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PRESSEAMT DES HEILIGEN STUHLS

BOLLETTINO

SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE

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TELEGRAMMA DEL SANTO PADRE ALLO SCEICCO GHAZI AJEEL AL-YAWAR, PRESIDENTE DELL'IRAQ, IN OCCASIONE DEL TRASFERIMENTO DEI POTERI AL GOVERNO AD INTERIM DELLO STATO DELL'IRAQ

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Pubblichiamo di seguito il telegramma inviato dal Santo Padre Giovanni Paolo II, tramite il Card. Angelo Sodano, Segretario di Stato, allo Sceicco Ghazi Ajeel Al-Yawar, Presidente dell'Iraq, in occasione del trasferimento dei poteri al Governo *ad interim* dello Stato dell'Iraq:

• TELEGRAMMA DEL SANTO PADRE

ON THE HAPPY OCCASION OF THE TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF IRAQ, THE HOLY FATHER SENDS HIS CORDIAL GREETINGS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AND TO THE CITIZENS OF YOUR COUNTRY. HE PRAYS THAT, AS A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS IN THE LIFE OF THE NATION, THE HOPES OF THE IRAQI PEOPLE FOR PEACE, FREEDOM AND PROSPERITY WILL SOON BE FULFILLED. HIS HOLINESS HAS ALWAYS BEEN DEEPLY CONCERNED FOR THE SUFFERING PEOPLE OF IRAQ. HE HAS EXPRESSED HIS SOLIDARITY WITH THEM ON MANY OCCASIONS, NOT LEAST THROUGH THE CONSTANT PRESENCE AMONG THEM OF HIS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, THE APOSTOLIC NUNCIO. NOW, AS YOU TAKE UP THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH THROUGHOUT THE WORLD OFFERS YOU EVERY SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT IN THE TASK OF BUILDING A NEW IRAQ. YOUR NOBLE COUNTRY, ONCE HOME TO ABRAHAM, IS NOW HOME TO A RICH VARIETY OF FAITH TRADITIONS. THE HOLY FATHER IS CONFIDENT THAT ALL RELIGIOUS GROUPS WITHIN THE COUNTRY WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD AND TO PLAY THEIR RIGHTFUL PART IN FORGING A NEW SOCIETY, COMMITTED TO TRUE FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE, TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND TO PEACEFUL DIALOGUE. ASSURING YOUR EXCELLENCY AND ALL THE IRAQI PEOPLE OF HIS PRAYERS, THE HOLY FATHER INVOKES UPON YOU THE ABUNDANT BLESSINGS OF ALMIGHTY GOD.

CARDINAL ANGELO SODANO, SECRETARY OF STATE

Analoghi telegrammi sono stati trasmessi dal Card. Angelo Sodano, Segretario di Stato, al Primo Ministro

dell'Iraq, S.E. il Sig. Iyad Allawi e dall'Arcivescovo S.E. Mons. Giovanni Lajolo, Segretario per i Rapporti con gli Stati, al Ministro per gli Affari Esteri dell'Iraq, S.E. il Sig. Hoshyar Zebari.

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