



November 23, 2005

His Excellency Pope Benedict XVI  
Apostolic Palace, Vatican City

Your Excellency,

It is my honor to represent the Global Security Institute and the International Peace Bureau (IPB) at the Holy See. I present you with the transcript of an address by the Honorable Douglas Roche, O.C. to the United States Catholic Bishops' Panel on November 11, 2005. In 1995, His Holiness Pope John Paul II presented him with the Papal Medal for his service as Special Adviser on disarmament and security matters. In 1998, the Holy See named him a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Gregory the Great. He is also Chairman of Middle Powers Initiative, a program of Global Security Institute and a Vice President of the IPB.

I also submit for your appreciation an article from the Brigham Young Law Review titled "Nuclear Weapons, Ethics, Morals, and Law" which sets forth both legal and moral aspects of the issue.

Contained in the Commandment not to kill, contained in the eternal message of the Gospel, is the admonition to treat each life as sacred. Surely, nuclear weapons, which threaten all life, are a moral taint on humanity's endeavors. The Holy See has a long history regarding nuclear weapon's policies and Senator Douglas Roche's speech brings it up to date with stunning and inspiring moral clarity.

If destroying innumerable innocent lives through these devices is unacceptable, can we not begin to seriously consider that threatening to perform the unacceptable might also not withstand the scrutiny of moral analysis? I plead with you to reflect on the matters set forth in these articles in the hopes of your exercising leadership in the awakening of a great swell of public support to bring rudimentary ethics into government policies. I pray that we are able to do this together, with God's blessing, before it is too late.

Humbly,

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