



The Holy See

**ADDRESS OF PAUL VI
TO THE MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Sunday, 17 August 1969

Dear friends,

To receive a visit from persons of such distinction is an honor which We appreciate, and We are grateful for this opportunity of meeting with you.

With the whole world We watched as two of your fellow countrymen made mankind's first footsteps on soil outside this planet. We are constantly aware of the assistance your country is giving to other lands struggling to develop their resources. Indeed, few countries can have had similar weight in deciding the fortunes of the whole human race.

Because of this importance, We ask you to encourage your fellow citizens to use their nation's power and influence wisely and generously, with a view to the true welfare of all men. We pray that they may be inspired by such noble idealism, and We invoke upon you, on your dear ones, and on your country, God's richest blessings.