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Pope's Christmas Message Outlines Christian Order of World Peace N.C.W.C. News Service)

Vatican City, December 24-Following is the English translation, made available as the Vatican, of the discourse broudcast on Christ mas Eve by His Holmess Pope Pins XII.

and the second se

A Lovely Feast

Once again, and for the thir.

hour casts upon this joyful anni longs to (lod (I Cor 3, 23). versary the saddening shadow of clouds which still hover menacingly over the world.

The contribution of the Church to the cause of Peace.

We realize full well the intimate satisfaction and the unconditional docility with which Our devoted children always listen to the voice of the common Father yet We are not unaware of the anxiety with which they once again await his worvis on the great subject which stirs and agi tates the human heart the subject of peace and, in particular, his precise and concrete state ment on the contribution of the

of the Church. She cannot come down from

sion of the Church is not in the Statesmen, and at times even tagonistic, or neutral---continualchurchmen, who want to make the Spouse of Christ their ally or the instrument of their political alliances, either national or international, would do injury to the very essence of the peculiar nature of this contribu-Church and would inflict damare on the life which is proper to her; in a word, they would The legal right and the peacebring her down to the same making mission of the church. level on which conflicting temporal interests are locked in The legal right? Behold: nostruggle. And this is and remains true, even where there is

crib of Bethiehem. The Infant legitimate in themselves. Wheever then would wish to Church to the cause of peace it detach the Church from her supself that is to say what the con posed neutrality, or bring pres tribution of the Church cannot sure to bear on her in the quesbe what it can and should be, tion of peace, or diminish her what it really is May the Heaven-right freely to determine ly Father Who at the birth of His whether when or how she may

It is not rare to see purely

camp tomorrow perhaps in an

terests. But the Church keeps'

herself about from such unstable

allunces. If she basses ludement

that does not mean that she is

thereby abandoning a neutrality

a thereto observed for Geri 18

ne er neutral toward human

ments in the course of history.

and so neither can His Church

at the end of time Her Lord and

Head judge of the universe will

on firm and sanctur

ahandon'

question of ends and interests

Church to the cause of peace | causer. For any decision on the This mission, however, and this Just as the Church's right to haust the net Church's part, even in political desire for peace are not born of work for peace is unique, so later the world. questions, can never be purely timidity and weakness, which can the worth of her contribution to meet evil and the wicked only

cannot be. Supposed neutrality of the place of the Church in the her own, the mission of a peace just for maintaining peace, midst of the world's great events, maker,

Consciousness of this mission - and with Him the Church in The present state of affairs de-mands from Us a frank and sin-cere judgment upon events. But these events have reached such a critical stage that We are fore-ed to recognize that the world is split into two opposing camps teenth time, the grace of the and that all men are divided into in the tails and sufferings of her seventhaling activity of the very nature makes to the cause the failed in the tails and sufferings of her seventhaling activity of the very nature makes to the cause the failed in the tails and sufferings of her seventhaling activity of the very nature makes to the cause the failed in the tails and sufferings of her seventhaling activity of the very nature makes to the cause divided members in either camp. Ropes when he said in 1890, on of peace-that is, when her life on the aniversary of the Nativ, which consequently are very and intensives her grief at the the read the fait conference for and her action among men estimates.

on the anniversary of the Nativ-ity, to address the Catholic world from this venerable See. Each year this lovely feast of fers Us the occasion of express-ing to all the faithful of the world Our paternal greeting with a pro-found sense of the mystering with a pro-found sense of tound sense of the mysterious empire, are easily induced to de ticular policies of a purely bond of faith hope and love which mand also from her, as from earthly scope; she cannot run unites, at the Crib of the new others, the renunciation of her the risk of giving any reason for born Saviour, those redeemed by neutrality and a definite election doubting about the restore the purpos-antee peace. To this goal the reborn Saviour, those redeemed by neutrality and a definite election doubting about her religious p. 271). And today, as We have to of the Creator, that they strive sources of the Church are now in favor of one or the other side. character; she cannot forget for said, the same is true,

Dencie.

area where nations-friendly, an. present hour, beyond statistics of What We have just said shows ous cooperation, as the proper very difficult direumstances. How military and economic potential. How can they form the slightest clearly Our thought in this re- condition of peace, is internally ever, the alleged absolute social ideas and concrete political ten idea of the worth and importance gard. At the crib of the Divine enervated and anemic, while ex. values are capable of Inapiria dencies, what, then, should be of religious authority or the solu. Prince of Peace, We have to say ternally it is exposed to perils enthusiason in youth at a oritical her contribution to the peace? tion of the peace problem. Super lagain today what We have said of every moment.

their reality and fulness the removed from that order willed who in the economic or social life is disillusioned by bitter experi-What is the legal right, what the ficial minds, unable to see in all before: The world is indeed far How, for example, can those value and the creative power of by God in Christ, the order which want to make everything depend Christianity, how can they help guarantees a genuine and lasting upon society-even the direction [cal, incapable of taking any laterbeing sceptical and disdainful of peace. Perhaps it will be said and security of their own exist-

the power of the Church for that in that case it was no use to ence-or those who today look peace? But others, and please trace out the boid outlines of this for their sole daily spiritual God they are the majority, will fundamental contribution of the nourishment less and less from see with more or less awareness fundamental contribution of the themselves that is to say, from where will you find it as clear that denying to the religious au. Church to the cause of peace. It their personal convictions and

and almost palpable as at the thority of the Church her comwill be objected that if We say knowledge-and more and more the ordered universe The has e thority of the Church her com-petence in effective action for the but by a return to the eternal by the press, radio, movies and society of tiations, in which even lying there is the Eternal Son peace has but made more des- values of the individual person peace has but made more des values of the individual person television; how can they conceive nation effects peace internally perate the tragic condition of the and of mankind. We thus only true fiberty, how can they esteem among free men and their family

is "Princeps pacis," Prince of troubled modern world. Peace. Prince and founder of The defection of many from tics and deepen the discourage-peace-such is the character of christian belief has hastened this ment of the friends of peace. Finencourage the cynicism of skep and desire it, if it no longer has iles, and externally with other re the Saviour and Redeemer of the extreme and almost intolerable ally We will be reproached with whole human race. His sublime state of affairs. And one would admitting that these are right ly Father Who at the hirth of His whether when or how she may Divine Son sent choirs of angels wish to come to a decision in the to sing of peace upon earth, deign various conflicts, such a one to inspire Our words. What then the contribution of the Church's right to between peoples. This mission, however, and the Church's right to have of peace of war. Church's right to have of peace of frightening specter of war. plets the sconomic forces and ex-Just as the Church's right to haust the nerves of the nations

Nevertheless, for a practical

the value of peace. A set of the set of the

they unjustly say that the Church isteen for problem

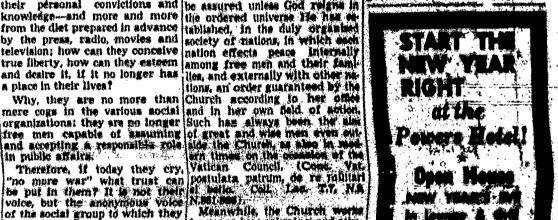
able to values that are absolute, but everything is strictly bound up with and directed toward the existence and development of a defined collectivity.

The results, however, of the

In contrast with the collapse of however, there can be no question for get for the full control for end to be church in the there role of reporting programs, the spirit of God suspendent the vigor of perpetu political neutrings, into a work of the Church metal support the to remain think of the spirit of perpetu political neutrings into a work of the church metal support the to remain think of the spirit of the spirit of the church metal support the to remain the spirit of the spirit of the church metal support the to remain think of the spirit of the church metal support the to remain the spirit of the spirit of the church metal support the to remain the spirit of the spirit of the church metal support the to remain the spirit of the church metal support the to the spirit of the church metal support the to the spirit of the church metal support the to the spirit of the church metal support the to the spirit of the church metal support the to the spirit of the church metal support the to the spirit of the church metal support the to the spirit of the church metal support the to the spirit of the church metal support the spirit of th

ed, or it is no longer possessed, her counsels of genuine order in In these circumsatices, harmoni, real freedom are given under ine Fathers Law publish Drivale authority. He to age, while not rarely the youth

> est in public and social life. The good offices of the Mely Hes for the preceivi polytime of Peace, as We have said, cannot great low m



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political, but must always be "sub specie acternitatis," in the with resignation and patience. light of the divine law, of its Everything in the frailty of the Relations Babe of Bethlehem is hidden order its values, its standards

'states majesty and contained force, emporal powers and institutions which only love restrains, in

The church is not a political. aband in their neutrality, and order to make the hearts of men but a religious society. That, align themselves today in one capable of begetting and nurtur however, does not prevent her ing peace, and give them the from assuming not merely exit er it is a game of abiances strength to overcome and scatter ternal but internal and vital rewhich can be explained by the all the forces that might com- lations with states.

many, in order to see the crux. constant shifting of temporal in promise its life The church has in fact been of the problem now before us. But the Divine Saviour is also founded by Christ as a society In the first place, such a surthe invisible head of the Church: that is visible, and, as such, vey will convince any impartial and for that reason His mission meets states in the same terof peace lives on and is active in ritory, embraces in her solicitude problem of peace is now the the Church Every year, with the the same people, and in many spiritual order: the problem is renewed memory of Christ's ways and under different aspects a apiritual lack, a spiritual debirth, is renewed, in her deep makes use of the same means consciousness of her title to con- and the same institutions.

tribute to the work of peace, a And since the Church and the the If she spraks and judges on unique title which transcends states live together, beside these the problems of the day, it is every earthly thing and stems external and what might be with the clear consciousness of immediately from God, an essen- called natural relations, there anticipating, in the power of the tial element of her nature and are others, too, interior and vital ing the order willed by God. Holy Spirit, the sentence which of her religious power. relations, which have their prin-This year, once more, the ciple and origin in the person of

Church kneels before the crib Jesus Christ as Head of the the danger of war. To awaken deprecate. Whence originates and receives her mission from the Church. For the Son of God by that conviction is in the first among not a few highly placed Divine Infant, the Prince of becoming man, and truly man, place the duty of the Church, persons in what is called "the free exercise their Christian influe Such is the proper and super Peace At His side she sees re has by that very fact entered and her primary contribution to

The function of the Church vealed true human nature, true into a new relationship, a truly the peace today. satility political questions in the fullest sense of the word, vital relationship, with human so-A hat then is the meaning of for II is the very human nature ciety, with human nature. And Modern Arms.

that crupty phrase about a new of God, her Creator, her Redeem- this is true whether we consider We too-and more than anytra it which the church should er her Restorer. With eyes ten human nature as a single unit one else deplore the monstrous derly fixed on the face of the in- implying equal personal dignity crueity of modern weapons. We The Church does not judge ac finitely lovable Prince of Peace, in all men, or human nature as deplore them and do not cease to isting to pure y pool, al forms, she listens to the heart beats found in multiple particular so pray that they may never be the contrain on the which tell of a love embracing cieties, especially those societies employed. But, on the other pretists of peace per and the all mankind, and is inflamed with which, within the fundamental hand, is it not, perhaps, a kind neutral of the Church But ardent zeal for this mission of unity of human nature are of practical materialism and suit save these a context idea her Lord and Chief, which is also necessary to effect, or at east perficial sentimentality to make perfect, external order and sound the existence and threat of these

organization. Society of states.

weapons the sole and principal consideration in the question of peace, while no attention is paid to the absence of that Christian And here We have in mind order which is the true guarantee

erver that the heart of the

primarily the family and the of peace. state, as well as the society of Hence, among other reasons, states, since the common good, the differences of opinion and althe essential purpose of every so the inexactitudes concerning state, cannot be attained or even the licitness and illicitness of imagined without this intrinsic modern warfare; hence likewise relation of the states to the hu- the illusion of statesmen who man race as a whole. I nder this count too much on the existence aspect the indissoluble union of or disappearance of those weapstates is demanded by nature ons. The terror they inspire in It is a fact which is imposed the long run begins to lose its upon them. And in consent to il, effect, just like any other cause although sometimes healtantly, of terror; or at least it would not they answer the voice of nature, suffice, if the occasion should This natural union they strive to arise, to prevent the outpress of embody in an external stable a war, especially in those rounframework, an organization. tries where the voice of the citi-. As human experience teaches 2008 has not sufficient influence them, the state and the society of in the decisions of their governstates with its external organiza. ments.

tion. In spite of all their defects, Disarmament are naturally, given the social On the other hand, disarmanature of man, forms of union ment, or rather the simultanand order among men; they are cous and reciprocal reduction necessary for human life; they of animaments, which We have contribute to its perfection. Their aiways desired and negged for, very concept involves the tranis an unstable guarantee of guility of order, that "tranquil- insting peace if it is not accomlitas ordinis" which St. Augus | panied by the abolition of the time gives as a definition of weapons of hate, cupidity, and peace. These societies of their of overweening just for presvery essence exist for peace. tige. In other words, wheever With them, as societies which connects too closely the ques-

Meanwhile, the Church works for peace by awakening and simas well as a theoretical estiof the social group to which they mate of the contribution each happen to belong. one can make to the cause of

a place in their lives?

dating a practical understanding This is the sad state of affairs which also impedes the Church of the spiritual heart of the prob peace, especially the Church, unfavorable sircum jem. Faithful to the apirit of her in her efforts to obtain peace and stances and in spite of the Divine Founder and to her mis in her plans for the realization of sion of love, she endeavors to the skeptics and pessimists, We true human liberty which, from the Christian viewpoint, is the in- best of her power to offer her think it absolutely necessary to dispensable element of the social good offices wherever she sees fix Our view on the Christian order; today lost sight of by so the threat of a conflict between order, considered as the organ-ism of peace. In vain would she nations. Above all else, this Apostolle See has shirked such a duty, multiply her invitations to men and never shall. devoid of that realization, and

confilma.

still more usclessly would she di-"The Church of Ellence." As We well know and deplore rect her pleas to a society which with a heart deeply grieved, throughout vast regions of the world, this invitations of Ours has been reduced to sheer automatism.

Such, however, is the wideficiency. Too rare in the world to peace does not reach, except in mullisted form, the "Church spread weakness of a world today is the deeply Christian which loves emphatically to call sense of values; too few are the of Silence." Millions CERNOL Did itself "the free world." It deceives true and perfect Christians. In tess openly their response itself, or else it does not underthis way, men themselves set before God for peace. In their stand itself; its strength is not obstacles in the way of sciustvery homes and churches even based upon true freedom. This is a new danger which threatens Everyone must be convinced of the peace, and which in the light

the ancient tradition of the manger, so dear and familiar. has been abolished by the des potto will of those in power Millions are in no position in

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