

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

December 14, 1959

Your Excellency:

Thank you so very much for your letter of December 7 which Rosemary and I read with a great deal of interest. I am delighted that the President visited the North American College. I am sure his doing so was a stimulating experience for him and also a thrilling experience for the students.

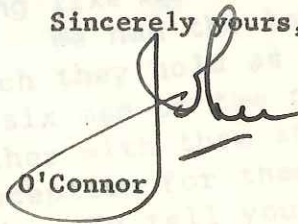
I am sorry that you did not travel from the College to the Ciampino airfield with the President in the helicopter; however, I have found, as I am sure you have, that riding in a helicopter is a questionable undertaking under any circumstances irrespective of who you are with.

From press reports it is apparent that the President's trip is a great success. I am sorry that weather in Rome was so unkind, nevertheless, I am sure his talks in Rome will prove rewarding.

Rosemary and I plan to go West at the end of this week and we will remain at home two weeks, although I must make one or two return visits to attend meetings which appear to be of some importance. We will be happy to be in our San Marino home for Christmas.

We both send our warmest regards and very best wishes for a Merry Christmas.

Sincerely yours,



The Most Reverend Martin J. O'Connor
North American College
Via Del Cianicolo 14
Rome, Italy

Beef!
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December 24th, 1959

The Hon. John McCone
1100 Oak Grove Avenue
SAN MARINO, California

Dear John,

I forgot whether I told you that I did ride in the helicopter several days before the arrival of the President. The three helicopters came to our sportsfield and I was invited to take a tour over Rome in one of them. I brought the Vice Rector and another priest and invited a Major of the Pontifical Gendarmes and a high Police official of the Carabinieri who has a brother a Papal Nuncio in India. We were all delighted with the experience.

I have prepared the text for a commemorative tablet which we will place in a conspicuous position in the College as a record of the President's visit. It was, without doubt an historic event and I am particularly grateful to you for making it possible.

We have just finished with the new Cardinals. We had the ceremony of the invitation here and a lunch for them; we had ninety priests and Bishops from Milwaukee, Fargo and Chicago here for them also, together with Cardinal Spellman on the day of the Public Consistory; we had the usual Vatican ceremonies and receptions around the city, something like the time you and I made the rounds of the Embassies! We had the taking of possession of the Churches, which they hold as a Title in Rome. Then I ordained forty six men to the priesthood, we had an audience with the Holy Father with them and their relatives, after which I gave a reception for them and their sons, totalling about two hundred. To tell you the truth it has been very

Sincerely yours

Titular Archbishop of Leodicea
Africa

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difficult to get work done since the new Cardinals arrived in town.

I am sending you the first page of the Osservatore Romano in which the Holy Father makes another reference in a public document of His visit to the American College. He has done this repeatedly and on several occasions in solemn Church documents, which make it interesting. Yesterday His secretary wrote me a letter telling me how very pleased the Holy Father was with His visit here and saying that He referred to it always as one of the happiest days of the first year of His Pontificate. He also sent me His Christmas card together with a lovely gold medal of His Holiness. It is very consoling to have the personal interest and support of Pope John in my work here, as it succeeds and confirms the interest of the last Holy Father in everything connected with the College.

Under separate cover you will receive at your Washington home address a series of photographs showing the President's visit. If you think I should do so, I will send him a note with a covering letter to General Goodpaster. We will continue to pray for his health and welfare.

The Ambassador gave a lunch for Cardinals Meyer and Muench and Cardinal Cicognani was present. Bishop Dworschak of Fargo, Monsignor Hardiman, the former secretary to Cardinal Stritch, a couple of our Faculty members, Mr. Horsey, the Minister Counsellor of the Embassy and one or two other Embassy officials were also there. It was all very nice. I had made the approach indirectly about the luncheon because every other Ambassador has always entertained the new Cardinals and I was afraid it might be missed, so I am glad that the Ambassador gave it his full approval. He attended the centenary celebration and was present for our anniversary dinner on December 8th as well as the dinner I gave for Cardinals Muench and Meyer. I hope that the days in California will be good for you and Rosemary. My blessing to you both for a happy New Year.

With kindest regards, I remain
Faithfully yours

Martin J.O'Connor
Titular Archbishop of Laodicea
in Syria - Rector