

Memorandum



To : SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (185B-494) (P)

Date 6/11/87

From : SA [redacted] (SQD 13)

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b7c

Subject : VISIT OF POPE JOHN PAUL II
TO THE UNITED STATES
SEPTEMBER, 1987
SPECIAL EVENTS MANAGEMENT; PFO
OO: FBIHQ

On 5/18/87, the writer and SA [redacted] were asked to interview a representative of the group "The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence". GILBERT BAKER was interviewed and advised that his occupation is "performance artist" and his stage name is "Sister Chanel 2001". It should be noted that Mr. BAKER was dressed in a black and white nun's habit, however the attire included a rhinestone cowl, as well as long red tights and patent leather high heel shoes. The nun's habit was slit on the skirt at very strategic locations. Mr. BAKER came to the office accompanied by one other person similarly dressed and provided the interviewing Agents with copies of three documents, which are attached and being made part of this memo. These include a press release claiming that the group is peace loving and non-violent; a press release denouncing the cost and intent of the Papal visit; and a third press release commenting on a civil law suit which currently involves the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

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Mr. BAKER advised that he has been active in the group since 1981 and the group currently includes about 50 members. He said that their specialty is "street theater", however the sisters, who he described as an order of gay male nuns are dedicated to promulgate universal joy and expatiate stigmatic guilt. He said that it was no secret that his group intends to parody and ridicule the Roman Catholic Church and particularly the Pope during his visit. He said that it was "patently untrue" that his group was seeking any type of confrontation with militant Catholic advocates of the Papacy and they have no specific plans to do civil disobedience at the present time. BAKER claimed it is not his intent to make fun of the FBI, however, he was tactfully advised by the Agents that the protective responsibility for the safety and security of the Pope was that of Secret Service and the FBI had a responsibility to investigate other potential violations of federal law.

Op. 1

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BAKER said that there was some concern among members of his group that certain militant Catholic supporters, including a group called Opus Dei and another Catholic men's group called "P-2" would have members on the prowl, whose intent is reported to be to intercept The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and attempt to stifle any demonstration or public display which would embarrass the Pope. BAKER stated that he would attempt to keep the FBI informed of any information which he receives which would affect the safety and security of the Pope during his visit and that of the citizens of San Francisco.

Action: For information. (A copy of this memo will be made available to SA [redacted] U.S. Secret Service.)

Baker's Home Telephone #: [redacted]

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**The Sisters
of Perpetual
Indulgence**
not incorporated

● Official San Francisco 1987 Papal Welcoming Committee

P.O. Box 69
4646 18th St.
San Francisco
94114
(415) MANY-MEN

AS GOOD CITIZENS, WE HAVE COME HERE TODAY TO OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE FBI AND TO HELP COORDINATE THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE PAPAL VISIT IN SEPTEMBER. WE FEEL THE FBI HAS BEEN MISLED ABOUT THE INTENTIONS OF THE GAY COMMUNITY AND THE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL INDULGENCE--NOT INCORPORATED.

WE ARE HERE TO CLEAR THE AIR ABOUT THE ISSUE OF VIOLENCE THAT THE VATICAN AND THE ARCHDIOCESE HAVE BEEN WAVING LIKE A RED FLAG--OR, RATHER, LIKE A RED HERRING, CONSIDERING ALL THE MANY OTHER COMMUNITIES WHO HAVE LEGITIMATE GRIEVANCES AGAINST JOHN PAUL II'S VISIT TO SAN FRANCISCO.

WE ARE PEACE-LOVING AND NON-VIOLENT CITIZENS. THE GAY COMMUNITY IS A PEACE-LOVING AND NON-VIOLENT COMMUNITY. LIKE ALL THE PEACE-LOVING AND NON-VIOLENT COMMUNITIES IN SAN FRANCISCO, WE WANT THE FBI TO BE FULLY INFORMED SO THAT THEY CAN CONCENTRATE ON THEIR IMPORTANT DUTIES--PROTECTING THE PUBLIC AS WELL AS THE POPE.

AS MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL SAN FRANCISCO 1987 PAPAL WELCOMING COMMITTEE, WE KNOW JUST HOW MUCH IT IS COSTING THE VATICAN AND THE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO BRING THIS SHOW TO TOWN. THIS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS. THE PROJECTED TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE WESTERN TOUR '87 IS EQUAL, IRONICALLY ENOUGH, TO THE PROJECTED 1987 VATICAN DEFICIT OF \$60 MILLION.

IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE TAXPAYERS' DOLLARS, WE'RE HERE TO OFFER OUR ALTERNATIVE SECURITY LOGISTICS AND TRAFFIC PLAN. ALTHOUGH VERY COMPLICATED, IT BASICALLY CONCERNS THE INVENTIVE USE OF A GIGANTIC HOT AIR BALLOON WHICH WILL GENTLY FLOAT THE POPE IN THE POPEMOBILE HIGH ABOVE OUR FAIR CITY...WITH RELEASES OF HOT AIR ALONG THE WAY UNTIL HE FINALLY DEFLATES AT THE SFO AIRPORT V.I.P. DEPARTURE GATE.

THIS HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY ADOPTED BY THE OFFICIAL SAN FRANCISCO 1987 PAPAL WELCOMING COMMITTEE AND WILL BE HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS POPE FLOAT '87.

NOW WE ARE GOING TO DO OUR DUTY AND GO INTO THE FBI OFFICES AND OFFICIALLY OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION.

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A STATEMENT

WE ARE PEACE-LOVING AND NON-VIOLENT. WE ARE NOT PLANNING A
RIOT OR ANY OTHER ACT OF VIOLENCE AND WE DON'T KNOW OF ANY
OTHER GROUP THAT IS.

ALTHOUGH OFFICIAL PLANS HAVE NOT BEEN FINALIZED, WE WILL
KEEP YOU INFORMED OF ANYTHING WE HEAR ABOUT SUCH EMBARRASSING
THINGS.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US.

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SINCE WE'RE HERE AT THE FEDERAL BUILDING, WE CAN'T LET THIS OPPORTUNITY GO BY WITHOUT COMMENTING ON THE RECENT LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST US.

OUR OPINION IS THAT THIS LEGAL ACTION, TAKEN BY A FORMER OFFICER, IS PART OF A HOSTILE TAKEOVER ATTEMPT AND A COVER-UP CONCERNING UNACCOUNTED FOR MONEY.

THIS RIDICULOUS AND FRIVOLOUS MISUSE OF THE FEDERAL COURT SYSTEM SEEMS TO BE PART OF AN ONGOING SMEAR CAMPAIGN INSTIGATED BY OUR FORMER TREASURER WHO HAS NEVER MADE ANY ACCOUNTING TO US OR THE GOVERNMENT CONCERNING MONEY RAISED AT ALL OUR EVENTS. AND NOW, THIS LAWSUIT HAS SPLINTERED THE SISTERS EVEN FURTHER.

