

THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14627

NUCLEAR STRUCTURE
RESEARCH LABORATORY

October 27, 1987

Professor Carlos Chagas
President
Pontifical academy of Sciences
Casino Pio IV
00120 Vatican City
Italy

Dear Professor Chagas:

Enclosed please find two documents. One is a letter to His Holiness Pope John Paul II Signed by representatives of _____ laboratories and the second is a press release. We propose to resort to the press release only if our appeal to the Pope fails.

We hope you might be willing to endorse the letter to His Holiness and to deliver it to him in person. However, if for any reason you feel it would not be appropriate for you to do so please let me know. In that case would you just arrange a transfer of the letter from your office in the Academy to the Pope. Please only mention the press release if you meet with His Holiness in person and then only if you think it appropriate.

The changes in the Turin Workshop protocol being proposed by His Eminence Cardinal Ballestrero, clearly on the advice of Professor Gonella, are extremely serious. They include the following:

1. Five AMS and two small counter laboratories reduced to three AMS laboratories.
2. No independent textile expert designated to remove the Shroud samples
3. Laboratory representatives not permitted to witness Shroud sample removal.
4. No suggested involvement by laboratory representatives in the final data analysis.
5. No official involvement by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences at any stage. Professor Chagas invited to participate merely as a guest of the Cardinal of Turin.

We see no alternative but to appeal to the Holy Father to persuade the Cardinal of Turin that he is acting on unwise scientific advice. It would be better not to date the Shroud of Turin at all than to do it in the way he proposes.

Yours sincerely

Prof Gove to Prof Chagas

