

HOLY SEE PRESS OFFICE  
OFICINA DE PRENSA DE LA SANTA SEDE



BUREAU DE PRESSE DU SAINT-SIEGE  
PRESSEAMT DES HEILIGEN STUHLS

# **BOLLETTINO**

SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE

N. 191120b

Wednesday 20.11.2019

**Apostolic Trip of His Holiness Francis to Thailand and Japan (19 to 26 November 2019) – Official welcome at Bangkok Airport and telegrams to Heads of State**

**Official welcome at Bangkok Airport**

**Telegrams to Heads of State during the flight from Rome to Bangkok**

**Official welcome at Bangkok Airport**

Upon arrival at Bangkok Airport, at 12.05 local time (6.05 in Rome), the Holy Father Francis was received at the foot of the front steps of the aircraft by a member of the Privy Council who offered him a floral tribute, and by Sr. Ana Rosa Sivori, of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, his cousin, who will act as interpreter during his meetings in Thailand. Then, after greeting the authorities, the Thai bishops and eleven children in traditional dress, the Pope passed through the Guard of Honour.

Immediately afterwards the Holy Father transferred by car to the apostolic nunciature of Bangkok, to be received by staff of the Pontifical Representation.

**Telegrams to Heads of State during the flight from Rome to Bangkok**

During the flight to Bangkok, as the aircraft passed through the airspace of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Myanmar, the Holy Father Francis sent the following telegrams to the respective Heads of State:

***Overflight Croatia***

HER EXCELLENCY KOLINDA GRABAR-KITAROVIĆ

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

ZAGREB

I EXTEND CORDIAL GREETINGS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AND YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS AS I ENTER CROATIAN AIRSPACE ON MY WAY TO THAILAND AND JAPAN. ENTRUSTING ALL OF YOU TO ALMIGHTY GOD, I WILLINGLY INVOKE UPON THE NATION THE BLESSINGS OF JOY AND PEACE.

FRANCISCUS PP.

***Overflight Bosnia and Herzegovina***

HIS EXCELLENCY ŽELJKO KOMŠIĆ

CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESIDENCY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SARAJEVO

AS I FLY OVER BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA ON MY APOSTOLIC JOURNEY TO THAILAND AND JAPAN, I SEND CORDIAL GREETINGS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AND YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS. INVOKING THE BLESSING OF ALMIGHTY GOD UPON THE NATION, I PRAY THAT HE MAY GRANT YOU ALL PEACE AND WELL-BEING.

FRANCISCUS PP.

***Overflight Serbia***

HIS EXCELLENCY ALEKSANDAR VUČIĆ

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

BELGRADE

I OFFER CORDIAL GREETINGS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AND YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS AS I FLY OVER SERBIA ON MY APOSTOLIC JOURNEY TO THAILAND AND JAPAN, WITH THE ASSURANCE OF MY PRAYERS FOR THE PEACE AND PROSPERITY OF THE NATION.

FRANCISCUS PP.

***Overflight Montenegro***

HIS EXCELLENCY MILO ĐUKANOVIĆ

PRESIDENT OF MONTENEGRO

PODGORICA

I EXTEND BEST WISHES TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AND YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS AS MY JOURNEY TO THAILAND AND JAPAN TAKES ME THROUGH MONTENEGRO'S AIRSPACE, AND I ASSURE YOU OF MY PRAYERS FOR THE PEACE AND WELL-BEING OF THE NATION.

FRANCISCUS PP.

***Overflight Bulgaria***

HIS EXCELLENCY RUMEN RADEV

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

SOFIA

I OFFER PRAYERFUL BEST WISHES TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AND YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS AS I ENTER BULGARIAN AIRSPACE ON MY WAY TO THAILAND AND JAPAN. RECALLING WITH PLEASURE MY VISIT TO BULGARIA, I CORDIALLY INVOKE UPON ALL OF YOU THE DIVINE BLESSINGS OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

FRANCISCUS PP.

***Overflight Turkey***

HIS EXCELLENCY RECEP TAYYIP ERDOĞAN

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

ANKARA

AS I FLY OVER TURKEY ON MY WAY TO THAILAND AND JAPAN, I SEND CORDIAL GREETINGS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AND YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS. INVOKING DIVINE BLESSINGS UPON THE NATION, I PRAY THAT THE ALMIGHTY MAY BLESS YOU ALL WITH PEACE AND WELL-BEING.

FRANCISCUS PP.

***Overflight Iran***

HIS EXCELLENCY HASSAN ROUHANI

PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

TEHRAN

I EXTEND CORDIAL GREETINGS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AND YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS AS I FLY OVER YOUR COUNTRY ON MY WAY TO THAILAND AND JAPAN. INVOKING DIVINE BLESSINGS UPON THE NATION, I PRAY THAT THE ALMIGHTY MAY GRANT YOU ALL WELL-BEING AND PEACE.

FRANCISCUS PP.

***Overflight Afghanistan***

HIS EXCELLENCY ASHRAF GHANI AHMADZAI

PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

KABUL

I SEND CORDIAL GREETINGS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AND YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS AS I FLY OVER AFGHANISTAN ON MY WAY TO THAILAND AND JAPAN. ASSURING YOU ALL OF MY PRAYERS, I INVOKE UPON THE NATION THE DIVINE BLESSINGS OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

FRANCISCUS PP.

***Overflight Pakistan***

HIS EXCELLENCY ARIF ALVI

PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

ISLAMABAD

AS I FLY OVER PAKISTAN ON MY WAY TO THAILAND AND JAPAN, I SEND CORDIAL GREETINGS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AND YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS. WITH THE ASSURANCE OF MY PRAYERS, I INVOKE UPON THE NATION THE DIVINE BLESSINGS OF PEACE AND JOY.

FRANCISCUS PP.

***Overflight India***

HIS EXCELLENCY RAM NATH KOVIND

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

I EXTEND CORDIAL GREETINGS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AND YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS AS I FLY OVER INDIA ON MY WAY TO THAILAND AND JAPAN FOR A PASTORAL VISIT. INVOKING THE BLESSING OF ALMIGHTY GOD, I PRAY THAT HE MAY GRANT THE NATION PEACE AND WELL-BEING.

FRANCISCUS PP.

*Overflight Myanmar*

HIS EXCELLENCY WIN MYINT

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

YANGON

I SEND CORDIAL GREETINGS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AS I FLY OVER MYANMAR ON MY WAY TO THAILAND AND JAPAN. ASSURING YOU OF MY PRAYERS FOR YOU AND THE PEOPLE OF MYANMAR, I INVOKE UPON ALL ABUNDANT BLESSINGS OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

FRANCISCUS PP.

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