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SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE

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Apostolic Trip of the Holy Father Francis in Colombia (6-11 September 2017) – Welcome Ceremony at the CATAM Airbase at Bogotá Airport

The aircraft carrying the Holy Father Francis, which departed from Rome this morning at 11.10, landed at 16.15 (local time) at the CATAM Airbase of the airport of Bogotá.

Upon arrival, the Pope was welcomed by the President of the Republic of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos Calderón, and his wife. Political and civil leaders, some Colombian bishops and a group of around a thousand faithful were also present.

After the execution of the national anthems and the presentation of military honours, the respective delegations were presented. The President of the Republic and his wife then accompanied the Pope to the popemobile, while folk dances were performed.

At the end of the welcome ceremony the Holy Father transferred by car to the apostolic nunciature of Bogotá, where he was welcomed by a group of faithful who performed traditional songs and dances. He then visited the chapel where he met with the staff of the nunciature, left a floral homage to Our Lady, and finally entered the nunciature.