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**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE HOLY SEE
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE**

**STATEMENT BY MONSIGNOR MICHAEL W. BANACH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HOLY SEE,
AT THE 848th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 JANUARY 2011

**RE: TERRORIST ATTACK AT DOMODEDOVO AIRPORT'S
INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL (RUSSIAN FEDERATION)**

Mister Chair,

1. In a telegram sent Tuesday to the President of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Mr. Dmitry Medvedev, Pope Benedict XVI firmly condemned last Monday's suicide bombing in Moscow's Domodedovo Airport.

"After receiving the tragic news of the attack," the telegram stated, "Pope Benedict expressed deep sorrow and strong condemnation of this serious act of violence, and he desired to express my spiritual closeness and deep condolences to the victims." At the same time, "Pope Benedict XVI assures his fervent prayers for the dead and, asking the Lord for heavenly consolation as they mourn their tragic loss, he sends greetings and blessings, keeping in mind all those who were injured."

A similar telegram was also sent to President Medvedev by His Eminence Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Secretary of State.

2. I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm that the Holy See, in condemning all acts of terrorism, believes that terrorism will only be effectively confronted through a concerted multilateral action that respects the *ius gentium*. The causes of terrorism are varied and complex: political, social and cultural factors, including those connected to religious pretexts. For this reason, a long-term action is ever more necessary and urgent, one that uses foresight and patience in dealing with the roots of terrorism, preventing its spread and extinguishing its destructive and contagious force. The activities of the OSCE can significantly help to bolster commitment in this direction. The Holy See indeed offers its own specific contribution, in accordance with its nature and mission, through catholic educational and social institutions, as well as through inter-religious dialogue and the defense and promotion of the dignity of the human person.

Thank you, Mister Chair.