

## **Irak-Konflikt**



### **STATEMENT FROM SECAM AGAINST WAR IN IRAQ (Episcopal Conference of Africa & Madagascar.)**

March 18, 2003

Today, mankind is living in generalized dread, anxiety and insecurity, following terrorism, growing conflict and massive human rights violations in the world.

Moreover war, which has become the daily experience of the entire peoples, is unceasingly impoverishing and fomenting unbearable misery for uncountable nations, namely in Africa.

In the meantime, huge sums of money are being poured over armament by several States, while the end of cold war and horrible dictatorship could have had as consequence disarmament and fraternity between peoples. Besides, with all the riches it has today at its disposal, mankind could efficiently fight for the eradication of poverty on our planet.

In this regard, having in mind the dreadful apocalyptic picture of a potential war in Iraq, and seeing the many innocent victims such a war may make as well as hatred and resentment between peoples and religions this conflict will create, the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) raises its voice, united with the Holy Father and many Bishops in the world to ask the top decision makers in the world to give precedence to peaceful solutions. Thus, the Iraqi people will be spared and the world shall be saved from the hardships and unpredicted consequences of this war.

Indeed, "war is always a defeat for humanity" (Pope John Paul II). In the present case, it may sweep out the efforts people have made so far to set international law and order to rule peoples' and States conduct. A unilateral approach cannot but jeopardise peace, geopolitics, law, justice and equity.

Given in Accra, 10 March 2003

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