

# **Native Alaskans to fly to town to see Pope**

Aleuts, Eskimos, and Indians from throughout Alaska are preparing to see the pope during his stop-over in Anchorage on February 26.

Seven Alaska Natives are on a committee helping to coordinate and plan the pope's visit here. They are working with Sister Ida and Sister Kevin to find Native

dance groups who can fly to Anchorage for the pope's visit. The committee also is seeking housing for some of the hundreds of Alaskans who will fly into Anchorage from outlying areas.

While an exact itinerary of the visit has yet to be approved and confirmed by Vatican diplomats, Pope  
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# •Pope To Visit

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John Paul II is expected to arrive at 10:40 a.m., AST. The pope will travel to Holy Family Cathedral to visit with Catholic, Protestant, and other clerical leaders. The pope will conduct a 90-minute open air mass at Delaney Park Strip before returning to the airport for his flight to Rome at 1:40 p.m.

A visit to the Pioneer's Home had been planned but was dropped because of time limits.

According to Anchorage Archbishop Hurley, nearly 100,000 people are expected to attend the mass to be held at the east end of the park strip on 9th Avenue in downtown Anchorage. Up to 400,000 people can be accommodated there if necessary along the nearly one-sixteenth mile wide by

one mile long park strip.

The Chugach mountains will form a backdrop for Pope John Paul. The pope will travel in a security limosine or may use a special open roofed "pope-mobile" to drive the eight blocks from the cathedral to the Park Strip. Security for the pope is expected to be tight.

Plans are being finalized by a five-member steering committee headed by former Alaska Governor and U.S. Interior Secretary Walter J. Hickel.

Anchorage Archbishop Francis T. Hurley said that the pope's visit is a "technical layover" rather than a formal diplomatic visit. The pope's plane is scheduled to stop in Anchorage en route to Rome following his 10-day tour of Asia.

A representative of the Reagan administration is also expected with the pope, but it is not known whether President Reagan, his wife Nancy, or Vice President Bush will accompany him.

Anchorage residents heard of the proposed visit on January 5 when Archbishop Hurley received an early-morning telephone call from Vatican aide Archbishop Paul Marcinkus in Rome.

Marcinkus visited Anchorage on January 7 and 8 to discuss the possibility of a papal visit with Archbishop Hurley and other church and community leaders. Marcinkus confirmed the visit to Anchorage on January 19 in a telephone conversation with Archbishop Hurley.

The first plans would have had the pope remain at the airport to greet visitors and hold a mass at the hangar there. Later, it became clear that more people would attend than could be accommodated in the 15,000 person capacity hangars. Plans were changed to bring Pope John Paul to downtown Anchorage for a mass at the Park Strip.