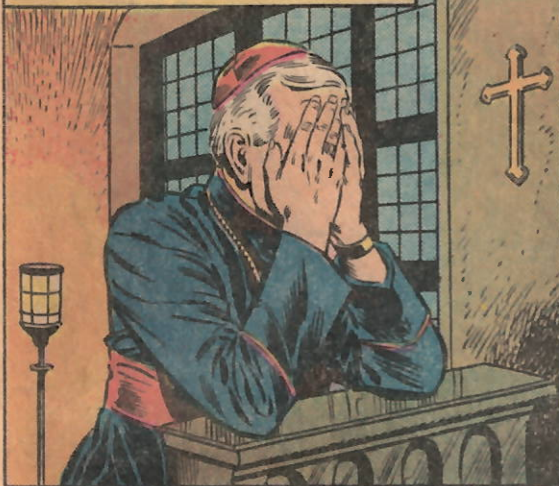


"IN 1978, TRAGEDY ONCE AGAIN STRIKES THE CHURCH, WITH THE DEATH OF POPE PAUL VI. THE EVENT STRIKES CARDINAL WOJTYLA HARD..."

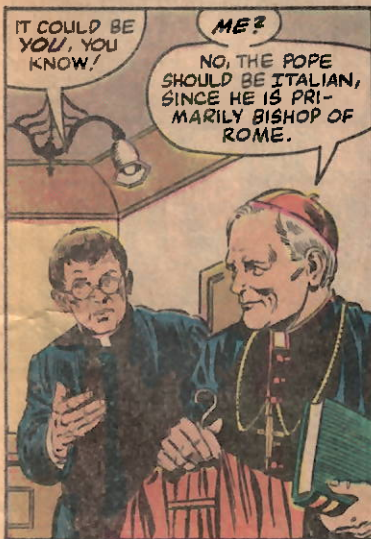


"THE DEATH NECESSITATES ANOTHER TRIP TO ROME FOR CARDINAL WOJTYLA, ANOTHER ABSENCE FROM THE LAND AND FRIENDS HE LOVES..."



I CAME RIGHT OVER WHEN I HEARD THE NEWS, I'M SO SORRY, KAROL!

THANK YOU, MIOTEK, OUR TRIAL IS ONLY BEGINNING. THE CARDINALS MUST NOW CHOOSE ANOTHER POPE...



IT COULD BE YOU, YOU KNOW!

ME? NO, THE POPE SHOULD BE ITALIAN, SINCE HE IS PRIMARILY BISHOP OF ROME.



PETER WAS THE FIRST BISHOP OF ROME, AND HE WASN'T ROMAN. OR EVEN CATHOLIC, FOR THAT MATTER, HE WAS A JEW!



YOU'RE WHAT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR--A MODERATE FROM A COUNTRY NOT TOO POWERFUL OR TOO SMALL... SOMEONE INTERESTED IN SPIRITUAL MATTERS!

THAT'S ENOUGH! PLEASE FORGET YOUR FOOLISH FANTASIES!

"ON AUGUST 26, 1978, POPE JOHN PAUL I TAKES COMMAND OF THE SEE OF ST. PETER..."



"AND, CARDINAL WOJTYLA SECRETLY BREATHES A SIGH OF RELIEF, FOR HE IS FREE TO GO HOME WHEN THIS IS OVER..."