

Nagasaki Appeal

The first and foremost victims of war are cities and their inhabitants.

On the basis of our common duty to ensure safe and peaceful living conditions for our citizens, we, the representatives of 91 cities from 24 countries, have gathered here in Nagasaki to hold the 2nd World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity.

We obtained new insights into the reality of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings and the sufferings of the survivors. We conducted intensive discussions on the theme "Sharing Thoughts About the Present Issues of World Peace" and looked into the questions of what is presently threatening peace, what must be done to achieve peace, and what can be done by cities and their inhabitants.

At the first conference four years ago, we confirmed the fact that cities have an extremely important role in the establishment of peace. We promised to strengthen the bonds of inter-city solidarity and to strive for the abolition of nuclear weapons, for disarmament and for the eradication of starvation and poverty.

The circle of inter-city solidarity has expanded considerably since the first conference. The number of cities making nuclear free-zone declarations has increased, and a wide variety of new approaches have been taken in city peace activities.

These four years have also seen new developments in international politics. The United States and the Soviet Union signed the INF Treaty and resumed negotiations for the reduction of strategic nuclear weapons, and in Europe talks have been started concerning cuts in conventional military forces.

However, nuclear tests are still being conducted, and various factors such as the sophistication of nuclear weapons, the proliferation of sea-based nuclear missiles, and the fear of an increase in the number of nuclear states lend continuity to the threat of nuclear war. The people of the world are extremely uneasy about accidents involving nuclear submarines and aircraft carrying hydrogen bombs. It is also a fact that chemical and biological weapons are spreading and conventional forces are increasing in strength.

Moreover, the problem of the North-South disparity and the waste of natural resources, ethnic discord and the suppression of human rights, self-centered economic policies and various other issues form a tangled mass that obstructs the resolution of armed conflict and the alleviation of starvation and poverty. At the same time, air and marine pollution, deforestation, and ecological degradation threaten the global environment -- the very foundation of life on this planet. The increasing frequency of nuclear power plant accidents and the question of how to deal with spent nuclear fuel also demand immediate attention.

In the face of these difficulties, we see that the goal of peace is still distant and that our responsibilities are greater than ever before. We are convinced from our own experience and from the lessons of the past that the arousal of public opinion in favor of peace is the most effective way to change the course of world affairs. For this reason, we pledge our determination to strive for the goals listed below, and we appeal to cities and city residents around the world to join us in this all-important endeavor.

We declare our determination:

1. to expand the circle of solidarity in each country, and to insist that our governments take positive measures for the prevention of nuclear war,

the abolition of nuclear weapons and the achievement of disarmament.

2. to promote the movement for nuclear-free zone declarations among autonomous bodies and to take a responsible position concerning facilities in each city related to the manufacture or deployment of nuclear weapons.
3. to adopt constructive measures to prevent the deterioration of the natural environment due to air and marine pollution, deforestation, desertization, destruction of the ozone layer and other causes.
4. to promote peace education by shedding light from various angles on the problems that threaten peace, such as the suppression of human rights and freedom of speech, the gap between the rich and poor, and discrimination at all its levels.
5. to carry out support activities workable at the city level to solve the problems of starvation, poverty and so on.

In order to reach these goals, we pledge our determination to enhance mutual understanding and exchange among cities beyond the barriers of nationality, and to strengthen the bonds of global inter-city solidarity by taking full advantage of information networks.

Furthermore, as the consensus of this conference, we make the following appeals to the governments of the world's countries and to all international organizations.

1. Nuclear weapons are the ultimate threat to our right to life and absolutely detrimental to humanity. We insist that sincere efforts be made to establish an international treaty that will bring about the suspension of nuclear tests and the abolition of nuclear weapons.
2. We insist that energy and intelligence be brought together to find swift and peaceful solutions to military conflicts, to ban the production and storage of chemical and biological weapons, and to achieve reductions in conventional forces.
3. We insist that the colossal sums of money and advanced technology being poured into the arms race be diverted for the welfare of humanity, and that constructive measures be taken to alleviate poverty and starvation, to halt environmental destruction, and to solve the other problems facing the world.

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2nd World Conference of Mayors for
Peace through Inter-city Solidarity