

Pope to U.N.

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pression. It is not accompanied by preoccupations or interests of another kind, which might veil its testimony and render it less credible.

A conscience enlightened and guided by the Christian faith, undoubtedly, but not therefore less profoundly human. Quite the contrary. It is a conscience common to all men of good and sincere will.

My voice is the echo of the anxieties, the aspirations, the hopes and fears of billions of men and women. From all latitudes, they look toward your assembly and wonder what will come out of it. Some reassuring light, as they hope, or some fresh and worrying disappointment. Without having received the mandate of all, I believe nonetheless that I can make myself the faithful interpreter to you of those sentiments which are theirs. I will not enter, nor can I enter, into the political and technical aspects of the disarmament problem as it presents itself today. But I will permit myself to draw your attention to some ethical principles which lie at the basis of all discussion and all desirable decision taking in this domain.

My starting point is rooted in an observation which is unanimously admitted, not only by your peoples, but also the governments which you lead or represent: The world desires peace, the world needs peace.

In our day, refusing peace not only means provoking sufferings and the resultant losses which are caused — today more than in the past — by war, even a limited war. It could also involve total destruction of entire regions and the possible or probable threat of catastrophes of even vaster proportions, even universal ones.

Those responsible for the life of the people seem to be above all engaged in a feverish search for political ways and technical solutions which may enable the effects of eventual conflicts to be "contained." While having to recognize the limits to their efforts in this regard, they still persist in those ways, so widespread is the conviction that wars are inevitable in the long term, as, above all, is the specter of a possible military confrontation among the great camps that divide the world today and go on haunting the destiny of mankind.

Of course, no power, no statesman will admit that he intends to project a war or take the initiative in one. Nevertheless, mutual distrust makes men believe or fear that others nourish such designs or a will of that sort, with the result that each seems to envisage no other possible solution, but regards it as necessary to get ready a defense force sufficient to reply to eventual attack.

Many even consider that such preparations constitute a way — even the only way — of safeguarding peace, or at least of holding off outbreak of conflicts as much as possible and in the most effective fashion, above all outbreaks of big conflicts which would come to entail the supreme holocaust of humanity and destruction of the civilization that man has laboriously won over the centuries.

This is again, as may be seen, that "peace philosophy" summed up by the old Roman motto: "Si vis pacem, para bellum" — "If you want peace, prepare for war."

When translated into modern terms, this "philosophy" has taken on the name of "dissuasion," it has engaged in a search for a "balance of power" which has sometimes been called a "balance of terror," not incorrectly.

As my predecessor Paul VI pointed out: "The logic immanent in the search for a balance of power drives each of the adversaries to try to assure itself a certain margin of superiority through fear of finding itself in a situation of disadvantage."

Practically, there is an easy temptation and an ever

Disarmament Task Force Seeks Referendum

The diocesan Nuclear Disarmament Task Force has issued a call for a telephone/letter writing campaign to have a nuclear weapons freeze referendum placed on the November elections ballot.

Such support is needed to release this legislation to the floor of the Legislature before the summer recess begins in about one week.

The referendum bill would call on the U.S. and the Soviet Union to implement a mutual and verifiable halt to the testing, production and deployment of nuclear

weapons, missiles and other delivery systems, to be followed by mutual verifiable reduction of such armaments.

Similar resolutions are being planned in Arizona, California, Delaware, Montana, Michigan, New Jersey, Oregon, Wisconsin and the District of Columbia.

Sens. John Perry and William Steinfeldt should be asked to co-sponsor the bill, the task force advises, or at least to urge that it be let out for floor debate. Assembly members may be asked to vote on the bill or that their own version of the bill be open for floor debate.

The bill is known as S10239.

Sen. Perry may be reached at 544-5450, Sen. Steinfeldt at 663-5951, or by mail at State Senate, Albany, N.Y. 12247.

Blue Army

Fathers Dennis Bonsignore, Philip Lavin and Frederic Walz will lead the vigil devotion of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima, 9 p.m., Friday, July 2, at Holy Rosary Church.

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The Catholic Church teaching is thus clear and coherent. It deplores the arms race, it demands at least progressive, mutual, verifiable arms reduction as well as greater precautions against possible errors in the use of nuclear weapons . . . she will not cease from exerting her efforts while armaments go on not being entirely mastered, the security of all nations is not guaranteed, and while men's hearts are not won over to ethical choices which can guarantee lasting peace.

present danger of seeing the search after equilibrium turn into a search for a superiority of such a nature as to relaunch the armaments race in an even more dangerous manner.

This, really, is the tendency seeming to continue to prevail today, perhaps in an even more accentuated manner than before. And, as the specific task of this assembly, you propose to find out how it might be possible to reverse that tendency.

This purpose may still appear to be, as it were, "minimalist," but it is of fundamental importance, for only such a reversal can allow us to hope that mankind will commit itself to the way which leads to the end so much desired by all, though many still regard it as utopian: mutual, total disarmament surrounded by guarantees of effective control that will give all necessary confidence and security.

Thus, this extraordinary session reflects yet another observation: Besides peace, the world desires disarmament, the world needs disarmament.

In any case, the work done by the disarmament committee, in the various commissions and subcommissions, and in governments, and the attention shown by public all testify to the weight given in our day to the difficult questions of disarmament. The very fact that this meeting was summoned involves a judgment: The nations of the world are already overarmed and far too much committed to policies reinforcing this tendency. This judgment implicitly includes the conviction that the tendency is mistaken and the nations of the world committed to that path need to rethink their position.

But the situation is complex, and numerous values — some of highest degree — enter into it. Divergent views may be expressed, so it is necessary to face this problems with realism and honesty. This is why, first of all, I pray God that he will afford you the strength of mind and the good will required for accomplishing your task and letting the cause of peace advance as far as it may, for peace is the ultimate goal of all your effort during this extraordinary session. My word, therefore, is a word of encouragement and hope. Encouragement not to let your energies be enfeebled by the complexity of the questions or by past and present failures. A word of hope, because we know that only men of hope are capable of advancing patiently and tenaciously toward goals worthy of their best efforts and the good of all.

Perhaps no question of our time touches so much upon so many aspects of the human condition as the question of armaments and disarmament does. It entails scientific and technical aspects, and social and economic aspects. It also includes grave problems of a political nature concerning relations among states and among peoples. Our world armaments systems have a high degree of influence upon cultural developments. To crown it all, spiritual questions enter in, regarding the very identity of man and his choices for the future and for the generations to come.

In offering you my reflections I bear in mind all technical, scientific, social, economic, political, and above all ethical, cultural and spiritual aspects.

Ever since the end of World War II and the beginning of the atomic era, the Holy See and the Catholic Church have had a very clear attitude. The church has continually sought to contribute to peace and to build a world not needing to have recourse to war for settling its differences. She has lent encouragement to maintaining an international climate of mutual confidence and cooperation. She has supported structures capable of assuring peace. She has given reminders of the disastrous effects of war. As the means of murderous destruction increased, she pointed out the dangers being run and, looking beyond immediate dangers, she has indicated the values to cultivate for developing cooperation, mutual trust, fraternity and peace.

Already in 1946 my predecessor Pope Pius XII spoke of "the power of new instruments of destruction" which brought the problem of disarmament back into the center of international discussions under completely new aspects. Succeeding popes and the Second Vatican Council continued with this reflection and adapted it to the context of new weapons and armaments control. If men turned to this task with good will and if they had peace as the objective in their hearts and in their plans, adequate measures might have been found, appropriate structures might have been worked out for ensuring rightful security to each people in mutual respect and peace. The arsenals of fear and the threat of death would have become superfluous.

The Catholic Church's teaching is thus clear and coherent. It deplores the arms race, it demands at least progressive, mutual, verifiable arms reduction as well as greater precautions against possible errors in the use of nuclear weapons. At the same time, the church claims respect for the

independence, the liberty and the rightful security of every nation.

I would assure you of the Catholic Church's preoccupations and efforts in these regards, and that she will not cease from exerting her efforts while armaments go on not being entirely mastered, the security of all nations is not guaranteed, and while men's hearts are not won over to the ethical choices which can guarantee lasting peace.

NEXT WEEK: The pope calls for "disarmament of the engines of death and disarmament of minds."

TORN LIVES...

THE HOLY FATHER'S MISSION AID TO THE ORIENTAL CHURCH

Ripped apart by war in Lebanon and elsewhere in the Middle East! Most are children. Others are sickly, aged, handicapped. The rest are farmers without land, workmen without work. All cling to the shreds of dignity. Each seeks a chance to begin anew. A hot meal, a blanket, a tent, a few tools for the bread-winners, schooling for the children—any of these can start whole families toward piecing their shattered lives together again.

HELP THE
VICTIMS
OF WAR
IN LEBANON
AND THE
NEAR EAST
REBUILD
THEIR LIVES

There are now countless victims from the continuing fighting in the Middle East—and the number increases daily. Some have already worked their way out of poverty. Someone cared enough to train them for new jobs; or help school their children, or piece together scattered families. But some are still huddled in open camps, or town slums, or crowded in with relatives equally poor. The refugee colonies teem with destitution and a poisonous sense of futility.

Through the Holy Father's Pontifical Mission for Palestine, the Catholic Near East Welfare Association has already mended tens of thousands of refugee families through education, new jobs, new housing, medical and orphan care, food, clothing. Any kind of helping hand is eagerly grasped by those eager to help themselves.

Choose the gift you can afford to repair any of these torn lives. Mail the coupon today.

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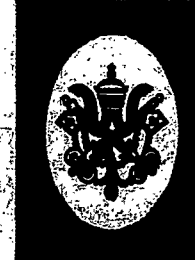
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