



Department of Social Development and World Peace

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August 25, 1995

His Eminence  
Cardinal Augusto Vargas Alzamora  
Archbishop of Lima  
President, Episcopal Conference of Perú

His Excellency  
José Mario Ruíz Navas  
Archbishop of Portoviejo  
President, Episcopal Conference of Ecuador

Your Eminence, Your Excellency,

In the name of the Committee on International Policy of the U.S. Catholic Conference, it is a pleasure to send this expression of admiration and of prayerful best wishes on the occasion of the binational **Days of Peace** that your two Conferences are celebrating, both in Ecuador on August 27 and in Peru on August 30.

The long-standing border dispute between your two countries, which tragically exploded into brief but bloody conflict last January, has still to be settled. Thankfully, the truce that took effect on March 1 has held, and the document of agreement, signed in both capitals on July 26, exactly six months after the fighting began, augurs well for the path of peace.

Repeated declarations from your two Conferences, from CELAM, and from the Inter-American Bishops Meeting, which met in Rio de Janeiro at the time of the hostilities, have all been eloquent in denouncing the futility, waste and devastation of war and called on the leaders of both countries, as well as the four Rio Protocol guarantor countries, to pursue dialogue as the only road to peace.

I pray that these Days of Peace that you celebrate in each other's country will strengthen the resolve of all parties to move forward as neighbors to find the needed and mutually acceptable settlement of the dispute. May the spirit of St. Rose of Lima and of St. Marianita of Quito continue to guide the peoples of Ecuador and Peru along the way of fraternal solidarity and lasting peace.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel P. Reilly  
Bishop of Worcester  
Chairman, USCC Committee on  
International Policy