

Madam President,

Today's world and the ideology of power

1. Not so long ago it appeared that our world was growing, at a pace
[redacted] Today's reality, by contrast

[redacted]

appears more and more fractured. Our efforts to overcome divisions and to harmonize differences have been hesitant. As the recent struggle between Israel and Hezbollah has tragically demonstrated, it is not so much the want of peacemaking and peacekeeping experience and resources which leaves vulnerable non-combatants to suffer and die; prior to this there exists the

2. This Organization was founded on a very different understanding of human affairs. Peace can only be achieved by shared labours aimed at

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securing a decent and dignified life for all. Due to the East-West struggle, the United Nations was able to achieve only an impoverished sort of peace. Recently the Secretary-General's proposals set this Organization on the path of reform; its lofty goals, however, will be reached only by overcoming the narrow confines imposed by the dominance of national interests so that we may once

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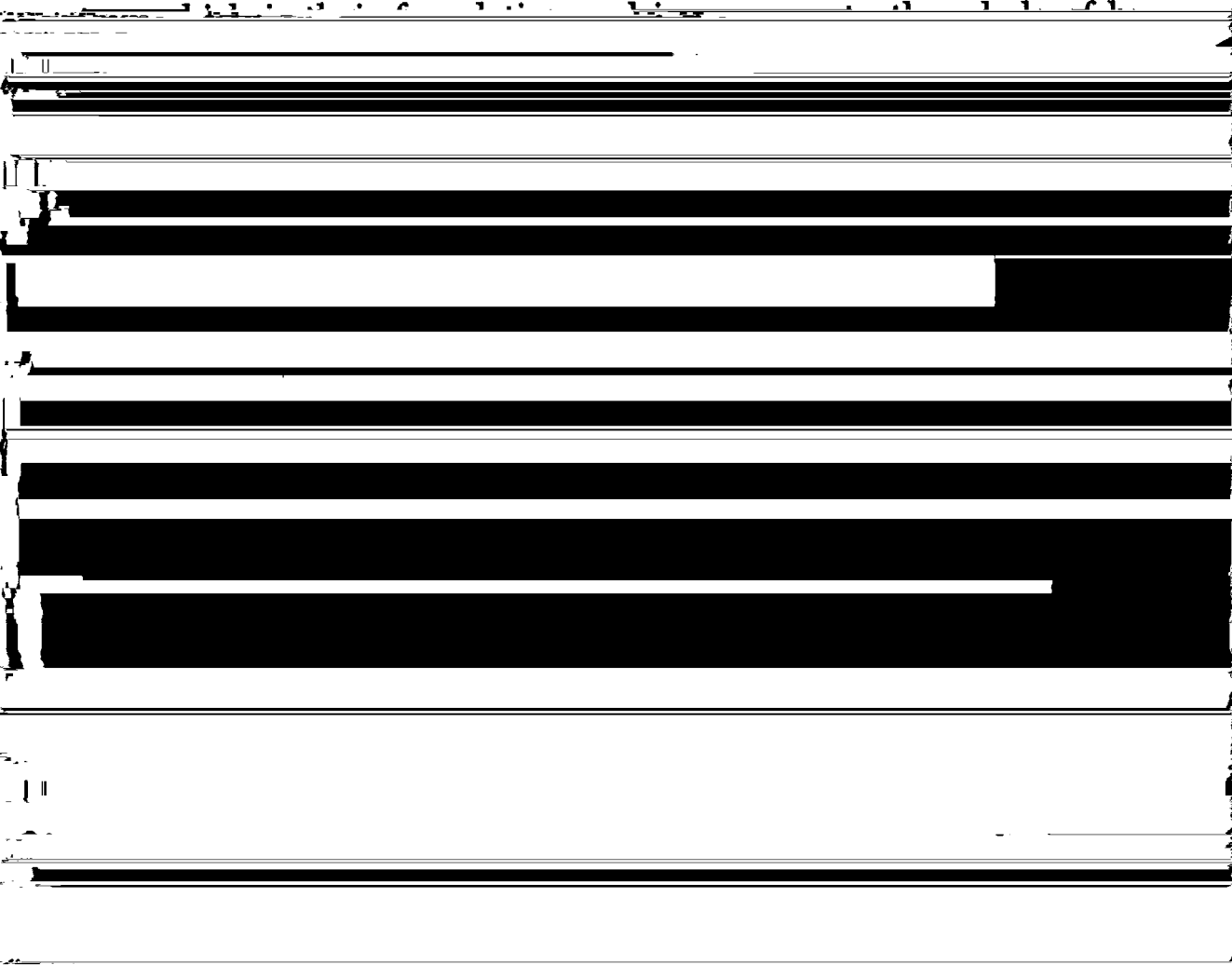
As history has shown, for lack of sufficient capacity of intervention and

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“pointless massacres”, to repeat a famous phrase of Benedict XV, Pope during the First World War. The late Pope Paul VI’s appeal, uttered in this Hall on 4th

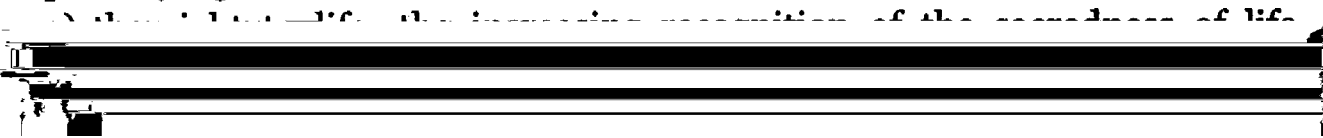
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and the citizens of every nation. The diversity among cultures allows for differences in emphasis and implementation of human rights, but the human



society, permits no basic human right to be eclipsed or subordinated for the sake of other rights. Every Government must clearly understand: violation of the fundamental rights of the person cannot be removed from the attention of the international community under the pretext of the inviolability of a State's internal affairs.

Among fundamental human rights, I would like to draw attention to three primary rights:



authentic, religion is a vital force for harmony and peace among peoples. It appeals to the noblest in people's nature. It binds up the wounds of war, both physical and psychological. It provides sanctuary to refugees and hospitality to migrants. It weaves bonds of solidarity that overcome every form of mistrust, and through forgiveness it lends stability to once divided societies.

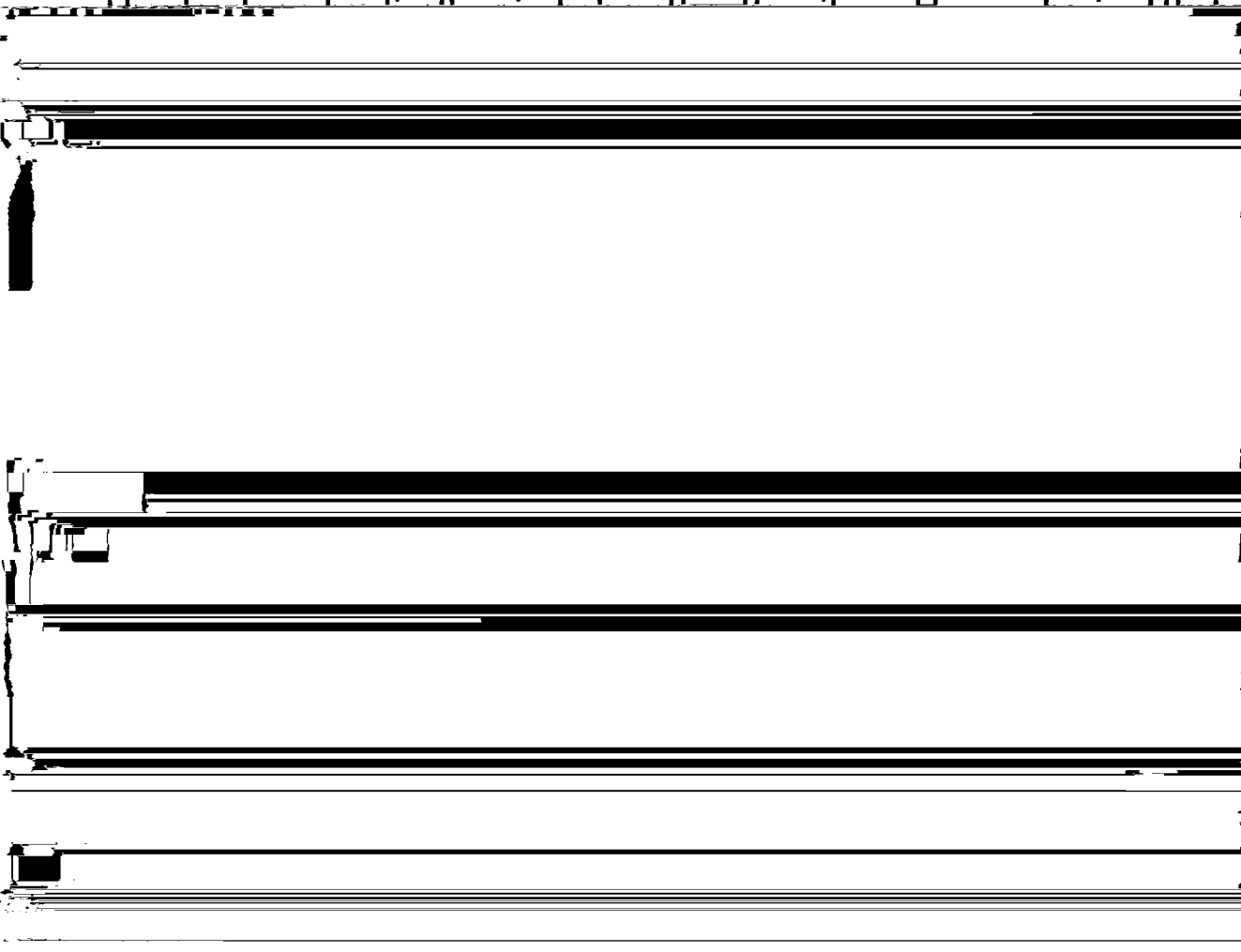
Twenty years ago, the late Pope John Paul II brought together the leaders of the world's religions to pray and to bear witness to peace. That collective witness was renewed in 1993 during the Bosnian war and in 2002 following the September 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

More recently, on the 23rd of July of this year, faced with the spreading war in Lebanon, Pope Benedict XVI invited Christians and all believers to join him in a day of prayer and penitence, imploring God for the gift of peace for the Holy Land and the Middle East.

In this last generation, the world's religions, their leaders and their adherents have shown themselves time and again to be willing to dialogue and to promote harmony among peoples.

fruitful cooperation in the service of all humanity...respect and dialogue require reciprocity in all spheres, especially in that which concerns basic freedoms, more particularly religious freedom”.

If, on the one hand, religious motivation for violence, whatever its source,



in political life one cannot disregard the contribution of the religious vision of the world and of humanity. In fact, as the Pope affirmed, were reason to

