

To: All entities and volunteer boycott committees

From: Boycott Information

Date: 1 October 1974

Re: Statement by Archbishop Giovanni Benelli of the Vatican - Thursday, Sept 26 - ROME

It is a joy for me to be associated with the welcome being extended to Mr. Cesar Chavez on the occasion of his visit to Rome and on the occasion of this meeting here this afternoon.

We are all indeed grateful to Mr. Chavez for the lesson which he brings to our attention. It is a very important lesson: to know how to be conscious of the terrible responsibility that is incumbent on us who bear the name "Christian". His entire life is an illustration of this principle; it shows a laudable endeavor to apply this principle, which means expending the effort that is required to put the Gospel into practice. What attracts our attention in a particular way is the commitment that is manifested: the commitment to work for the good of one's brothers and sisters, to be of service to them in the name of Christ, and to render this service with a full measure of all the energy one possesses.

The desire of our Holy Father, the scope of so many of his documents, is to inculcate the Christian consciousness of the relationship of the Gospel to life. He has called for men to work for the integral development of their fellow men, that is, for their full human and Christian advancement in accordance with God's plan for the natural and supernatural dignity of his own children. It is enough to read "Octogesima Adventus" to see how the Pope has summoned Christians to take up their responsibility, to become involved in action for the betterment of God's people.

Gratitude is also owed to those who have counselled Mr. Chavez, and those who have supported him in faith in God, and love for his people. Particular gratitude goes to the Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Farm Labor, represented here today by Bishop Donnelly and Msgr. Higgins. An expression of appreciation is owed likewise to the rest of the Equipe: to Cardinals Manning and Medeiros and to Bishops Donahue and O'Rourke, as well as to the dedicated Secretary, Msgr. Mahony. Congratulations to all of you here today for your interest in the Church, social teaching, and your desire to see the Gospel live.

STATEMENT BY POPE PAUL VI AT PRIVATE AUDIENCE FOR
CESAR CHAVEZ AND PARTY

SEPTEMBER 25, 1974

Our welcome goes this morning to César Chavez whom we are happy to receive as a loyal son of the Catholic Church and as a distinguished leader and representative of the Mexican-American community in the United States.

We wish to tell you of the real joy that is ours to be informed of the fidelity of the people of your culture and origin, our beloved sons and daughters, to the Church of Christ and to know of their generous endeavor to foster adherence to their glorious Catholic spirit. We know, in particular, of your sustained effort to apply the principles of Christian social teaching, and that in striving to do so you have faithfully worked together with the Bishops of your country and with the support of their authoritative representatives, the members of the United States Catholic Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Farm Labor.

We pray that this laudable spirit of cooperation will continue and that, through the all-powerful assistance of the Lord, harmony and understanding will be promoted with liberty and justice for all.

In the spirit of our own predecessors in this See of Peter we renew the full measure of our solicitude for the human and Christian condition of labor and for the genuine good of all those who lend support to this lofty vocation.

Our special affectionate greetings go to the Mexican-American community in the United States, which, in harmony with other esteemed ethnic groups, makes up the fabric of the nation, while furnishing its particular and important contribution rooted in Christian principles.

We willingly invoke the blessings of authentic Christian living in justice, peace and love upon our sons and daughters whom we see represented here, and upon all the members of the larger communities in which they live and work.

PAROLES DU PAPE PAUL VI A L'AUDIENCE PRIVEE

ACCORDEE A CESAR CHAVEZ ET SES COMPAGNONS

LE 25 SEPTEMBRE 1974

Notre bienvenue, ce matin, va à M. César Chavez que nous sommes heureux d'accueillir comme un fils loyal de l'Eglise catholique et un leader et représentant distingué de la communauté mexico-américaine aux Etats-Unis.

Nous voulons vous exprimer la joie véritable qui est la nôtre d'apprendre la fidélité du peuple de votre origine et de votre culture, nos fils et nos filles bien-aimés, à l'Eglise du Christ et de savoir avec quelle générosité ils s'efforcent de promouvoir l'attachement de tous les leurs à la fierté de leur foi catholique. Nous sommes au courant, en particulier, de vos efforts persévérants pour appliquer les principes de l'enseignement social chrétien et nous savons qu'en poursuivant ce but, vous avez fidèlement collaboré avec les évêques de votre pays, appuyé par leur représentants autorisés, les membres du Comité "ad hoc" des évêques catholiques américains pour le travail agricole.

Nous prions pour que ce louable esprit de collaboration se maintienne et que, grâce à l'aide tout-puissante du Seigneur, l'harmonie et la bonne entente se propagent avec la liberté et la justice pour tous.

Dans l'esprit de nos prédécesseurs sur le Siège de Pierre, nous renouvelons l'assurance de notre entière sollicitude pour la condition humaine et chrétienne du monde du travail et pour le bien authentique de tous deux qui prêtent leur appui à cette haute vocation.

Nous saluons d'une façon particulière et affectueuse la communauté mexico-américaine aux Etats-Unis, laquelle, avec d'autres groupes ethniques estimés, édifie l'ensemble de la nation, y apportant sa contribution spécifique importante parce qu'enracinée dans les principes du Christianisme.

Nous invoquons volontiers sur nos fils et nos filles que nous voyons représentés ici et sur tous les membres des communautés plus vastes dans lesquelles ils vivent et travaillent, les bénédictions qui découlent d'une vie chrétienne authentique menée dans la justice, la paix et l'amour.