

Pope to the right of Patriarch at St. George while crowds cry AXIOS

PRAYS IN ST. SOPHIA MUSEUM, MYSTIFIED BY GRANDEUR

His visit to Constantinople over, Pope Paul returned to Rome this week after a fruitful day of talks with Patriarch Athenagoras, designed to bring Orthodoxy and Catholicism to the closest point of mutual understanding since the schism.

Pope Paul VI flew to this overwhelmingly Moslem city from Rome Tuesday to bring the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox communion a step closer after nearly a millenium of separation.

In talks with President Cevdet Sunay, the 69-year-old Pontiff also turned his attention to the problems of peace in the Middle East and specifically to the question of the holy places in Jerusalem.

Because of the delicate character of the Pontiff's "peace pilgrimage" to Turkey—his fifth foreign trip in three years—he divided his time in Istanbul between contacts with the Government and the religious communities.

The emotional climax of the day came late in the afternoon, when Pope Paul rode to the modest Eastern Orthodox Cathedral—the Church of St. George, where paint is flaking from the vaulted ceiling—to exchange vows of ecumenical unity and repeated "kisses of peace" with 81-year-old Patriarch Athenagoras.

It was the first time a Roman Catholic Pope had set foot in an Eastern Orthodox church, the first time he had prayed in it and the first time he had sat on the right side of an ecumenical patriarch, in a place of honor.

Speaking slowly but clearly in French, the Pope told Patriarch Athenagoras, "In

more the deep identity of our faith, and the point at which we diverge must not

Greek, the white-bearded Patriarch said, "Against all human expectations, there is among us the Bishop of Rome, the first in honor among us."

"And here we are," he added, "the two of us, facing our common and sacred responsibility toward the church and toward the world."

When Pope Paul finished speaking in the crowded church, the two men rose from their carved oak chairs to kiss each other three times on the cheeks, the slim, red-capped figure of the Roman Pontiff almost disappearing in the embrace of the tall, broad-shouldered Patriarch.

They kissed each other again to the applause of the worshipers after Patriarch Athenagoras completed his response, and once more when they exchanged gifts—a stole for the Pope and a painting by the ancient Greek artist Paillis Kopsides for the Patriarch.

Receiving the stole, a long, narrow ecclesiastical vestment that hangs about the shoulders, Pope Paul discarded his own stole to wear it. The church then echoed to Greek cries of "Axios"—"He is worthy of it."

Holding hands, as they had when they entered the church to the peeling of St. George's Bells, Pope Paul and Patriarch Athenagoras walked out together

(Continued on Page 11)



Patriarch Athenagoras greets Pope Paul during the latter's arrival at Constantinople Airport.

the light of our love for Christ and our fraternal charity, we discover even

prevent us from perceiving this deep unity."

Responding in resonant

POPE - PATRIARCH

(Continued from page 9)

after the hour-long ceremony. For 30 minutes they conferred in the Orthodox leader's quarters on the other side of the garden.

It was then 7:30 P.M., and in vivid counterpoint the muezzins of Istanbul sounded the fourth of their five daily calls for Moslem prayers to Allah from the minarets in the pink dusk.

The fact that Turkey is Moslem, and that Patriarch Athenagoras and his 200,000 followers in that nation of 32 million are somewhat less than popular with the Turkish Government and the press, were among the realities that the Roman Pontiff had to face here today.

Thus the Turkish Government sought to emphasize the political, or temporal, aspects of the papal visit, tending to play down the religious and ecumenical ones.

The Pope visited the museum of St. Sophia, once one of Christianity's greatest churches, which was built in A.D. 530 and later served as a Moslem mosque.

Accompanied by the museum director, Feridun Dirimtekin, the Pope spent 10 minutes admiring the tall, coil precincts of St. Sophia. Claspings his hands, the Pope said in French: "This is beauty here. This is beauty."

"They know how to conceive and how to achieve it," he said.

Asking Mr. Dirimtekin whether he could go farther inside, the Pope inquired whether the precious mosaic on the vaulted ceiling was being restored. He was assured that it was.

"It is one of the masterpieces of humanity," the Pope observed. "It is a thing so beautiful that we advise you to preserve it well."

"Truly," he said, "it should become again what it once was. It should be a lesson in history for all people who think in the same manner."

Then Pope asked permission to pray "for just one instant." He knelt amid newsmen and photographers, closing his eyes in prayer.

Later, Turkish sources said this papal gesture had caused some resentment because the Turks regard St. Sophia as a museum rather than a place of worship.

The Pope's tour of Istanbul took him over the Galata Bridge over the Golden Horn in the late-afternoon rush hour, through crowded, narrow streets of the business district and finally over the cobblestones of Fener (the Lamp), a neighborhood where the Eastern Orthodox cathedral overlooks the Bosphorus.

In the evening, the Pope and Patriarch Athenagoras met again for joint prayers at the Church of the Holy Spirit, across the narrow street from the Apostolic Delegation.