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Friday, May 15, 1981

Pope shot at Vatican

Doctors predict recovery

Compiled from UPI and AP

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II was shot and wounded Wednesday by a man who, police said, was a Turkish fugitive who had vowed to kill him.

Doctors reported that surgery on the 60-year-old pontiff was "successful," and the Vatican

Another story, Pages 12 and 13. More pictures, Pages 7, 8, 12 and 13.

said, "Although the condition of the pope is cause for concern, there are well-founded hopes for recovery."

"How could they have done this?" a nurse quoted the pope as saying as he was wheeled into an operating room at Gemelli Policlinico hospital. Hospital officials reported that during the ambulance ride from the Vatican John Paul was praying faintly in his native Polish.

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Walesa shocked at shooting

By SSgt. Dennis Steele

PS&S Staff Writer

KYOTO, Japan (PS&S) — Polish union leader Lech Walesa was rousted from bed early Thursday by aides bearing the news of the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II, the Polish Embassy told Pacific Stars and Stripes.

Walesa, who is on a week-long visit to Japan, cried upon hearing the news and said, "It's terrible."

See WALESA, Page 8

Walesa to visit U.S.

TOKYO (UPI) — Lech Walesa, leader of Poland's independent trade union Solidarity, said in an interview with the Japanese newspaper Asahi Shimbun that he will visit the United States soon.

"Solidarity will cooperate with American labor unions," he said, adding, "I thank America for many things."

He did not specify when he would make the visit.



Pope John Paul II collapses in his open-top car after being shot and seriously wounded as he arrived

for his weekly audience in St. Peter's Square. Aides rush to the pontiff's assistance. (UPI)

They loved the pontiff in Far East

By Hal Drake

PS&S Senior Writer

TOKYO — Those who saw Pope John Paul II as he visited the Far East in late February recall him as a man of radiant presence who seemed to be followed by sunlight wherever he moved.

Everybody close to him felt a little warmer.

On the last leg of his Far East trip, John Paul, spiritual ruler of one fifth of the world's population, came to Japan — a country where his faith had made little impression. Less than 1 percent of the 117 million population is Christian.

The pontiff never seemed conscious of that.

John Paul appeared, magnetic and compelling, at the top of the ramp at Haneda Airport that had been rolled up to his jetliner. He wore the familiar dress of his other worldwide visits, the white robes and the red, wide-brimmed hat that was like a scarlet halo.

There were little more than 100 See FAR EAST, Page 7



Turkish national Mehmet Ali Agca is surrounded by police who took him into custody on suspicion of firing shots at Pope John Paul II. (UPI)