

HOLY SEE PRESS OFFICE
OFICINA DE PRENSA DE LA SANTA SEDE



BUREAU DE PRESSE DU SAINT-SIEGE
PRESSEAMT DES HEILIGEN STUHLS

BOLLETTINO

SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE

N. 0072

Giovedì 12.02.2004

UDIENZA AL PRIMO MINISTRO DELL'AUTORITÀ PALESTINESE

UDIENZA AL PRIMO MINISTRO DELL'AUTORITÀ PALESTINESE

Questa mattina Giovanni Paolo II ha ricevuto in Udienza il Primo Ministro dell'Autorità Palestinese, il Sig. Ahmad Qurei e gli ha rivolto il saluto che pubblichiamo di seguito:

• SALUTO DEL SANTO PADRE

Mr Prime Minister,

I am pleased to welcome you to the Vatican. Your presence brings back vivid memories of my pilgrimage to the Holy Land, during which I prayed fervently for peace and justice in the region. While signs of hope have not been altogether absent, unfortunately the sad situation in the Holy Land is a cause of suffering for all.

No one must yield to the temptation of discouragement, let alone to hatred or retaliation. It is reconciliation that the Holy Land needs: forgiveness not revenge, bridges not walls. This demands that all leaders of the region follow, with the help of the international community, the path of dialogue and negotiation which leads to lasting peace. Upon you and your people I cordially invoke an abundance of divine blessings.

[00242-02.02] [Original text: English]