

# PEACE

Resolution on

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Catholic Church, National Conference  
of Catholic Bishops.  
Resolution on peace. ADV1390

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The National Conference of Catholic Bishops meeting in Washington last year said in their statement on Peace issued on November 18, 1966, "There is a grave danger that the circumstances of the present war in Vietnam may in time diminish our moral sensitivity to its evils." The intervening time and the reactions of responsible segments of our society have proved that the moral sensitivity of the American people has not diminished but in fact increased and intensified. We interpret this as a witness of the ever-deepening yearning of the American people for peace and an increasing horror of the evils of war.

This longing for peace has been expressed in extreme reactions for and against our presence in Vietnam. This has resulted in considerable division among our people. Our deep concern for our people on the battlefield as well as on the home front forces us to plead for more rational debate and greater solicitude for mutual understanding. In the longing for peace we ought not to forget our moral and civic responsibilities. We embrace with great compassion the peoples of the lands who suffer the hardships of prolonged war.

We acknowledge gratefully the repeated efforts of our government to negotiate a termination of conflict. Despite the rebuffs to these efforts, our government is urged to continue with even greater determination and action in the cause of negotiation. We extend this plea to the governments of the world and urge them to join earnestly in the search for a just and lasting peace.

We wish it understood that we are not pleading for peace at any price—we are pleading and praying for that peace recently described by Pope Paul as "never to be separated from justice for nations nor from freedom for citizens and peoples."

November 16, 1967