

BULLETIN INSERTS – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Since world unity seems daily more operative it must allow all peoples, to use the phrase, to be the architects of their own fortune. International relations, far more than is right, have thus far been based on force and this, alas, has been as it were the chief characteristic of the past. May the joyous era be reached when international relations will bear only this hallmark, that is, regard and friendship to be expressed in assistance with mutual respect and collaboration based on it, that individual nations accepting with full conviction their obligation and duty to promote the improvement of all.

– Paul VI, *Populorum Progressio*, #65

The common good is chiefly guaranteed when personal rights and duties are maintained. The chief concern of civil authorities must therefore be to ensure that these rights are acknowledged, respected, coordinated with other rights, defended and promoted, so that in this way each one may more easily carry out his duties. For "to safeguard the inviolable rights of the human person, and to facilitate the fulfillment of his duties, should be the chief duty of every public authority."

– Pope John XXIII, *Pacem in Terris*, #60

"As individuals, as institutions, as a people we need a change of heart to preserve and protect the planet for our children and for generations yet unborn."

– U.S. Catholic Bishops, *Renewing the Earth*, 1991

Political power, which is the natural and necessary link for ensuring the cohesion of the social body, must have as its aim the achievement of the common good. While respecting the legitimate liberties of individuals, families and subsidiary groups, it acts in such a way as to create, effectively and for the well-being of all, the conditions required for attaining humanity's true and complete good, including spiritual ends.

– Paul VI, *Octogesima Adveniens*, #46

"Today the means of mass communication have made our planet smaller; rapidly narrowing the distance between different peoples and cultures. This "togetherness" at times gives rise to misunderstandings and tensions, yet our ability to know almost instantly about the needs of others challenges us to share their situation and their difficulties....our times call for a new readiness to assist our neighbors in need."

– Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*, #30

"Humanity today is unfortunately experiencing great division and sharp conflicts which cast dark shadows on its future. Vast areas of the world are caught up in situations of increasing tension, while the danger of an increase in the number of countries possessing nuclear weapons causes well-founded apprehension in every responsible person."

– Pope Benedict XVI, *Papal Message for 2008 World Peace Day*, 1/1/08, #14

We must form centers of faith, hope, love and solidarity, centers of a sense of justice and lawfulness and of cooperation. Only in this way will modern society be able to survive.

– Pope John Paul II

"I should also like to express my support for continued and uninterrupted pursuit of the path of diplomacy in order to resolve the issue of Iran's nuclear program, by negotiating in good faith, adopting measures designed to increase transparency and mutual trust, and always taking account of the authentic needs of peoples and the common good of the human family."

– Pope Benedict XVI's Address to Ambassadors, *"Diplomacy Must Give Hope,"* 1/7/08

"...one must acknowledge with regret the growing number of States engaged in the arms race: even some developing nations allot a significant portion of their scant domestic product to the purchase of weapons. The responsibility for this baneful commerce is not limited: the countries of the industrially developed world profit immensely from the sale of arms, while the ruling oligarchies in many poor countries wish to reinforce their stronghold by acquiring ever more sophisticated weaponry. In difficult times such as these, it is truly necessary for all persons of good will to come together to reach concrete agreements aimed at an effective demilitarization, especially in the area of nuclear arms. At a time when the process of nuclear non-proliferation is at a stand-still, I feel bound to entreat those in authority to resume with greater determination negotiations for a progressive and mutually agreed dismantling of existing nuclear weapons. In renewing this appeal, I know that I am echoing the desire of all those concerned for the future of humanity."

– Pope Benedict XVI, Papal Message for '08 World Peace Day, 1/1/08, #14

"The Holy See has said many times in this committee that nuclear weapons contravene every aspect of humanitarian law. They are an affront to our stewardship of the environment, in as much as they can destroy life on the planet and the planet itself. They must be done away with. By holding resolutely to these convictions, the Holy See hopes to awaken in the hearts of all people of "good faith" a renewed determination to ensure that never again will the horrors of nuclear war be visited upon humanity."

– Holy See on Disarmament, *"Nuclear Weapons Contravene Every Aspect of Humanitarian Law,"* 10/17/2007

"As the use of nuclear power expands in various parts of the world, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) becomes all the more important. It needs and deserves stronger support from the international community. The Holy See, a founding member of the agency, continues to fully support its goals, convinced that the IAEA plays a key role in fostering nonproliferation of nuclear arms, progressive nuclear disarmament, and the use of peaceful and safe nuclear technology for a development respectful of the environment and ever mindful of the most disadvantaged populations."

– Holy See on Disarmament, *"Nuclear Weapons Contravene Every Aspect of Humanitarian Law,"* 10/17/2007

"All the tools of diplomacy must be used to defuse crises concerning attempts by some countries to acquire nuclear weapons capabilities and to dissuade others from ever taking such a dangerous road. Belligerence by anyone would only worsen a delicate situation and could inadvertently lead to conflagration with immense additional suffering on a humanity already overburdened with the ravages of war."

– Holy See on Disarmament, *"Nuclear Weapons Contravene Every Aspect of Humanitarian Law,"* 10/17/2007

"In the present complex international situation, humanity is called to mobilize its best energies, so that love will prevail over hatred, peace over war, truth over falsehood, forgiveness over revenge."

– Pope John Paul II, 2001