

# Pope sends condolences on presidentskillings.

Reuters, April 7, 1994

VATICAN CITY, April 7 (Reuter) - Pope John Paul expressed his condolences on Thursday over the killing of the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi in a rocket attack that destroyed their plane.

“May the Lord welcome in his kingdom the victims of the drama in Kigali and support the Burundi and Rwandan families who are mourning the loss of their loved ones,” the Pope said in telegrams to the families of the two Central African leaders.

Presidents Cyprien Ntaryamira of Burundi and Juvental Habyarimana of Rwanda were killed on Wednesday when a rocket hit their plane on its approach to the Rwandan capital on their return from a peace summit in Tanzania.

The Pope will open an unprecedented synod on Africa at the Vatican on Sunday to discuss the problems of the world’s poorest continent, which has 95 million Roman Catholics including six million in Rwanda and Burundi.

(c) Reuters Limited 1994