

(English translation)

Stuttgart, 8 May 2004

A United Europe for a United World

Chiara's speech at the "Together for Europe" day event

Your eminences, your excellencies, various authorities, ladies and gentlemen, friends, brothers and sisters. Today we have spoken of Europe, and in particular, of a Europe of the spirit. We have seen the contribution that we can give towards its realization, for example, through the spiritual or charismatic Movements and Communities.

At this point we could ask ourselves: have we exhausted everything that was to come out of this Stuttgart event?

The founding fathers of a united Europe did not have Europe in mind as the ultimate end of their work towards union. In fact, the Schuman Plan asserts that "Europe, with more means available, will be able to carry forward one of its essential tasks: the development of the African continent,"¹ which we heard a lot about today.

Their vision of Europe is that of a family of sister nations, but open to a universal mission. Europe wants to achieve its unity in order to contribute also to the unity of the human family.

The unity of the human family....

Some people may think that to propose the unity of the human family is nothing more than an illusory hope. I would say that it is not, because to aim at a united world is required by a sign of the times. In fact, the joining together of States in different parts of the world is already happening, in response to a pressing demand. There is a growing relationship between States in all the continents: for example the recent *African Union* and the *Iberian-American Conferences*. There are also the international organizations with a universal vocation, starting from the United Nations, whose role is decisive, with the gathering of all the States, in order to know, face and manage the main questions which touch the lives of peoples and Countries.

And so, to want a united Europe in order to arrive at a united world can be one of those final contributions to our thoughts here in Stuttgart.

In order to keep in step with the times and with God and His plans, for Europe and the world, let us ask ourselves what is the ideal way for us to act?

We have already spoken of it but it might help to repeat it to one another: the ideal way to act is to translate into life immediately that foundation stone of universal brotherhood, and to do so by living "the art of loving" that we spoke about. This art can and must be lived out also in politics, an indispensable contribution to reach the united world.

We should point out that while the charismatic Movements are primarily religious, they have often given special attention to the political world, involving in the novelty of life citizens, politicians from different parties, officials, diplomats, all subjects involved in politics. The aim of politicians who adhere to Movements seek to live in fraternity always and on this basis to be open to the profound, eternal values of the human person, and to take political action only afterwards. The choice to become politically active is an act of love by which they respond to a personal calling, or they provide an answer to a social need, to a problem in their city, to the sufferings of the people, to the needs of their times.

Believers discern that it is God Himself who calls them; those with non-religious convictions respond to a human need that awakens their conscience.

¹.Robert Schuman, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, *Declaration in the Hall of the Clock of Paris*, May 9, 1950.

Furthermore, these politicians are not satisfied with loving on their own; they seek to lead others to love, allies or adversaries, because politics is relationship, it is shared projects.

A further expression of fraternity in politics is to love the country of others as we love our own. In fact, humanity's greatest dignity would be to no longer feel that it is a collection of peoples living side by side and frequently in conflict with one another, but rather, through mutual love, it is a single people enriched by one another's diversity and in unity, safeguarding each one's identity. (Applause)

Certainly all these aspects of love, which build fraternity, require sacrifice. It is here then that carrying one's cross is the condition sine qua non. This is precisely because politicians are also people who must take upon themselves the rifts and wounds of their people.

So then a good and useful conclusion to the Stuttgart Day "Together for Europe" will be that all of us, ordinary citizens and politicians, seriously propose, with a child-like faith in the Gospel, to begin living universal brotherhood in Europe as a stepping stone to a united world. Yes, it is a step towards a united world! (Applause)

For this mission... for this mission what inspires us in our spirit and behaviour is Jesus' testament, his long prayer to the Father before he died. From this clearly emerges that unity of the human family, as part of God's plan since the creation, is able to overcome the evident divisions, not only the territorial ones, but also those fruit of political choices, ethnical, religious and linguistic conditions (see *ICor* 12). Taking off from this premise, we understand how Jesus' testament contains the seed of every form of integration and unity among peoples, unity is the method to reach it: mutual love. The consequence is the refusal of discrimination, wars, controversies, nationalisms, claims of national interests and the demand to place the goods of creation, God's gifts, at all peoples' disposal: it's the idea of "communion," of universal brotherhood under way.

John Paul II, in his Message on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the End of the Second World War in 1995, addressing himself to young people, wrote: "You have been given the mission of opening new paths to fraternity among peoples, and building a single human family. ... May this appeal resound in the heart of everyone: Love other countries as you love your own!" (Applause)

Your eminencies, your excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, brothers and sisters, and members of the Movements and groups here present, a politician, who may be here, some time ago communicated his thoughts about this day, which is our hope:

"The living reality of the Movements," he said, "which flows underground like magma, like molten lava across the life of the continent, must pierce through the crust and make its fire clearly visible, so that society and in particular the political world may be shaken and altered by it. (Applause) A sort of short circuit must be created which puts society and politics in contact in a way that enables true life to have an effect on society so much so that it can no longer be disregarded." He says, "Stuttgart could be this occasion."

May the Lord make it so! Thank you for your attention. (Applause)

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