



The Holy See

*MESSAGES OF JOHN PAUL II TO JACQUES POOS**

While the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the European Community are gathered under Your Excellency's presidency to examine the distressing developments of the situation in the Gulf region, I want to express to all how greatly I share their concerns. We are, indeed, in a situation in which conditions of the international order are unsettled and which, unfortunately, does not exclude the imminence of an armed confrontation with enforceable but certainly disastrous consequences.

Certainly, the international community does not intend to renounce the demanding duty to preserve international law and the values which give it force and authority but, at the same time, it is clear that the principle of equity demands that peaceful means such as dialogue and negotiation prevail over the recourse to instruments of devastating and terrifying death.

With these sentiments I ask Your Excellency to assure your colleagues of my fervent prayer that God may inspire them in their delicate task and give them the strength to express concretely their noble desire to maintain, through means that are worthy of the human person and in collaboration with the international community, the supreme good of peace and the demands of justice.

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