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Solemn liturgy re - opens Cathedral

"Today we rejoice that a further step has been taken with the completion of the transepts, the sanctuary, the side chapels and the sacristies," said the Bishop of Sandhurst, Dr. B. D. Stewart, in the Sacred Heart Cathedral yesterday.

He was speaking during Solemn Pontifical Mass which marked the re-possession of the Cathedral.

Completed externally last

year, it has been closed for 20 months to complete the interior.

Bishop Stewart said the building was started 77 years ago by the first

Bishop of the Diocese of Sandhurst, Martin Crane of the Order of St. Augustine.

"Bishop Crane's object was twofold," he said—"to give glory to God and to relieve the acute distress and unemployment which followed the depression of the 1890s.

"He lived to see the first part of his vision accomplished, dying three weeks after the blessing and opening of the nave in September, 1901.

"We hold his name in veneration and blessing," said Bishop Stewart.

Spire

"The diocese has put its hand to the plough and already the first courses have been laid to the base of the spire, which will rise to a height of 287 feet," he continued.

"It is our hope that 1974, the centenary year of the diocese, will see this temple of the living God, in all its Gothic splendor, completed," said Bishop Stewart.

• At the end of the Mass, Bishop Stewart paid tribute to all those associated in any way with the construction of the cathedral.

The cathedral is a building of superlatives.

It is awe-inspiring, magnificent architecture.

The floor is of highly polished marble, the columns and walls are of sandstone and panelling and ceiling is of carved wood.

• Although yesterday's service marked the re-occupancy of the building, the formal and official celebration to mark its re-opening will be held next year.

TALKS FOR HALT

WASHINGTON (AAP) — President Nixon telephoned both Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Soviet Leader Leonid Brezhnev to discuss prospects for a negotiated halt to the fighting in the Middle East, the White House said.

Presidential spokesman Gerald Warren said Mr. Nixon also conferred with Vice President - Designate Gerald Ford for about an hour at the White House.

Mr. Nixon communicated directly with Mr. Brezhnev on the negotiations and spoke with Dr. Kissinger after he and a nine-man team arrived in Moscow, Warren said.

Kissinger met Soviet leaders to try to work out a formula the two superpowers might use to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and restore peace.

50 miles

TEL AVIV (AAP) — Israeli forces, strengthened by airlifted American arms, had pushed to within 50 miles of Cairo as they sought to bottle up Egypt's invading force on the Israeli-held side of the Suez Canal.

Israel would not state the size of the force it has thrust across the narrow waterway but U.S. military sources estimated it at 12,000 men and 200 tanks, perhaps more.

The Israeli Military Command said the penetration was 12-15 miles deep, five days after it began on rafts floated across the Canal.

The latest Egyptian communique, quoted by the Middle East news agency, said ferocious tank battles continued in the central and Deversoir sectors and fighting raged along the whole of the Egyptian-Israeli front on Sunday.

Egyptian land formations carried out successful counter-attacks.

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