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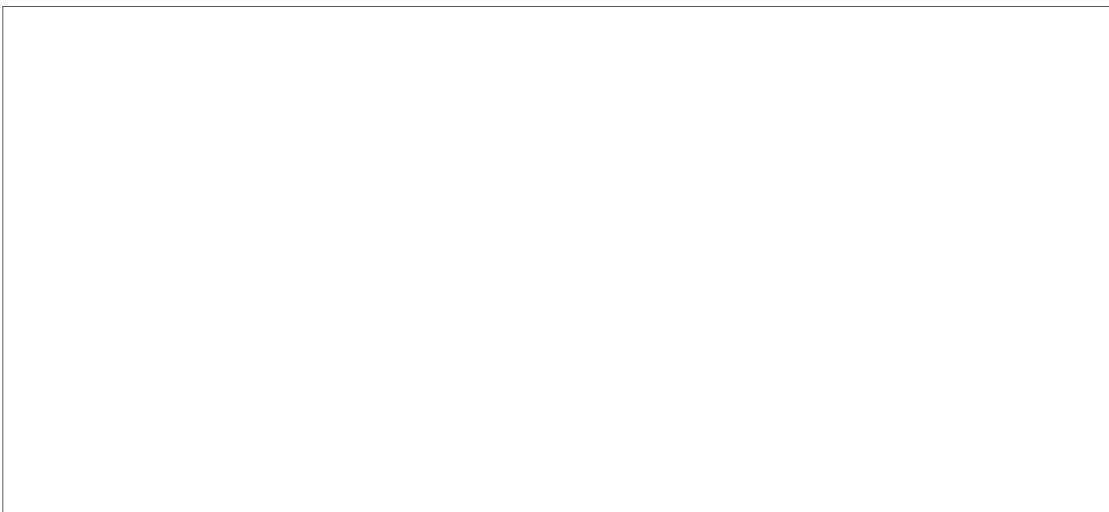
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**ITALY-TURKEY: Gunman's Ties**

Initial Italian interrogation of Mehmet Ali Agca, who shot Pope John Paul II last Wednesday, has not established ties between Agca and any international terrorist group or a conspiracy, despite continuing press speculation to that effect. His claims of extensive travel in Europe and the Middle East in the past year and a half have not been substantiated, nor have press reports linking Agca to the rightwing Nationalist Action Party in Turkey. Agca claims to be "anti-imperialist" and to favor the radical Palestinians.



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