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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 3, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. RICHARD B. CHENEY
VIA: JERRY JONES
FROM: TERRY O'DONNELL
SUBJECT: Problem/Church
Sunday - June 6, 1976

The President agreed to attend a special Catholic High Mass Sunday, June 6, at St. Mathews Cathedral to celebrate Archbishop William W. Baum's installation as a Cardinal. Pople Paul VI elevated Archbishop Baum, the head of the Archdiocese of Washington, to the College of Cardinals in a solemn ceremony at Vatican City last week. Sunday's special mass will celebrate this achievement. The Cardinal has not yet been advised of the President's acceptance of his invitation to attend.

A major scheduling problem has arisen because it is necessary to depart the South Lawn at 11:15 a.m. Sunday to meet the President's commitments in New Jersey. The Mass is scheduled to conclude between 11:20 and 11:30 a.m.

There are three options:

1. Regret the invitation. Advise that the President is scheduled to travel. Send a congratulatory message.
2. Attend Mass but leave prior to completion. Although informal soundings indicate that this would be fine as far as the Cardinal and the Church are concerned, the risk exists that the Press would write that the President left Mass prior to completion to campaign in New Jersey. This could backfire in the Catholic community.



2.

3. Drop by the rectory for a brief courtesy call prior to the Mass. After a 5-minute private discussion, the Cardinal would walk the President to the car. (Photo)

We favor Option 3. The Vatican has played a constructive role in Portugal and is doing so in Italy with respect to the upcoming election. Furthermore, the Catholic community is not enthralled with the prospect of Jimmy Carter. The Catholic Church grew last year - there are now 48.8 million Catholics in America.

APPROVE OPTION # 3. OTHER _____