

memoria: Teresa di Gesù Bambino. A lei, patrona delle missioni, e ai nuovi Santi affidiamo oggi la missione della Chiesa all'inizio del terzo millennio.

Maria, Regina di tutti i Santi, sostenga il cammino dei cristiani e di quanti sono docili allo Spirito di Dio, perché in ogni parte del mondo si diffonda la luce di Cristo Salvatore.

## PACTIO

### **Inter Sanctam Sedem atque Consilium pro Liberatione Palaestinae**

#### **BASIC AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE HOLY SEE AND THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION**

##### *Preamble*

The Holy See, the Sovereign Authority of the Catholic Church, and the Palestine Liberation Organization (hereinafter: PLO), the Représentative of the Palestinian People working for the benefit and on behalf of the Palestinian Authority:

Deeply aware of the special significance of the Holy Land, which is *inter alia* a privileged space for inter-religious dialogue between the followers of the three monotheistic religions;

Having reviewed the history and development of the relations between the Holy See and the Palestinian People, including the working contacts and the subsequent establishment — on October 26, 1994 — of official relations between the Holy See and the PLO;

Recalling and confirming the establishment of the Bilateral Permanent Working Commission to identify, study and address issues of common interest between the two Parties;

Reaffirming the need to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, so that all its nations live as good neighbours and work together to achieve development and prosperity for the entire région and all its inhabitants;

Calling for a peaceful solution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, which would realize the inalienable national legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian People, to be reached through negotiation and agreement, in order to ensure peace and security for all peoples of the région on the

basis of international law, relevant United Nations and its Security Council resolutions, justice and equity;

Declaring that an équitable solution for the issue of Jerusalem, based on international resolutions, is fundamental for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and that unilateral décisions and actions altering the specific character and status of Jerusalem are morally and legally unacceptable;

Calling, therefore, for a special *Statute* for Jerusalem, internationally guaranteed, which should safeguard the following:

- a. Freedom of religion and conscience for all.
- b. The equality before the law of the three monotheistic religions and their institutions and followers in the City.
- c. The proper identity and sacred character of the City and its universally significant, religious and cultural héritage.
- d. The Holy Places, the freedom of access to them and of worship in them.
- e. The Regime of "Status Quo" in those Holy Places where it applies;

Recognizing that Palestinians, irrespective of their religious affiliation, are equal members of Palestinian society;

Concluding that the achievements of the aforementioned Bilateral Permanent Working Commission now amount to appropriate matter for a first and Basic-Agreement, which should provide a solid and lasting foundation for the continued development of their présent and future relations, and for the furtherance of the Commission on-going task,

*Agréé on the following Articles:*

### Artide 1

Paragraph 1;

The PLO affirms its permanent commitment to uphold and observe the human right to freedom of religion and conscience, as stated in the Universal Déclaration of Human Rights and in other international instruments relative to its application.

Paragraph 2:

The Holy See affirms the commitment of the Catholic Church to support this right and states once more the respect that the Catholic Church has for the followers of other religions.

## Artide 2

### Paragraph 1:

The Parties are committed to appropriate coopération in promoting respect for human rights, individual and collective, in combating all forms of discrimination and threats to human life and dignity, as well as to the promotion of understanding and harmony between nations and communities.

### Paragraph 2:

The Parties will continue to encourage inter-religious dialogue for the promotion of better understanding between people of différent religions.

## Artide 3

The PLO will ensure and protect in Palestinian Law the equality of human and civil rights of all **Citizens**, including specifically, *inter alia*, their freedom from discrimination, individually or collectively, on the ground of religious affiliation, belief or practice.

## Artide 4

The regime of the "Status Quo" will be maintained and observed in those Christian Holy Places where it applies.

## Artide 5

The PLO recognizes the freedom of the Catholic Church to exercise her rights to carry out, through the necessary means, her functions and traditions, such as those that are spiritual, religious, moral, charitable, educational and cultural.

## Artide 6

The PLO recognizes the rights of the Catholic Church in economic, legal and fiscal matters: these rights being exercised in harmony with the rights of the Palestinian Authorities in these fields.

**Article 7**

Full effect will be given in Palestinian Law to the legal personality of the Catholic Church and of the canonical legal persons.

**Article 8**

The provisions of this Agreement are without préjudice to any agreement hitherto in force between either Party and any other party.

**Article 9**

The Bilateral Permanent Working Commission, in accordance with such instructions as may be given by the respective Authorities of the two Parties, may propose further ways to address items of this Agreement.

**Article 10**

Should any controversy arise regarding the interprétation or the application of provisions of the présent Agreement, the Parties will résoudre it by way of mutual consultation.

**Article 11**

Done in two original copies in the English and Arabie languages, both texts being equally authentic. In case of divergency, the English text shall prevail.

**Article 12**

This Agreement shall enter into force from the moment of its signature by the two Parties.

Signed in the Vatican, fifteenth of February, 2000

Mgr. **CELESTINO MIGLIORE**

*For the Holy See*

Dr. **EMILE JARJOU**

*For the Palestine Liberation Organization*

*Haec pactio vigere incepit die XV ni. Februarii anno MM, ex quo a duabus partibus subsignata est.*

PACTIO

Inter Sanctam Sedem atque Consilium pro Liberatione Palaestinae

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Dr. EMILE JARJOU

Mgr. CELESTINO MIGLIORE

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