

GERMAN CATHOLIC CONVENTION:

Roman Catholics from both halves of divided Germany gather in Berlin for their 78th Catholic Convention - one of the biggest religious assemblies Germany has seen for many years. And it takes place in both halves of the city - opening in the Werner Seelenbinder Hall, where not only weeks ago East German Communists held their Party Congress.

Open-air mass in front of St. Hedwig's Cathedral, Berlin's Catholic centre, which was destroyed by bombing in 1943, and has not yet been restored.

Only the huge Olympic Stadium is big enough to hold the 170,000 believers in one gathering. The Church says frankly it can offer no political solution to the division of Germany - but hopes that its spiritual contribution can help to restore the unity which all Germans long for.