



The Holy See

***ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS PIUS XII
TO DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA****

Friday, 2 November 1945

We extend a very hearty welcome to you, distinguished representatives all of your country, though in various fields of service. One field, however, it would seem, attracts you all, and in that field the honourable Senator here has attained recognized authority. We are thinking of the field of international relations and international law.

It is a question of immense, vital importance at all times, but especially today, when so many noble, praiseworthy efforts are being made to establish a firm and enduring peace between the peoples of this world. For it is international law that must make secure and defend the life of that peace; but an international law which recognizes its foundation in that natural law written by God in the conscience of every man, and from it derives ultimately its binding force. The alternative is the law of the stronger; and then the defences of peace will collapse under the first attack launched by those for whom might makes right.

Hence all men sincerely desirous of peace will pray that the Holy Spirit may illumine the minds of the leaders and legislators of nations, and strengthen their hands to set the longed-for peace squarely on the basis of God's law. It is Our daily prayer, welling up from a heart filled with love for all men. God grant it. As an expression of that same love We implore heaven's choicest blessings on you and on all who are near and dear to you.

**Discorsi e radiomessaggi, VII p.259.*

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