

Text of Pope Pius' Address

ROME, Feb. 25 (U.P.)—The text of the Pope's address before a papal audience for the College of Cardinals and the diplomatic corps:

Mr. Ambassador, the loftiness of thoughts and nobility of feelings which the illustrious diplomatic corps is expressing toward us through Your Excellency, who is an eloquent and delicate interpreter, are fitting at the height of this exceptionally solemn occasion.

The homage which you have desired to render us today moves us more deeply than we can express. In the meantime, to the great consolation of our heart and the great satisfaction of our soul, above this homage we see in this common action a manifestation of a spontaneous adherence to the great principles of peace and union which, since our election to the papacy, we have ever unceasingly recalled to the world.

We see in this action, above all, most convincing proof of the unanimous will to collaborate in this spirit in the great restoration of human society, and in the establishment of a new order founded on truth, justice and love.

Is it not that, in effect, which signifies this incomparable meeting of representatives of such a great number of nations united around us, so authorized by their official mission and at the same time so elevated because of their qualities and their personal merits in the presence of this Sacred College, which also is composed of members belonging to so many different nations spread over the entire surface of the globe.

Image of Supra-Nationality

This double universality of the Sacred College and of the diplomatic corps gives a visible image of the real supra-nationality of the church, which, far from casting a shadow on particular nationalities and from pretending to merge them all into gray uniformity, favors them on the contrary, and enhances, thanks to happy harmonization, the characteristics and resources of each in respect of their autonomy and their originality.

Happy harmonization, we say, and the comparison seems to us well adapted. It is the sort of harmony in which accompanying parts, in their vertical accords, do nothing else but underline with docility a melody and humbly help the singing of one or more soloists.

There is another one also. It results only from the concourse of all voices, which in the diversity of their tone, of their movement, of their elation, with their shades in expression of thought and of sentiment, singing each in its own manner that which common inspiration dictates to all of them.

This is the great classical polyphony. In the same manner must result the harmony of accord of all nations, great and small, strong and weak, different either by physiognomy or particular interests, but all equally entitled to have themselves heard because all of them are founded on the same basic personal dignity of complete man, because all of them are inflamed by the same desire for peace.

It may have seemed that this concert was silent everywhere while the drama was unfolding. It was not so, for although the deafening noise of arms was smothering it, we could not from here avoid hearing it. How can we forget the midnight masses of Christmas, how can we forget these imposing and grave ceremonies in the Basilica of St. Peter's, side by side with diplomats of nations most different, most distant, even belligerents among themselves, gathered around us?

Vatican an Oasis in War

A similar sight was impossible to be seen except here in the atmosphere created by the high idea of the supra-nationality of the church. Even more, during this war, which was the most horrible that ever unleashed itself or humanity, in the bosom of this world shaken by this hurricane which was devastating all, at the very center of this country tragically dragged into this choking whirlwind—this Vatican City, this tiny state with only a few walls and without defense, surrounded on all sides by broadsides and fire, resisted both territorially and juridically, but above all spiritually and morally, like an oasis of peace where the roaring wind did not dare cross the border.

We render to the Lord the humble actions of grace, but knowing also from our standpoint how difficult our effort for absolute impartiality was, and understanding our zeal in the service of peace, for the comprehension and tact of diplomats accredited to us we extend our thanks to them.

Your illustrious corps knew how to show, even in such an extraordinary and difficult situation, what is the role of diplomacy in its highest conception, and how, even above remarkable services which it renders for the friendly

solution of so many particular questions and so delicate problems, it represents the meeting point of the great family of nations. With exquisite finesse of sentiments, your spokesman has just recalled our efforts to solace

the innumerable and undescribable sufferings, miseries and distress deriving from the war; once more we wish to express our deep gratitude toward nations which have lent us their generous collaboration in these works of Christian charity.

He spoke also of messages and other steps renewed by us in view of defending and promoting "the great elementary principles of moral order, the rights of truth and of justice," and he gave us assurance at the same time that if "our voice was not always listened to, never was it without a deep echo in consciences."

Always Sought Peace

We believe it willingly, and every day we receive from the most diversified sources, as well as the most distant, comforting evidences. On no occasion have we wished to say a single unjust word, or fail in our duty to reprove all iniquities, all acts deserving reprobation, avoiding, nevertheless, even if the facts had justified it, this or that expression which might have caused more harm than good, especially to innocent people bowing under the iron rule of the oppressor. We have had the constant preoccupation of stopping a conflict so deadly for poor humanity.

It is for that, in particular, that we have refrained, despite certain tendentious influences, from expressing either by word or pen a single indication of approval or encouragement in favor of the war taken up against Russia in 1941.

Assuredly our silence cannot be counted upon when the faith or the foundations of Christian civilization are at stake.

But, on the other hand, there is no people to whom we do not wish with all the sincerity of our spirit that they live in dignity, in peace and in prosperity within their frontiers.

That which we have always had in view in all manifestations of our thought and will was to re-lead people from the cult of force to the respect of right and to promote among all peace, a just and solid peace, able to guarantee to all a life at least tolerable.

Suggestions for Diplomats

Such a peace will not be a day's work. It will take much time, much trouble. If one asks of us what can be done through diplomatic representations, independently of their official functions, to assist it, we would suggest to their good graces a double sphere of activity.

The first is of a practical nature; it concerns immediate accomplishments. Diplomats have, now that the war has ended, innumerable occasions of facilitating as much as possible communications and relations between countries. Now that millions of men, honest and eager to work, are waiting with anxious impatience the moment to return to their homes and their families, from which they have been sep-

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arated for so many long years, and others are sadly searching for a new fatherland where they can live a new life in new occupations, what work of charity and peace has been accomplished in coming to their aid?

In the other sphere, the fruit of the work will come much later. Often the diplomatic world finds itself in contact with world propaganda. But this propaganda must make for itself a holy and sacred law of truth and objectivity.

What a contribution is brought to the work of universal pacification by cooperating, as capable and generous diplomats know and can do, toward such a worthy goal!

On their part, our venerable brothers of the Sacred College, almost all shepherds of souls in their respective nations, will bring to it with the splendor of the Roman purple, the light of the church, one in its universality, universal in its undividable unity; they will bring with solicitude their devotion, the material heart of the church and tenderness to all men; they will bring it the zeal of the church in promoting the vitality, health and peace of human society and of every fatherland on the basis and according to the order established by the Creator, the all-powerful sovereign and all-loving Father.

It is He whom from the depths of our soul we invoke in order that, filling you with His benedictions and favors and making your mission fruitful, He may give by His accomplishments to each of your nations and to the great family of peoples and of nations unity, prosperity and great and divine peace.