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New peace process sought

Pope calls for new body to end strife

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said the worsening chain of violence in the Middle East calls for a "revolution" in political thinking and for regional leaders committed to the respect of human dignity.

In his annual World Peace Day message, released at the Vatican Dec. 17, he also suggested the time has come to consider a new international organization capable of ensuring peace in strife-torn places like the Holy Land.

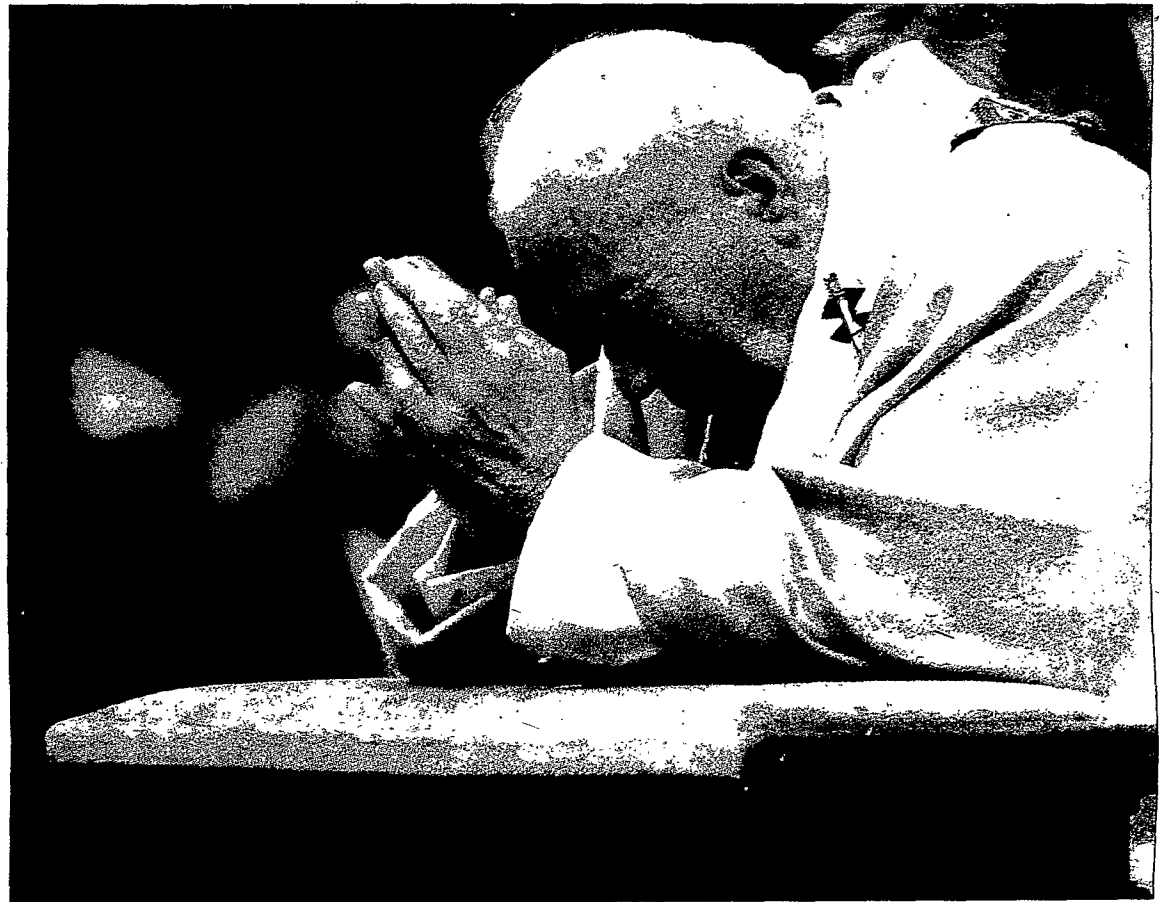
The pope said he was not suggesting a "global super-state" to regulate international affairs, but a mechanism to help make international political decisions more participatory.

The fratricidal conflict in the Holy Land — where international interests have compounded the problems instead of resolving them — cries out for such a new approach, he said.

The text of the pope's message was released two weeks ahead of the church's celebration of World Peace Day, Jan. 1. The message commemorated the 40th anniversary of Blessed Pope John XXIII's landmark encyclical, "*Pacem in Terris*" ("Peace on Earth") and reflected on its themes.

Pope John Paul said "*Pacem in Terris*" had been prophetic in many ways, especially in its recognition that an emerging human rights movement marked a new phase in human history.

From the fall of dictatorships to the collapse of the



Pope John Paul II bows his head in prayer during his Jan. 1 Mass marking World Peace Day and the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. During the ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica, the pope offered a new plea for peace in the Middle East and for world leaders to find nonviolent solutions to tense situations.

Berlin Wall, global events have proved Pope John right, he said. Much of the world has become more free, channels of dialogue have been opened, and the threat of nuclear war has been contained, he said.

At the same time, the global imbalance between rich and poor is taking new forms, he warned.

"We are witnessing the emergence of an alarming gap between a series of new 'rights' being promoted in advanced societies — the result of new prosperity and new

technologies — and other more basic human rights still not being met," he said.

The pope said he was thinking in particular of the fundamental rights to food, drinking water, housing and self-determination, rights still unmet for many people.

Thus a "serious disorder" remains in world affairs, generating tensions and conflict around the globe, he said. The United Nations has played an important role, he said, but peace and respect for human rights remain elusive in many places.

"Is this not the time for all to work together for a new constitutional organization of the human family, truly capable of ensuring peace and harmony between peoples as well as their integral development?" he said.

"But let there be no misunderstanding. This does not mean writing the constitution of a global super-state," he said.

"Rather, it means continuing and deepening processes already in place to meet the almost universal demand for

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