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BOOK SAYS POPE GETS REGULAR BRIEFINGS FROM CIA
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POPE JOHN PAUL II RECEIVES REGULAR
BRIEFINGS FROM THE CIA AND THE AGENCY HAS BECOME ONE OF HIS
MOST TRUSTED SOURCES; SAYS A BOOK BEING PUBLISHED ABROAD THIS
WEEK AND IN THE UNITED STATES NEXT MONTH.

"INCREASINGLY, JOHN PAUL'S DECISIONS, HIS POLICIES, HIS
SPEECHES AND PRONOUNCEMENTS TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE CIA BRIEFINGS
HE RECEIVES," IT SAYS. "THEY GIVE HIM A POLITICAL OVERVIEW NO
OTHER POPE HAS ENJOYED."

THE BOOK, "AVERTING ARMAGEDDON," WAS WRITTEN BY GORDON
THOMAS OF IRELAND AND MAX MORGAN-WITTS OF ENGLAND, WHO HAVE
COLLABORATED ON NINE OTHER WORKS, INCLUDING AN EARLIER VOLUME
ON THE POPE.

IT IS BEING PUBLISHED IN ENGLAND TOMORROW AND IN THE UNITED
STATES IN SEPTEMBER.

THE BOOK SAYS THAT BECAUSE OF THE BRIEFINGS, THE POPE LEARNED
A WEEK BEFOREHAND THAT THE POLISH TRADE UNION SOLIDARITY WOULD
BE OUTLAWED AND ITS LEADER, LECH WALESA, ARRESTED.

"THE CIA CAUTIONED THERE WAS NOTHING JOHN PAUL COULD -- OR
SHOULD -- DO ABOUT THESE EVENTS," IT SAYS. "THIS WAS
IMPRESSIVE FOREKNOWLEDGE AND THE POPE WAS PROPERLY IMPRESSED."

THE BOOK ALSO SAYS THAT THE CIA BROUGHT THE POPE THE FIRST
NEWS -- IN NOVEMBER, 1982 -- THAT SOVIET PRESIDENT LEONID
BREZHNEV WAS DEAD AND YURI ANDROPOV HAD TAKEN HIS PLACE.

THOMAS AND MORGAN-WITTS WROTE THAT THE CIA IS "A MAJOR
INFLUENCE IN FORMING JOHN PAUL'S VIEW OF THE WORLD" AND THAT
IT FIRMLY "RETAINS ITS HOLD AS THE VATICAN'S CHIEF ADVISER
FROM THE WORLD OF SECULAR INTELLIGENCE."

BOTH THE CIA AND THE VATICAN DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THE BOOK.

THE AUTHORS SAID THEIR WORK WAS BASED ON INTERVIEWS WITH
VATICAN AND INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE AND PUBLIC
DOCUMENTS.

ELIZABETH ST. JOHN, A SPOKESWOMAN FOR DOUBLEDAY, SAID SOME
REVISIONS WERE MADE IN THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT BUT THEY DID NOT
INCLUDE EITHER "CONSIDERABLE DELETIONS" OR "SUBSTANTIAL
EDITORIAL CHANGES."

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