

The New York Times - Oct 28, 1967

POPE HOLDS A TALK WITH ATHENAGORAS

Special to The New York Times

ROME, Oct. 27—Pope Paul VI and Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras I spent an hour together today. They were reported to have explored paths to reunion of the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches.

Neither the Vatican nor Orthodox sources gave any specific indications of the subject matter of the morning discussion between the leader of 550 million Roman Catholics and the senior prelate of about 140 million Orthodox Christians.

Among the subjects likely to have been discussed in the working meeting, according to informed observers, was the question of possible establishment of a joint Roman-Orthodox working party to consider the remaining doctrinal and disciplinary differences that stand in the way of healing the breach that occurred in 1054.

It also was suggested that the two prelates might have reviewed the question of safeguarding the holy places of Jerusalem in the aftermath of the Israeli-Arab war.