

APOSTOLAT MILITAIRE INTERNATIONAL

-AMI -

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Closing Remarks **Handover of the Presidency**

1. As of today the Presidency of AMI will be handed over to Spain. I would lie if I said that I am happy about this. But two good reasons for this have to be mentioned. First it is better for me to concentrate on one responsibility – in this case CICO - and second, for AMI, as for every organisation, it is wise to change responsibility to be inspired by new ideas.
2. It is my desire to **thank** the team which has done a tremendous job, the two Vice-Presidents Brigadier General Dr. Kurt Landl, this year replaced by LtCol Martin Jawurek, and Chief-Warrant-Officer Leopold Ganster, the Secretary General Colonel Jürgen Bringmann with Colonel Franz Thiele, LtCol GS Ralf Wittkamp, and beyond all of them our Ecclesiastical Assistant Professor Don Luis Martínez Fernández. Thanks also to our Spanish friends, especially to General De La Puente and to Cpt Bittini for their fast reaction in a new situation and for the supporting team, especially Lydia, Fernando and Vicente.
3. A handover is not the best opportunity for long advices, therefore let me restrict myself to a short evaluation of the situation of AMI and to a few points:
Evaluation of the situation AMI:
 - ✓ For 30 years AMI was dealing with issues which focussed on “military” and “catholic” in a more or less AMI internal process
 - ✓ - 1995 we began to discuss on a ecumenical co-operation
 - ✓ 2000, with the “Declaration of Rome”, concerning the “Catholic Soldier in the Third Millennium”, a project open to other churches and to the international community was launched
 - ✓ 2002 a development began which should help us finding answers and solutions to the catastrophic world-wide situation as described in the paper of our friends from Congo-Brazzaville. CICO, to which AMI belongs is THE catholic organisation which is engaged in really all issues and problems addressed in the paper. Should we not profit from the possibilities this opens?

Now to **the few points** which I strongly suggest to take into consideration:

- tighten the net of **co-operation** between the members of AMI, to know each other
- increase the efficiency of AMI – all capable AMI – members **MUST** contribute
- give younger people responsibility and a chance in AMI – it is their future
- include **new members**, if some can not come to the conferences keep them informed. E-mail and web-sites are helpful
- foster the **ecumenical, inter-religious and international** co-operation – AMI must participate in a **UN – body**, where we have competence, if possible together with other ICOs
- keep **our project alive**. The follow up during these days is a means to do so.- make it known in your Armed Forces and your country
- tackle with **burning issues** like Global/Regional/ Ideological/ Religious/ Political/ Economic/ Psychological and Terrorist Violence. It is not only Al Quaida or ETA, it is also the predominance of a few who exploit our resources. What can we, AMI and the military, contribute?
- Why don't we **make use of the CICO** with its 200 Mio members, its 40 international organisations, a body which tackles with all the issues we have touched upon in the final presentation of the Working – Groups - CICO - **a body of which we, that is AMI, have the presidency and is responsible for?**

Let me repeat again. **CICO is the chance for AMI and the military**, we can let it pass by, then we in all probability will be without any interest for others, or **take it**. A decision for the second option demands

- Our belief in the strength of our faith which lives in all our endeavours
- a dynamic AMI as example for the other ICOs and
- direct support by cooperation with the Presidency of CICO which is under the responsibility of AMI.

Therefore you don't get rid of me immediately, but nevertheless thank you all for the interesting and motivating days we had together.

I wish the **Spanish Presidency** with BG Miguel Alonso Baquer and his team and with this all of us, all the best, an increase in number of members, influence in international bodies and results for a better future. With this I **hand over** the responsibility to you; you will be supported by an experienced Secretary General. . My heart will be with you.

Yours In our Lord sincerely

Ernest König

Past-President AMI and President of CICO