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◆ **LE UDIENZE**

LE UDIENZE

Il Santo Padre ha ricevuto questa mattina in Udienza:

Ecc.mi Presuli della Conferenza Episcopale dell'Uganda, in Visita "ad Limina Apostolorum":

S.E. Mons. Paul K. Bakyenga, Arcivescovo di Mbarara

con il Vescovo emerito:

S.E. Mons. John Baptist Kakubi;

S.E. Mons. Egidio Nkaijanabwo, Cescovo di Kasese;

S.E. Mons. Deogratias Muganwa Byabazaire, Vescovo di Hoima

con il Vescovo emerito:

S.E. Mons. Albert Edward Baharagate;

S.E. Mons. Robert Muhirwa, Vescovo di Fort Portal

con l'Ausiliare:

S.E. Mons. Joseph Mugenyi Sabiiti, Vescovo tit. di Massimiana di Numidia

e con il Vescovo emerito:

S.E. Mons. Paul L. Kalanda;

S.E. Mons. Callistus Rubaramira, Vescovo di Kabale

con i Vescovi emeriti:

S.E. Mons. Robert Gay

S.E. Mons. Barnabas R. Halem 'Imana;

S.E. Mons. John Baptist Odama, Arcivescovo di Gulu;

S.E. Mons. Frederick Drandua, Vescovo di Arua;

S.E. Mons. Martin Luluga, Vescovo di Nebbi;

S.E. Mons. Joseph Oyanga, Vescovo di Lira.

Il Papa ha ricevuto oggi in Udienza:

Gruppo degli Ecc.mi Presuli della Conferenza Episcopale dell'Uganda, in Visita "ad Limina Apostolorum".

[01445-01.01]

VISITA "AD LIMINA APOSTOLORUM" DEI PRESULI DELLA CONFERENZA EPISCOPALE DELL'UGANDA

Pubblichiamo di seguito il discorso che il Santo Padre Giovanni Paolo II ha rivolto al gruppo degli Ecc.mi Presuli della Conferenza Episcopale dell'Uganda, incontrati questa mattina e ricevuti, nei giorni scorsi, in separate udienze, in occasione della Visita "ad Limina Apostolorum":

• DISCORSO DEL SANTO PADRE

Your Eminence,

Dear Brother Bishops,

1. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction" (2 Cor 1:3-4). With these words of Saint Paul I greet you, the Bishops of Uganda, as you come on pilgrimage to the Tombs of the Apostles. Your presence here today fills me with joy and brings back memories of my visit ten years ago to Uganda. Vividly etched in my mind are the various encounters with you and the faithful of your local communities, especially our gathering at the Shrine of the Ugandan Martyrs to celebrate the holy mysteries of our faith on "the very ground made sacred by their deaths" (Meeting with Ugandan Bishops, Kampala, 7 February 1993, 9).

Our meetings over these days are moments of grace for all of us as we rejoice in and strengthen the bonds of fraternal communion that unite us in the task of bearing witness to the Lord and spreading the Good News of salvation. To those among your number who are making their first *ad limina* visit to Rome I offer a special word of greeting. The last time the Ugandan Bishops were here as a body, there was but one ecclesiastical province in your country; now there are four metropolitan sees counting a total of 19 dioceses. This is a very positive sign of the work being done for Christ, the building up of his Church in your country, and is yet another cause for praising the holy name of Jesus (cf. Phil 2:10-11).

2. Sadly, parts of your country are currently embroiled in situations of armed conflict and anarchy. In the north especially, the bane of warfare is bringing untold misery, suffering and death, striking out even at the Church and targeting her ministers and her children. In the west and the northeast too episodes of violence and hostility afflict the land, draining the life and energies of your people. Assuring you and your people of my spiritual closeness in these dire circumstances, I join you in condemning every act of bloodshed and destruction. I make an urgent appeal to the parties involved to reject aggression and to commit themselves to working with their fellow citizens, courageously and in truth, to build a future of hope, justice and peace for all Ugandans.

The present political and social climate is a clarion call for concrete and far-reaching expressions of the collegial responsibility and communion that unite you in the service of the one "household of God" (Eph 2:19). I urge you to do all that you can to foster among yourselves a true spirit of solidarity and fraternal concern, especially by sharing resources, both material and spiritual, with other local Churches that are in need.

3. As Bishops, you have a serious duty to address issues of particular importance for the social, economic, political and cultural life of your country, to make the Church ever more effectively present in those areas. Working out the implications of the Gospel for Christian life in the world and applying it to new situations is crucial to your ecclesial leadership: this is the time for Catholics – together with other Christians – to bring the freshness of the Gospel to the struggle to defend and promote the fundamental values upon which a society truly worthy of man is built.

In this regard, I wish to encourage the efforts of your Conference in the spheres of health care, education, and development; these serve to show clearly the Church's commitment to the integral well-being of her sons and daughters and of all Ugandans regardless of religious creed. Worthy of particular mention are the various HIV/AIDS initiatives that, in complete harmony with the Church's teaching, seek to assist those affected by this disease and to keep the public duly informed about it.

4. If the Church is to assume her proper place in Ugandan society, suitable formation of the laity must be a priority in your mission as preachers and teachers. This spiritual and doctrinal formation should aim at helping laymen and women to carry out their prophetic role in a society that does not always recognize or accept the truth and values of the Gospel. The laity are also to be effectively involved in the life of the parish and diocese, in pastoral and administrative structures (cf. *Ecclesia in Africa*, 90). Your priests in particular should be prepared to welcome this more active role of the laity and to assist them in carrying it out. Especially important in this same context are efforts aimed at overcoming tribal conflicts and ethnic tensions; for such rivalries have no place in

the Church of Christ and serve only to weaken the overall fabric of society.

It is in fact the local Churches that "have a deep and incisive influence in bringing Gospel values to bear in society and culture" (*Novo Millennio Ineunte*, 29). This is the "pastoral revitalization" that I wrote about in my Apostolic Letter *Novo Millennio Ineunte* (*ibid.*), and it involves a renewal of the Christian community and of society that passes by way of the family. The strengthening of the communion of persons in the family is the great antidote to the self-indulgence and sense of isolation so prevalent today. All the more reason, then, to take to heart once more the urgent invitation that my predecessor Pope Paul VI addressed to every Bishop: "Work ardently and incessantly for the safeguarding and the holiness of marriage, so that it will always be lived in its entire human and Christian fullness" (*Humanae Vitae*, 30).

5. In seeking to meet the challenges of the future, attention to young people remains of paramount importance. "The future of the world and the Church belongs to the younger generation . . . Christ expects great things from young people" (*Tertio Millennio Adveniente*, 58). As the celebrations of World Youth Day clearly confirm, young people have a keen capacity to commit their energies and their zeal to the demands of solidarity with others and to the search for Christian holiness. The whole Catholic community must work to ensure that the younger generations are properly trained and adequately prepared to fulfil the responsibilities that will be theirs, and which in some ways already are theirs.

A strong commitment to Catholic schools is a particularly effective way of ensuring the proper formation of Ugandan youth. These schools should seek to provide the kind of educational environment where children and adolescents can grow to maturity imbued with love of Christ and the Church. The specific identity of Catholic schools should be reflected throughout the curriculum and in every area of school life, in order that they may be communities in which the faith is nourished and pupils are prepared for their mission in the Church and in society. It is important also to continue to seek ways to bring sound moral and religious teaching to the public schools as well, and to promote in public opinion a consensus regarding the importance of such training. This service, which can result from closer cooperation with the government, is a significant form of active Catholic participation in the social life of your country, especially as it is provided without religious or ethnic discrimination and with respect for the rights of all.

6. As your local Churches seek to fulfil the missionary mandate received from the Lord himself (cf. Mt 28:19), we cannot fail to give thanks for the vocations with which you are blessed. I exhort you to ensure that your vocational programmes zealously foster and protect this gift of God. Young candidates must receive a proper pastoral and theological formation that firmly roots them in a solid spiritual tradition and prepares them to meet the complex problems that the modernization of society presents. I encourage you to continue your efforts to provide qualified personnel to staff your formation centres, especially your five Major Seminaries.

Turning to those who are your closest co-workers in the Lord's vineyard, I remind you to help your priests to grow always in appreciation of the unique privilege of acting *in persona Christi*. As they come to devote themselves ever more completely to their mission in chastity and simplicity of life, their work will increasingly become a source of immeasurable joy and peace. With regard to the loneliness that can sometimes accompany the pastoral ministry, your priests should be encouraged, as much as the local situation permits, to live in common and direct their efforts entirely towards the sacred ministry. They should come together as often as possible – both among themselves and with you, their spiritual father – for a fraternal exchange of ideas, counsel and fellowship (cf. *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, 74).

The communities of men and women religious in Uganda also look to you for support and guidance: they too must be the object of your pastoral care and concern as shepherds of the flock that Christ has entrusted to you (cf. *Lumen Gentium*, 45; *Christus Dominus*, 15; 35). Nor can we fail to mention the catechists who play an essential part in meeting the spiritual needs of your communities, especially in those areas where there are simply not enough priests to preach the Gospel and exercise the pastoral ministry. They therefore need to have a deep awareness of their role and should be helped in every possible way to meet their responsibilities and obligations towards their own families.

7. Beloved Brothers in the Episcopacy, I pray that our time together will confirm you in the faith and encourage you to persevere in the work of Christ, the Shepherd and Guardian of our souls (cf. 1 Pet 2:25). Walk always with those entrusted to your pastoral care, showing them a father's love, especially those suffering the scourge of violence, the pain of AIDS, the affliction of any other of a host of situations bringing hardship and difficulty. Make it your aim always to bring your people to an ever deeper knowledge of their Christian faith and identity. For it is thus that the Church will be ever better equipped to make the saving truth of the Gospel effectively present in Ugandan society.

Our hope and confidence – like that of the Holy Martyrs who, both in the south and in the north of the country, bore the ultimate witness to Christ – are founded on the power of the Risen Lord, whose saving grace "does not disappoint" (Rom 5:5). Invoking upon you and the faithful of your local communities the heavenly assistance of the Ugandan Martyrs, and commending you to the intercession of Mary, the Mother of the Church, I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing.

[01446-02.01] [Original text: English]

RINUNCE E NOMINE • NOMINA DEL NUNZIO APOSTOLICO IN THAILANDIA, IN SINGAPORE ED IN CAMBOGIA E DELEGATO APOSTOLICO IN MYANMAR, IN LAOS, IN MALAYSIA E IN BRUNEI

Giovanni Paolo II ha nominato Nunzio Apostolico in Thailandia, in Singapore ed in Cambogia e Delegato Apostolico in Myanmar, in Laos, in Malaysia e in Brunei S.E. Mons. Salvatore Pennacchio, Arcivescovo titolare di Montemarano, finora Nunzio Apostolico in Rwanda.

[01448-01.01]

DICHIARAZIONE DI S.E. MONS JEAN-LOUIS TAURAN, SEGRETARIO PER I RAPPORTI CON GLI STATI

Lasciando la capitale della Georgia, Tblisi, il Segretario per i Rapporti della Santa Sede con gli Stati, S.E. Mons. Jean-Louis Tauran ha rilasciato ai giornalisti la dichiarazione che pubblichiamo di seguito:

• DICHIARAZIONE DI S.E. MONS. JEAN-LOUIS TAURAN

Al momento di lasciare la Georgia desidero esprimere la gratitudine della Delegazione della Santa Sede per l'ospitalità riservatela in questi due giorni.

Devo tuttavia lamentare che lo scopo della mia visita - la firma dell'accordo bilaterale tra la Georgia e la Santa Sede - non abbia potuto realizzarsi, a causa di un ripensamento delle Autorità georgiane, all'ultimo momento.

Di tale mancato impegno soffrirà principalmente la comunità cattolica di questo Paese, che rimane tuttora sprovvista di ogni garanzia giuridica e alla quale va tutta la nostra solidarietà.

La Delegazione della Santa Sede, inoltre, si è sentita gravemente ferita dall'atteggiamento della Chiesa ortodossa georgiana, la quale ha diffuso notizie non rispondenti a verità, nonostante le sia stata manifestata più volte la disponibilità ad informare sull'andamento delle trattative.

I summenzionati avvenimenti non mancheranno di causare grande sofferenza a Sua Santità Giovanni Paolo II il quale, in occasione della sua visita nel novembre 1999, invitata tutti gli abitanti di questo Paese, e in particolare i

cristiani, a collaborare uniti nella ricostruzione morale di questa grande Nazione.

La Santa Sede auspica che la Georgia, parte di importanti Convenzioni internazionali sui diritti umani, sappia rimediare a tale incresciosa situazione.

[01447-01.02] [Testo originale: Italiano]

**INTERVENTO DELLA SANTA SEDE ALLA 47a SESSIONE DELLA CONFERENZA GENERALE
DELL'AGENZIA INTERNAZIONALE DELL'ENERGIA ATOMICA (VIENNA, 15-19 SETTEMBRE 2003)**

Si è chiusa ieri a Vienna la 47a sessione della Conferenza Generale dell'Agenzia Internazionale dell'Energia Atomica (A.I.E.A.).

Riportiamo di seguito l'intervento pronunciato il 17 settembre u.s. dal Rev.mo Monsignor Leo Boccardi, Osservatore Permanente presso le Organizzazioni Internazionali a Vienna:

• INTERVENTO DI MONS. LEO BOCCARDI

Mr President,

The Delegation of the Holy See joins previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as President of the forty-seventh General Conference and would like also to express its appreciation for the Director General's leadership in this very important year for the Agency. The same expression of gratitude goes to the Secretariat and to the members of the Bureau for their dedicated service.

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. The news which daily assails us from various parts of the world has led to an increased sense of precariousness and fear in society. This is due, among other things, to terrorism, which appears to have launched a "war without end", to the current situation in Iraq and in the Holy Land, to the many scourges which threaten the security of our societies and to some dangerous trends in the fields of nuclear safety and security. The present moment of history brings about new challenges and new opportunities for the IAEA which has been dedicated since its foundation to the realisation and promotion of a vision of "Atoms for Peace" with the aim to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, their eventual elimination, and to share safe and secure nuclear technologies in peaceful applications for the benefit of humankind. All the three areas of the Agency's work: nuclear technology and technical cooperation programmes, nuclear safety and security, and nuclear verification, serve this one fundamental vision.

2. Peace is a building always under construction and the whole world is called 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 we should tirelessly foster a climate of trust, cooperation and respect between all States. An indispensable aspect of the concrete realization of a culture of life and peace is - in view of my Delegation -, the readiness for dialogue. My Delegation would like in this occasion to recall the central role of the principles of law as a guaranty of international relationships oriented towards promoting peace among nations. In this decisive moment of history, the spirit of legitimacy must be recuperated on the international scene. The return to the value of the law and to the institutions which should be in the position to secure its validity is the best way for preventing conflicts.

Mr President,

3. The International Atomic Energy Agency has rendered great services to its Member States and the entire international community. I would like now to touch on some fields of the Agency's work which my Delegation considers of great importance.

With regard to nuclear verification activities, let me mention those who worked or work as safeguards inspectors in different Member States. Their professionalism and engagement in trying to fulfill their mandates, especially the one under United Nations Security Council resolutions 687 (1991) and 707 (1991), resumed later in 2002 under Security Council resolution 1441, have certainly earned much estimation. The experiences of the last couple of months have made it clear that the Agency and its inspectors many times did a very fine job. This fact calls our attention to another necessary requirement for a successful functioning of nuclear verification and of the work of our inspectors: all involved parties should facilitate their mission, giving them enough time, material assistance, intelligence information and scientific support. In the same vein, we urge the Agency to strengthen its safeguards system to increase the likelihood of detecting any clandestine nuclear weapons programme.

4. The past year has been very challenging for the Agency in the field of verification. This core activity becomes more and more crucial in the efforts of the international community to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. It is important that verification is done through impartial, international inspections, because only such activities can generate credibility and bring about good results. However, to make the world more secure, verifying the actual situation in the nuclear weapons area is not enough: we need to reinvigorate the nuclear disarmament process including real progress in nuclear weapons dismantlement. In this context I would like to quote the words addressed by Pope John Paul II to the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Holy See: "International law, honest dialogue, solidarity between States, the noble exercise of diplomacy: these are methods worthy of individuals and nations in resolving their differences. I say this as I think of those who still place their trust in nuclear weapons and of the all-too-numerous conflicts which continue to hold hostage our brothers and sisters in humanity." (13 January 2003)

Mr President,

5. The increase in poverty, which is caused also by the lack of access to water, not only drinking water, for an ever growing number of people on the earth and the management of water resources of our planet call for new and innovative solutions. The Agency was elected to chair in the years 2002-2004 UN Water, an inter-agency co-ordination committee for fresh water. We commend the leadership of the Agency in UN Water; the active participation of IAEA staff has led to an increased number of joint programmes in this sphere. 40 years have passed since the Agency held its first international symposium on water resources; around 150 projects in 60 countries have been organized in this period to improve water management using isotope hydrology.

6. The Agency has been active in the field of using nuclear power for seawater desalination. To my Delegation, it seems to be a very good decision to focus the Agency's nuclear desalination activities to country specific projects. We urge the Agency to continue these activities in cooperation with interested Member States.

Mr President,

7. *Fugit irreparabile tempus* - wrote the poet Virgilius 2000 years ago. It means that every day we are getting older, but not only we, our nuclear installations as well. The decommissioning of nuclear plants and facilities is becoming a significant global activity. There are already some experiences in this context, but many questions are still open. As the Director General mentioned in his Report to the General Conference in document GC(47)/INF/3, "there is still no international agreement on some of the key 'end points' for decommissioning; in particular criteria for recycling or disposing of large amounts of very lightly contaminated construction materials and for releasing decontaminated land or buildings for general reuse". International negotiations are under way. We urge the Agency to take actively part in them, offering its vast experience and excellent human resources to bring the negotiations to a successful end.

To conclude, I would like to express the Holy See's appreciation of the Agency's efforts to put nuclear energy at the service of peace and of a sustainable and durable development for the entire human family.

Thank you, Mr President.

[01449-02.01] [Original text: English]
