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Pope Francis Says Russia Is Needed to Solve World Problems

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Pope Francis (C) gestures after blessing the city from the Hill of the Cross (Loma de la Cruz) in Holguin, Cuba.

Pope Francis has said Russia plays a crucial role in solving the world's problems, a TASS news agency report said.

“Without Russia, not one of today's most pressing global problems can be solved,” the pontiff was cited Tuesday as telling a TASS reporter aboard a flight to Cuba.

The pontiff continued his journey on Tuesday to the United States, where he is set to address the UN General Assembly on Friday, the report said.

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