



The Holy See

ADDRESS OF THE HOLY FATHER PAUL VI TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE*

Friday, 31 January 1975

Gentlemen,

At the end of this study session and before returning to your countries, you wished to meet us, together with those in charge of the course and with your families, whom we greet with pleasure.

The work of your session, while developing the technical knowledge and the widened experience that your professional duty requires, has deepened, we hope, the ties between you all: ties of positive solidarity between converging missions, cultural ties, ties of friendship. In this way you will be able to contribute to the progress of concord and collaboration, which make it possible to overcome psychological economic and social difficulties.

You know that the Catholic Church attaches great importance to persons and peoples. She has even made them one of the subjects of this Holy Year inviting all men to an effort of rapprochement, reconciliation and peace, beyond the tensions that our world is continually creating or fostering.

On all of you, on your families and your fellow countrymen, we implore the Lord's blessings? the joy of knowing Him better and better in renewal of heart, in the joy of seeing the full development of all the members of your families – we are thinking particularly of the future of the rising generations – thanks to service in peace. These are our fervent wishes for all of you, in prayer, believing that they will bring a note of comfort and hope to the many memories that you will take away with you.

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