that the Pope would commend any nation.

"I called the White House and relayed the message to President Kennedy," said Cousins. "The President said he would welcome the Pope's help but that the problem was not the shipping but the missiles installed in Cuba. If they don't come down, the problem remains."