

Hiroshima Appeal

We, the representatives of 98 cities from 23 countries, gathered in Hiroshima, have held the 1st World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity to contribute to the efforts of creating a genuine peace free from nuclear weapons.

On this day forty years ago, the first atomic bomb ever used in history against humanity devastated the City of Hiroshima in an instant and deprived many people of their precious lives. It still imposes the suffering of its aftereffects on the A-bomb survivors. Through a careful observation of the true nature of A-bombing, we have realized that the nuclear catastrophe is unimaginably overwhelming. We have acutely felt that the tragedy shall never be repeated.

We take the experience of Hiroshima as our own and consider it not as a mere incident of the past but as a warning to the future of humankind. We have pledged ourselves to exert our utmost efforts toward the total abolition of nuclear arsenals and the attainment of lasting world peace. We have pledged to unite ourselves by establishing firm bonds of friendship and solidarity, transcending national boundaries, ideologies, and creeds in order to secure the lives and properties of our people and bequeath to future generations the history and culture of our cities, which took thousands of years to develop.

The total abolition of nuclear weapons must be given first priority. We urgently support an immediate and complete ban on nuclear testing and we shall positively endorse various activities such as the creation of nuclear free zones and the declaration nuclear-free cities. We shall make efforts in evoking the international public concern for the total abolition of nuclear weapons preventing militarization of outer space. Moreover, we shall work for the elimination of starvation and poverty in the spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation. We shall urge the leaders of the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. to respect each other's initiative to reduce nuclear arms and to stop testing, improvement and production of nuclear weapons. We call upon all nations to take corresponding measures. We shall urge the United Nations to hold the Third Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly devoted to Disarmament as soon as possible. We shall carry out various programs so that "International Peace Year" next year will produce rewarding results.

In the name of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, we hereby make this appeal. The people of the world, especially leaders of all nations, should visit Hiroshima to learn the true nature of atomic bombing. All people should reaffirm the true value of peace and life, and overcome distrust and confrontation so as not to repeat the evil. We must lay a well-established foundation for lasting world peace through inter-city and inter-people solidarity.

We envisage that the Conference shall be a permanent organization, whose secretariat could be located in the City of Hiroshima, so that the "Torch of Peace" will be kept burning in the hope that more and more cities will assemble in Hiroshima in the future.

August 6, 1985

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Peace through Inter-city Solidarity