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In data 24 marzo 2001, il Santo Padre ha nominato l'Em.mo Card. Francis Arinze, Presidente del Pontificio Consiglio per il Dialogo Inter-Religioso, Suo Inviato Speciale alle celebrazioni del

Centenario della Chiesa Cattolica in Malawi, in programma il 28 luglio 2001.

L'Inviato Speciale sarà accompagnato da una Missione composta da:

- Rev.do Sac. Martin Mtumbuka, Rettore del Seminario Minore St. Patrick, nella diocesi di Mzuzu;
- Rev.do P. John Bechtold, S.M.M., incaricato del "Nantipwili Pastoral Centre" dell'arcidiocesi di Blantyre.

Pubblichiamo di seguito la Lettera del Santo Padre all'Inviato Speciale in Malawi, Em.mo Card. Francis Arinze:

Venerabili Fratri Nostro

FRANCISCO S.R.E. Cardinali ARINZE

Pontificii Consilii pro Dialogo inter Religiones Presidi

Vicesimo incipiente saeculo a Christi ortu salutiferum Evangelii verbum ad Malavienses pervenit gentes, quae quidem gaudentes animo illud receperunt. Bonum nuntium humum illic invenit aptum, nosque iam copiosos illius primae evangelizationis contemplamur fructus. Lure ergo etiam de illa Christifidelium parte in Malavio licet Nos asseverare, quod scripsimus: "Pro Ecclesiae Africanae ingenti incremento his proximis centum annis, coram sanctitatis fructibus qui inde obvenerunt, una dumtaxat interpretatio exhibetur: haec omnia Dei donum sunt" (*Ecclesia in Africa*, 34).

Certiores facti de sollemni celebratione huiusmodi eventus, Nos summa cum animi consolatione cogitamus universam catholicam communitatem Malaviensem, ac praecipue sacros Praesules illius portionis Ecclesiae, qui postremo die Dominico proximi mensis Iulii simul convenient Eucharistiam oblaturi Deo Patri per eius unicum Filium in Spiritu Sancto.

Quo vero participata Nostra gratulatio de praeterito opere, laetitia de eiusmodi memorabili vitae ecclesialis evéntu, atque cohortatio de futura evangelizationis prosequendae industria clarius ac luculentius inter sacra ibidem emineant sollemnia, te, Venerabilis Frater Noster, harum litterarum virtute **Missum Extraordinarium** Nostrum destinamus ad honorandam centenariam Ecclesiae Malaviensis evangelizationis commemorationem, quae fiet die XXVIII proximi mensis Iulii. Tu quidem, qui antea tuam nativam diu rexisti Onitshanam archidioecesim, nunc vero iam sedecim annos Praesidis Pontificii Consilii pro Dialogo inter Religiones fungeris munere, Nobis peraptus videris ad hanc honorificam explendam missionem.

Pro Nobis illic adstabis, immo praesidebis liturgicis sacris, sermone tuo Nostram ad mentem illustrabis eventus illius momentum ac opportunitatem renovandi missionalem fervorem, benevolentiam pariter Nostram testaberis erga florentem omnem illam ecclesiam communitatem.

Beata Virgo Maria Apostolorum Regina sit Tibi, Venerabilis Frater Noster, auxilium et firmamentum: Nos Eam enixe deprecabimur ut filios congregatos propitia conspiciat, uberrima consolatione impleat novumque Regni Dei dilatandi det ardorem. Denique Benedictionem Nostram Apostolicam imo ex corde Tibi impertimus, quam cum omnibus praesentibus participabis.

Ex Aedibus Vaticanis, die II mensis Iunii, anno MMI, Pontificatus Nostri vicesimo tertio.

IOANNES PAULUS II

[01207-07.01] [Testo originale: Latino]

COMUNICATO: LA SANTA SEDE RATIFICA IL TRATTATO DI INTERDIZIONE TOTALE DEGLI ESPERIMENTI NUCLEARI

Ieri a New York l'Osservatore Permanente della Santa Sede presso l'Organizzazione delle Nazioni Unite, S.E. Mons. Renato Raffaele Martino, ha depositato lo strumento di ratifica del Trattato di Interdizione totale degli esperimenti nucleari (CTBT).

Pubblichiamo di seguito il comunicato e la Dichiarazione che accompagna lo strumento di ratifica:

Holy See Ratifies Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

Today, Archbishop Renato R. Martino, Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, deposited the Holy See's Instrument of Ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) with the Treaty Section of the Department of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Organization. The CTBT, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 September 1996, was signed by the Holy See on 24 September of that same year.

In ratifying the CTBT, the Holy See reaffirms what it stated five years ago when it added its signature to the Treaty, namely, that "the Holy See is convinced that in the sphere of nuclear weapons, the banning of tests and the further development of these weapons, disarmament and non-proliferation are closely linked and must be achieved as quickly as possible under effective international controls."

In presenting the Instrument of Ratification, Archbishop Martino reiterated the Holy See's firm conviction that "nuclear weapons are incompatible with the peace we seek for the 21st Century."

Archbishop Martino also expressed Vatican support for ending illicit traffic in small arms that "find their way into the hands of irregular forces, guerillas and terrorists, and play a nefarious role in drug cartels and organized crime syndicates." He also reaffirmed support for the Convention on the Total Elimination of Land Mines, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Treaty. In doing so, Archbishop Martino stated that "The conscience of humanity must make it strikingly clear that all weapons of mass destruction violate the very principles of peaceful co-existence, collaboration and solidarity among nations and peoples."

Attached to the Instrument of Ratification, the Holy See has included a Declaration which reaffirms its position with regard to the CTBT. The text of the Declaration is annexed herewith.

New York, 18 July 2001

Declaration attached to the instrument of ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)

The Holy See, in ratifying the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 September 1996 and signed by the Holy See on 24 September of the same year, wishes to repeat what was said when it added its signature: "The Holy See is convinced that in the sphere of nuclear weapons, the banning of tests and of the further development of these weapons, disarmament and non-proliferation are closely linked and must be achieved as quickly as possible under effective international controls".

In conformity with the nature and particular condition of Vatican City State, the Holy See, by this ratification, seeks to advance the genuine promotion of a culture of peace based upon the primacy of law and of respect for human life. At the beginning of the third millennium, the implementation of a system of comprehensive and complete disarmament, capable of fostering a climate of trust, cooperation and respect between all States, represents an indispensable aspect of the concrete realization of a culture of life and peace.

In lending moral support to the CTBT through this solemn act of ratification, the Holy See encourages the whole International Community, which is aware of the various challenges standing in the way of nuclear disarmament, to intensify its efforts to ensure the implementation of the said Treaty.

[01208-02.01] [Original text: English]
