

The 6th General Conference of Mayors for Peace
Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings

Exchange with Hiroshima Residents
What We Can Do to Abolish Nuclear Weapons by 2020

18:30-21:00, Friday, August 5, 2005

Himawari

International Conference Center Hiroshima

Chairperson: **Nobuo Kazashi**

Professor, Kobe University

Speaker: **André Baraglioli**

Deputy Mayor, Bagnolet, France

André Hédiger

Mayor, Geneva, Switzerland

Stewart Kemp

Principal Policy Officer, Manchester, U.K.

Steve Freedkin

Chairperson of the Berkeley Peace Justice Commission, U.S.A

Raul Corro

Councilor, Muntinlupa, Philippines

Delphine Brilland

Councilor, Bobigny, France

Pastor Pier Luigi

Representative, Balducci Support Center, Italy

Bozidar Stanisi

Refugee of Yugoslavia, Italy

Hitoshi Shinmoto

Representative, Hiroshima Branch of Asia Pacific Forum, Japan

Ritsunori Doi

COOP, Japan

Akiko Awa

World Friendship Center, Japan

Fujiwara

No-DU Project Hiroshima, Japan

Steve Leeper

U. S. Representative of Mayors for Peace Secretariat, U.S.A.

Susan Walker

Humanitarian Affairs and Disarmament Consultant

Former ICBL Intersessional Programme Officer, U.S.A.

Chantal Bourvic

Councilor, Val de Marne, France

Johanne Winchester

Director, Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations, USA

Shinichiro Tsukada

Peace Depo, Japan

Yoshimitsu, Arakawa

Marine Animal Institute, Japan

Osamu Kimura, Japan

Tadaomi Saitoh, Chairman, Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation: Good evening, everybody. My name is Saitoh from the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation. The discussion was quite active and the previous meeting was delayed, and therefore this meeting was also delayed from the scheduled time. This year, Mayors for Peace is now trying to establish the nuclear weapons ban treaty through the emergency activities for nuclear weapons abolishment. However, this year's May NPT Review Conference failed to narrow the gap between the nuclear powers and non-nuclear powers, and therefore, the NPT system is on the verge of collapse.

Therefore, the 6th Mayors for Peace General Conference is going to assess the result of the NPT review meeting, and we want to discuss what kind of initiatives we should do in order to enact the nuclear weapons ban treaty. So this exchange with Hiroshima residents is also designed to discuss with the citizens of Hiroshima in order to abolish the nuclear weapons by 2020. And there are also participants for the General Conference and the Hiroshima residents who are expected to exchange. I hope that the discussion will be very active today.

Now I would like to introduce the Chairperson, Prof. Kazashi, from Kobe University, Department of Letters. Prof. Kazashi graduated from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, and he got a doctorate in philosophy from Yale University, and his specialty is contemporary philosophy and modern Japanese thought. After serving as an assistant professor in Hiroshima City University, he has been a professor in Kobe University since 2001. He used to be a member of the Preparatory Committee to establish the Hiroshima Peace Institute and an Executive Advisor to Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation. He is now a member of the Committee of the Hiroshima Association for Nuclear Weapons Abolition and also a representative of Non-Depleted Uranium Hiroshima Project. Now I would like to give the floor to Prof. Kazashi.

Chairperson, Nobuo Kazashi, Professor, Kobe University: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you very much for your kind introduction, Mr. Saito. Since this is in Hiroshima I thought maybe I should speak in Japanese, but since this is an international conference, I assume that speaking in English would be more suitable, so I would like to switch into English.

This conference is very unique in several regards. And one of its reasons comes from the fact that this Mayors for Peace conference is an attempt from the side of the level of municipalities to exert influence on the international politics in order to orient the future of the earth which affects all of us. However, as you know and everybody knows, there is a huge gap between most people's wish around the world for nuclear abolition on the one hand, and the reality of international politics on the other hand. For example, Senator Roche quoted the number about the opinion poll, and that is to say, worldwide about 87 per cent of people are for banning nuclear weapons, and even in the United States the number is quite high; I think it was 76 per cent of the American people are for banning nuclear weapons.

I felt this huge gap existing between the people's wish and the reality of international politics when I participated in the NPT Review Conference personally as a member of HANWA, the Hiroshima Alliance for Nuclear Weapons Abolition, and also as a member of Non-DU, Non-Depleted Uranium Hiroshima Project. So in this sense, I think that this Mayors for Peace Conference has an extremely important and urgent role to play, that is to say, mediate between the people's hope and wishes and what's going on in international politics. In this sense, needless to say, the meeting for

exchange between the mayors coming from all over the world and the people here in Hiroshima and Japan, has a very important meaning in the sense that this is a very unique occasion between the municipalities' leaders working for nuclear weapons abolition and the people of Hiroshima and Japan, because in a word, I think that this unique endeavor by Mayors for Peace would not be able to succeed without the support coming from the citizens, needless to say.

So I think I'd like to, without further explanation, in order to have time for exchange among us as much as possible, I'd like to immediately ask the representatives from abroad to present each view. And the way we are going to proceed this evening is as follows. First, we are going to listen to the presentations by the, I believe, eight representatives of Mayors for Peace, from Bagnolet, France, and Geneva, Switzerland, and Manchester, England, and Varanasi, India, and Hambantota, Sri Lanka, and also Berkeley, California, USA, and Muntinlupa, Philippines, and also Bobigny, France. And actually, is there any other representative who is supposed to give a talk here but I didn't mention, because actually I have a rather different list of presenters in Japanese? I'm personally, I myself am confused a little bit, so please let me know if I missed some representatives. And actually there is one representative from Italy and we'd like to ask him after these presentations.

And hopefully, we can finish these initial presentations by the representatives from the Mayors for Peace Conference within an hour, less than an hour, so that we can have more than one hour for exchange among us. I hope that is the way we can proceed. And so may I ask first the Deputy Mayor of the City of Bagnolet, France, Mr. André Baraglioli, to come over?

André Baraglioli, Deputy Mayor, Bagnolet, France: Bonjour. Merci. Thank you very much. Mayor Akiba and the participants of this conference and participants of this meeting today, I think if we could get together, although the number may be few, we will be able to really achieve true peace. It's a part of the problem that I am coaching from. The nuclear weapons abolition is a very large and high target for a part of the people and for a utopia for the safety of the world. This abolition of nuclear weapons is very important and it is a very realistic target as well.

We have to develop this nuclear weapons-free world along with the development of the world peace culture. Peace culture is being promoted by our city, Bagnolet City, and we do this through establishing sister relationships with various cities throughout the world. One is with Shatila in Lebanon and also Oranienburg in Germany. Old and young and men and women were killed in these cities, and the reason why we have a sister relationship with Shatila is because the citizens and the organization are to have an exchange with our city's organizations and also our ultimate goal is to establish true peace.

The issue of peace is not just an issue in the Middle East but also an issue for our city as well. This is because the Jews and the Islam people live in our city and there is much violence towards these people. In Lebanon, in Shatila, through the sister relationship with Shatila we want to abolish this kind of violence.

With regard to Oranienburg, the Oranienburg sister relationship, we have conducted various things together and we have had a communiqué declared jointly in order to oppose jointly against war in Iraq. And also 100 people participated in our city in liberalizing the people.

In Hiroshima I understand that there are many survivors of the A-bomb that are passing away. But also in other cities there are people who have experienced the large disaster passing away and there are less people who have had this kind of experience. And between Germany and the French we have had three wars in our history, however, our countries have a very good relationship now and this has been proven by the sister city relationship between the two cities.

The survivors of the war and the survivors of the A-bomb, the survivors of the Nazi disaster exist. As the third generation today, we should make an effort so that we will never forget the tragedy of the past. The memory of the past makes present days something that is humane. And in addition to that, there is discrimination which is causing war and also this leads to the threat of nuclear weapons. So we want to convey the target of peace and of the abolishment of nuclear war or nuclear weapons to the citizens of our city. Thank you.

Chairperson: That's very sad. I think Mr. André Baraglioli very kindly finished his speech I think within five minutes, so I think I'd like to ask the following speakers to follow his model. So now I'd like to ask the Mayor of Geneva, Switzerland, Mr. André Hediger to come over to the podium.

André Hédiger, Mayor, Geneva, Switzerland: Ladies and Gentlemen, and then the residents of Hiroshima. First of all, I would like to say that the City of Geneva is fighting now. Switzerland has 700 years of history, and during that time we have never fought a war with a foreign country, with other wars overseas, we didn't participate in them, and there was a civil war in Switzerland when we were making Switzerland, the republic of Switzerland a country, so in terms of wars, we have never been really dynamic in the past. So Geneva is the place where the humanitarian spirit is living.

You know that international organizations are in Switzerland. There is a United Nations, there is the WHO, and various international institutes operate in Switzerland. The Red Cross also exists in Switzerland. So these international institutes are important elements for residents of Hiroshima, of people of Hiroshima. The Red Cross, Dr. Marcel's city's doctors are actually having sent the food aid and relief aid to the people of Hiroshima right after the atomic bombs, and in September we are organizing an event for Hiroshima and we are also going to publish a book about Hiroshima.

Please pay a visit to Geneva. Geneva is a good place where people are well accepted, and we are pursuing peace. Two years ago we had an opinion poll and we learnt that there are 130 different nationalities or 130 different people with different backgrounds who are living in Switzerland, so 130 different nationalities coexist and are living in Switzerland. So of course all European people come to Switzerland and live there, and because of the political reasons sometimes people come to Switzerland. So we respect ethnic groups and differences. In some schools, the people from 40 or 50 different countries are learning together. Educational institutions are still having a hard time. The children are coming from different 40, 50 cultures and countries and languages, so the diets are also different among the children. So multiculturalism is what we have in Geneva. And it's been going on for several centuries. So from West to East and from South to North, lots of people are coming to Geneva, even from Albania.

And in Europe, various developments occurred and a some time in the past there was fascism in Spain. For example, in Portugal, we had fascism even in Greece, and some people who were persecuted there and then have fled to Switzerland, and we have accepted them and then provided jobs to them. So in many sense, we didn't build a block or wall to send off these Spanish people.

So the people living in Geneva are living in harmony, so everybody living in Geneva are the people of Geneva. So what I'm trying to say is actually the peace culture is already existing in Geneva. This is what I wanted to say.

So the problem we have is the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Appeal. We agree to it, and that Appeal was made in the keynote speech in the beginning, and we also respond to the United Nations Peace Appeal. And how can we make peace is the question. We have a peace culture and peace education in Geneva, so we are incorporating the peace culture in education and we have a peace school in Geneva, so faculties are teaching peace. They are giving the education for the sake of peace, the children. So they are teaching the teachers about how to teach peace to children. So a big amount of budget is spent for education, and also a big amount of money is spent for cooperation.

And cooperation with other countries is a very important issue. So the developing countries, for example, Africa, Latin America, and East European country people, to them we provide support and cooperation and the women in Africa. And also we are spending money to develop the firefighters. We also provide support to a lot of people. So we have to help other people. We have this strong determination. Some people are starving. To them as well we are making a lot of initiatives. So those people who are suffering, we are lending a hand.

And then, we have had the Peace Appeal so that the reconciliation between the Palestinians and Israelis will be made. So now we have to make an effort so that Palestine and Israel will make peace, will reach an agreement, so that they will meet each other so that they can sit at the discussion table, the negotiation table.

A couple of years ago, we made this kind of appeal in Salavie, and in Morocco there are two ethnic groups, and against them, to them as well we have asked them to have a negotiation and discussion and we are cooperating with the UN so we are making cooperation with all the other countries. That's all I wanted to say. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for a very unique history of Switzerland with many ethnic groups, which is very encouraging for us too. And I'd like to listen to more of it, but this exchange meeting is multicultural itself so I think we have to try to make as much time as possible for the exchange too. So next I'd like to ask the Principal Policy Officer from Manchester, England, Mr. Stewart Kemp.

Stewart Kemp, Principal Policy Officer, Manchester, U.K.: Thank you very much, Chairman, and thank you for the invitation to speak at this session. An apology first of all because I was hoping that our Lord Mayor Afzal Khan would be able to speak at this session but he has another engagement and so I've undertaken to step into his shoes. I'll speak slowly because I haven't pre-prepared text that I've passed to the interpreters, to the translators, and so I don't want to run ahead too quickly for them. But I'm very conscious of time, Chairman, so I'll be as concise as possible. And I think the easiest way for me to be concise is perhaps to headline a few issues that we can come back to and perhaps discuss in the question-answer session after these presentations are completed.

Manchester is a very diverse city. It has a very large Muslim community, as represented by our present Lord Mayor Afzal Khan, a very large Jewish community, as represented in fact by the Chief Officer of our local authority, a very large Chinese community, and many Chinese people work within the local authority, and indeed many other groups and nationalities represented in the city. A very large Afro-Caribbean community, I should more correctly say of Afro-Caribbean origin, now a Black-British community. And we try to reach the whole spectrum of the community through the council's peace policy and its anti-nuclear policy to promote those policies for all the citizens.

This year, and now Mayor Afzal Khan referred to this at the presentation earlier today, the city carried a new policy that I would just like to read to you just by way of introduction:

The Council recognizes the contribution that it can make through the provision and delivery of its services towards promoting social inclusion, social justice, good citizenship and peace between peoples, cultures, the faith communities that it serves. The Council will cooperate with community-based and faith-based organizations, with other local authorities, with statutory agencies, government departments, and international bodies in the pursuance of the safety, security and development of its richly diverse communities and their extended families.

And I lay emphasis on "their extended families" because when there is, for example, tension in Kashmir between Pakistan and India, which has the potential to develop into a nuclear weapons crisis, then the ripples from that tension radiate across the globe, and radiate into the community in Manchester and it raises tensions within the community.

When there is ongoing inter-community conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, these are issues that are picked on the streets of Manchester, they are issues that affect the citizens of Manchester. They have extended families in Israel. They have extended families in Palestine, and they have extended families, as I say, in Pakistan and on the Indian sub-continent. And so we're conscious of the need to promote policy not only in the city, but nationally and internationally.

As we speak, we are conscious of the anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the 60th anniversary. In the city, one of our initiatives has been to, through one of the local cinemas, promote a season of films around a nuclear theme and it's under the umbrella title "Project and Survive." For anyone from the UK, they may see the resonance there because back in the early 1980s the government led a civil defense campaign to try and persuade the British people that they would survive a nuclear war if that was to occur on the European continent, which back in the early 1980s it seemed a very strong possibility. It certainly didn't feel a remote possibility. As I say, that campaign of civil defense was called "Protect and Survive."

We have a commemoration now called "Project and Survive." And through a series of films it will hopefully bring citizens in and to get them to think about this issue, because I think something that we all need to understand is that here in Hiroshima there can not be any more important issue, and there is not a more important issue in any city in my view. But the issue simply does not have the same level of priority in

other countries. Britain is a nuclear weapons state. The press is very largely pro Britain's nuclear weapons stance, and that feeds through to the opinions of people in the country, and so tackling those opinions is extremely difficult.

There are many other points that I was hoping I might have time to draw out but we're under a lot of pressure with time so I need to stop here, but I'll certainly be happy to take any questions about Manchester's policy. All the work we do nationally we have a local authority. Thank you, Chair.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for another very concrete, very encouraging example, and we really hope that we have time to listen to more concrete examples from Manchester.

Now I'd like to ask to come over, the Chairperson of the Berkeley Peace Justice Commission, California, USA, Mr. Steve Freedkin.

Steve Freedkin, Chairperson of the Berkeley Peace Justice Commission, U.S.A.: Konbanwa, honored Mayor of Hiroshima Akiba, distinguished members of Mayors for Peace and guests. My name is Steve Freedkin, I am the Chairman of the Berkeley City Peace Justice Commission. I thank you for your dedication to creating a world in which the destruction of the atomic bomb remains a terrible fact of history, but only of history, never to occur again.

Berkeley stands with the peace-loving people of Hiroshima in many ways. On Aug. 6 at 8:15 a.m. and again on Aug. 9 at 11:02 a.m. the city's peace bell will be rung in remembrance of the two atomic bombings. This is in response to a request by a hibakusha from Hiroshima who visited our city in May. On the night of Aug. 6, Berkeley will also hold its Fourth Annual Peace Lantern Ceremony modeled after Hiroshima's event.

The City of Berkeley has a process in which citizens can directly create laws. In 1986, the voters of Berkeley adopted the Nuclear-Free Berkeley Act. This law declares nuclear weapons to be illegal. It requires the city to avoid conducting business with any organization involved in nuclear weapons. The University of California operates three nuclear research laboratories for the US government. Therefore, the City of Berkeley is required to avoid doing business with the university. Now in practice, of course, this is difficult as the university's Berkeley campus is by far the largest institution in our city. However, when it is possible, the city will work with other organizations and not with the university.

The Nuclear-Free Berkeley Act is an example of a community taking direct action to withdraw support from the nuclear weapons industry. If these efforts spread, perhaps they will be as effective as the boycott of South Africa, which was started in Berkeley, and helped end the system of apartheid.

We must continue to push national leaders to adopt policies leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons, and perhaps it's also time for cities to take direct action. For example, the Hoya Glass Company in Japan makes lenses for laser equipment that is used in manufacturing nuclear bombs. Does the City of Hiroshima purchase any equipment or supplies that contain glass contained by Hoya? Perhaps cities like Hiroshima may wish to draw up a list of companies to boycott to make sure that no city resources support any organization involved in nuclear weapons. Our city has

created that kind of a list under the Nuclear-Free Berkeley Act, and I'd be happy to share our research.

My city can learn from the spirit of reconciliation exemplified by the hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Increasingly, I think about peace activism as an effort to promote healing. In Berkeley and other places, including, I know, people in Hiroshima, people are working towards this kind of healing approach to social change.

When I was offered the chance to speak to this gathering, I was grateful for the opportunity, but in a way it didn't quite make sense because I know I have very much more to learn from you in Hiroshima than I ever could share with you. So I will just say one more thing and then I'll stop talking and be ready to listen to you, and that one more thing is *domo arigato gosaimashita*.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. It was a rather challenging request for us too. And now I'd like to ask the City Councilor of Muntinlupa in the Philippines, Mr. Raul Corro.

Raul Corro, Councilor, Muntinlupa, Philippines: Thank you, Professor. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Mayor Akiba, honorable mayors, representatives from the civil society and our residents of Hiroshima, I intentionally did not speak in this afternoon's session because I was waiting for the opportunity to be with the residents of Hiroshima in the exchange program tonight. When I was asked to choose whether I would like to speak in Session 1 or Session 2, I said I don't like to speak because there are already several speakers that we have as I wanted to meet with the residents of Hiroshima because I have a special message for you.

As you know, the Philippines was one of the countries occupied by the Japanese Imperial Army in World War II, and the Philippines, as you know, was one of the countries which suffered the scars of the Japanese occupation in World War II. My father, who was a soldier of the United States Armed Forces in the Far East, or USAFFE, was one of the Filipino and American soldiers who endured the infamous "death march," as we call it, where they were made to march for hundred of kilometers by the Japanese Imperial Army, and my father miraculously survived.

But tonight I'd like to convey my message to the residents of Hiroshima and to the nation of Japan that I am here tonight, not because of retaliation, but because of reconciliation. We cannot achieve peace if we have hatred in our hearts, so I am here today to convey my message to the residents of Hiroshima that our message from the Philippines is reconciliation, not retaliation, and we condemn, in the strongest terms possible, the use of atomic bombs and the use of nuclear weapons against humanity.

Tonight we would like to express our support to the 2020 Vision of eliminating nuclear weapons by the year 2020. We firmly believe that weapons of mass destruction have no place in a civilized world. For our part, in the City of Muntinlupa, we firmly believe that knowledge is power. This was made very clear in the presentation yesterday by the lady professor. What we mean by "knowledge is power" is that we have at the local level to create awareness of the horrors of the use of atomic bombs, and by creating awareness at the local level, we will be able to inform our respective constituencies about the horrors of the use of atomic bombs and be able in the process to get their support to raise their voices and join us in the Mayors for Peace to campaign for the abolition of nuclear weapons by the year 2020.

Tonight I am happy to be with you and I'd like to convey to the residents of Hiroshima and the people to Japan that the Philippines and Japan have seen some very healthy and normal diplomatic relations. We must forget the past, but we must look forward to the future, a future that is free from nuclear weapons. Thank you.
Malami-salama-to

Chairperson: Thank you very much indeed. And thank you very much in the first place to choose to participate in this exchange with the people of Hiroshima, and also thank you very much for the very great history which we have to really take into consideration and face seriously. Nevertheless, thank you very much for giving us a very hopeful future-oriented presentation. Thank you very much.

And now I'd like to ask the Councilor of the City of Bobigny France, Ms. Delphine Brilland, to come over.

Delphine Brilland, Councilor, Bobigny, France: Hello everybody. I'm very impressed to be here. I'm so happy to be able to meet the people of Hiroshima. I would like to talk a lot with you. My name is Delphine Brilland. I am the council member of the City of Bobigny.

In New York, the United Nations, there was an NPT Review Conference and it failed to come up with progress, so the premiers of the nuclear powers now have a very serious responsibility because they have rejected the possibility to abolish nuclear weapons. However, the threat of collapse of the treaty was avoided. This was good progress. Our fight is continuing and this nuclear weapons abolishment, to accomplish that we have to make more effort, however, the nuclear powers, they don't choose to abolish the nuclear weapons in the near future. However, we shouldn't just be waiting. A lot of countries are now taking action and France is very proactive in this area.

The City of Bobigny is putting peace culture as a priority and the City of Bobigny is trying to listen to the voice of the citizens, and we are also trying to implement the participation with democracy so that we can come up with collective profits.

From a couple of years ago we are promoting peace education, and the Council of Bobigny has adopted a motion in order to contribute to the NPT, and at every opportunity we are announcing our standpoint and also announcing the purpose of our activities. And AFCDRP is the association that Bobigny is participating in and then we are making contributions to promote the NPT. And on Sep. 11, that is when it is Peace Day in UNESCO, and then they are going to show the movie called *Sadako* and they are also making origami. The children are sent to this institution, so those people involved are going to attend tomorrow's ceremony and AFCDRP, I think you know this organization, the France Peace Municipality Association, and Bobigny is a member of this group and they are now in Hiroshima, and then we are communicating what kind of peace initiatives we are taking. And I think I couldn't complete my speech within the given time. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: That was very fit for this occasion and I think we can have much time for exchange afterwards, so including the first speakers, I think we can have lots of occasions to talk more.

And now, actually we have come to the list of the presenters, but as I've said at the beginning, actually yesterday I happened to encounter people from Italy and I came to

know that they actually want to participate in this exchange meeting, but they were told that they must have registered in advance, and I said, no, no, please come. And it's okay. So now I'd like to ask the Pastor Pier Luigi from the Balducci Support Center. So first Pastor Pier Luigi is going to talk in Italian and Miss Yamada is going to translate for us.

Pastor Pier Luigi, Representative, Balducci Support Center, Italy: Hello. I would like to greet all of you. I came from Italy. I am a member of the peace exchange association and I am a member of the delegation visiting Hiroshima. The Balducci Support Center is the name of our organization for refugees. We support refugees and also immigrants. Balducci is the name of the association. Balducci is actually the name of the priest who is engaged in peace activities and our organization is also engaged in peace activities. We are from a place in the northeastern part of Italy, it's a province in the northeast part of Italy.

The peace issue is something that is essential for people to live. For long years, we have always thought about Hiroshima and Nagasaki deep in our minds. In that sense, several times we have talked with Ms. Numata and other survivors of the A-bomb, and we have invited these people from Nagasaki and Hiroshima and talked with them. This kind of activity, that is, exchange with the citizens, is very important, and also through these exchanges the school students visit our support center to hear about these stories and experience.

The visit to Hiroshima this time is very impressive to me and I am very touched and hit by this occasion of participating in this conference. The A-bomb is very powerful in terms of its massacre power, and it is something that we shall not forget as part of our history of mankind. It also expresses the craziness of violence and politics. It totally changed the history of human history.

Today we exist because we need to advocate the voice of humankind. We never shall repeat Hiroshima or Nagasaki. We shall not do war. We shall not hold weapons, and war shall never occur in any part of the world. And injustice in the world shall not be admitted. Racial discrimination shall be abolished. And environmental destruction shall be discontinued. These things need to be understood by each individual with a sense of responsibility.

And in the community, as a citizen, and within Europe as well, and in each organization of the world we should revise and improve the United Nations. The political flow or stream needs to be changed or else world peace will never be achieved. With our power, politics, religion, in various fields there are many things that we can do and we need to do. What is important is not just to say no. Every day we have to say yes. We have to say yes to the life of humankind.

Priest Balducci's tomb carves the following words: The people of the future need to be the people of peace or else they are not people. When you say you are not people, you are not human. Humans will be destroyed like in the case of Hiroshima.

Another meaning of not being a human is that you are not human to be respected as a human. This memorial of peace said, lie in peace and we will never repeat the mistake. There is no subject to this sentence but we ourselves must be the subject, the actor of peace. We must seek peace for the global family, global peace. Thank you.

His name is Bozidar. He actually came to our center, Balducci Support Center, in 1992 as a refugee of Yugoslavia. He has received support from our center and he is still living in a city in Italy. He is a poet and he is also a novelist, he is also a teacher. From the standpoint of a poet he would like to say a few words to you.

Bozidar Stanisi, Refugee of Yugoslavia, Italy: Good evening. I would like to extend my heartfelt greetings to you. I refuse the war and from my perspective I would like to say a few things. I also write books and I can say that war is totally useless. Sixty years ago Hiroshima had a tragedy about that. I have been also talking about Hiroshima, but I also would like to talk about depleted uranium bombs as well. I'm wishing that nuclear weapons would be completely abolished, and with this I would like to conclude my speech. Thank you.

Chairperson: Actually, if we had more time I wanted to ask Mr. Pastor and Mr. Bozidar, to talk more but because of the time we have to really limit our wishes to that. So thank you very much for the presenters.

Now we have, it is about 7:32 I think, so we're just about on time, so we have about one hour for exchange of views among us. So now I'd like to invite the people of Hiroshima, not only of Hiroshima but people from Japan, to express their opinions, questions, comments to the presentations just made or and some other personal opinions. So could you raise your hand, those people who would like to speak? Please.

Hitoshi Shinmoto, Representative, Hiroshima Branch of Asia Pacific Forum, Japan: Thank you very much. I was born in Hiroshima in 1954 after the war. There was a statement from Berkeley and I think what he said was very important and I was very impressed by his statement.

With regard to nuclear weapons, with regard to the abolishment of nuclear weapons, it is often said that people agree to the abolishment of nuclear weapons in general, but in specifics there are some vagueness. So in making nuclear weapons there are various companies that are involved and there are profits made by different companies in the manufacturing or in the making of nuclear weapons, and this must be clarified and we must look at the balance sheets and the financial statements of these companies which contribute to the manufacturing of nuclear weapons. So I think it is very important that these corporations and companies that are involved disclose their statements, their financial statements. And I think we need to also look at that aspect. I think that is a very important thing.

And with regard to the matter of peace, the issue of peace, unfortunately, in Japan we do not know very much about how World War II occurred and we do not reflect upon ourselves very much. There's this Constitution Article IX, which is very important for Japan, and we should, in Japan, and within Japan as well, we have to study more about Article IX of our Constitution, and Japanese scholars, as well as the world scholars, must study why Japan was involved in the Second World War and I would like to ask the professors to study further with regard to this matter.

And Hiroshima is considered to be the City of Peace, but at the same time, actually it is a city of militarism. For the past 100 years, Hiroshima was the basis of aggression in Asian countries and Hiroshima was the center of militarism in Western Japan and Tokyo, of Eastern Japan, and for three years the Emperor lived in Hiroshima and also

the Diet was held in Hiroshima for three years. Therefore, Hiroshima is not really a City of Peace. It was a military city prior to that and we have to be aware of that.

There were many facilities related to the military in Hiroshima, and I think that is why the Americans decided to drop the atomic bomb to Hiroshima. Thank you.

Chairperson: There was not really a question included, but it was a very positive reaction to what Mr. Freedkin, said so I wonder if Mr. Freedkin, would you like to add something to his remark? Your presentation was rather short.

Freedkin: All I want to say is domo arigato gozaimashita. I was very honored by Shinmoto-san's comments and look forward to working with him and anyone else who would like to work together on these kinds of approaches.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. Are there any other persons who would like to respond to what he said or some other new questions? Please? Your name and group?

Ritsunori Doi, COOP, Japan: My name is Doi from the coop. The coop provides a safe and comfortable life, and then we provide food products to the members of the coop, so it's a safe life. A precondition of the coop is a world without starvation and wars. So one of the problems with life is peace. That's why we are involved in peace activities. So according to Japanese law, coops cannot do business operations beyond prefectural borderlines, however, we now have 330,000 members across the nation. So I would like to talk a bit about our peace initiatives.

First, the Mayors for Peace are now promoting the emergency action for the nuclear weapons abolition, and then actually the Mayor of Hiroshima, Mr. Akiba, has come to our meeting to make a speech. And Japan coop groups and the Hiroshima Prefecture coops have got together and he has asked us to cooperate with him too to establish the nuclear ban treaty by 2020. And 1,200 people have gathered and have reached a consensus on that. We cannot make any big action. The majority of the members are actually women and they are mothers. And the mothers care about the children and grandchildren. They don't want them to experience the miserable experience which took place 60 years ago, so there is a very limited amount of money. However, they make some contribution, not only monetary contribution but their actions are contributed.

And what we mainly do is as follows. Actually I have been listening to the comments from the speakers and it's been 60 years since the end of the war and the experience of the A-bomb is now being forgotten. We have to make efforts to succeed and to hand down this experience, so in our coop organizations at every opportunity we invite the A-bomb survivors so that we can share what they have to say about their experiences. And then we are also trying to disseminate that information across all the children and this initiative will be able to prevent the nuclear weapons war.

And every year we are making an appeal to the Japanese government to make the nuclear weapons ban, a nuclear weapons convention, and then we actually gathered a petition. About 30,000 people's petition was gathered and we submitted that to the Diet. It's hard to have our voices be heard to the politicians. However, we are making efforts so that our voice will reach the Diet.

And within this Peace Park, there is the cenotaph for the A-bomb victims, so we visit those commemorative cenotaph, war memorial monuments, we are visiting them and then we also try to disseminate information about why these memorial monuments were built. And then we also make some sub group which can disseminate such information, which can serve as guides in this park.

And in May there was the NPT Review Conference and then we sent two representatives to that in order to let our voices be heard in the United Nations and also on the global basis. So I think each individual should work on their own municipalities and each government so that the nuclear weapons convention will be enacted. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. I think that kind of report the Mayor Akiba and the staff for the Mayors for Peace campaign must be very glad to hear, I think. I recognize the face of one of the staff for the Mayors for Peace conference. And if those who have already made presentations and if you also have something you'd like to say in response to Japanese people, please do not hesitate to raise your hands because already there are some very concrete serious points that have come up. I wonder if there is anyone who would like to respond to that report just made. Yes?

Akiko Awa, World Friendship Center, Japan: My name is Awa Akiko. I belong to the World Friendship Center. It was said that the experience of the war is being faded and I think that is true. And the war is occurring in Iraq and the children are forced to see these wars on the TV and Internet, and there are wars occurring all over the world and they are being broadcasted on TVs and the Internet. I am skeptical as to why the children should not learn about the war that is going on throughout the world right now and only forced to learn about the war that was held 60 years ago.

Chairperson: Your qualification, please. Affiliation, please.

Fujiwara, No-DU Project Hiroshima, Japan: My name is Fujiwara. No-DU Project Hiroshima, is what I belong to, we have a booth over there, so please drop by. With regard to the present war I think we should also focus on it and right now we are dealing with the depleted uranium weapons. And in Iraq a lot of depleted uranium weapons are being used, and not only in Iraq but in Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina are other locations where these weapons are being used and there are a lot of disasters occurring, but such victims are not being brought up on the media.

And I think there was someone from Bosnia who made a statement but I would like to ask someone who knows about this victim of the depleted uranium weapons to speak up on this occasion. So what shall I do?

Chairperson: Was your request a concrete request? Yes. Could you stand up?

Stanisi : In 1995, the Bosnian war was over. And I think the intervention to the Kosovo civil war ended in 1999. In 1999, there was the intervention to the civil war in Kosovo. At that time a great amount of depleted uranium bombs were used. The outcome of that was quite miserable and quite disastrous. A lot of people are now having cancers, especially leukemia is now the outcome of those bombs. Nature and human beings, whatever has life was damaged. By just staying in Bosnia for a day, you get the same amount of radiation you receive in over a year in the other part of the world. We don't have the complete statistics because the government has its political reasons for not submitting such data.

So briefly, I would like to talk about it. In the north of Bosnia there is a little city. The children from one year old to ten years old, they have very serious cancers, very complicated cancers. In one city, which has a 5,000 population, in the past ten years 500 people died. Two-thirds were perfectly having cancers.

So these depleted uranium bombs can be abolished totally by activism. Concrete knowledge. Various wise knowledge is not the only thing we need. The philosopher Pascal said the reasoned mind has to be heard now. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. Personally, I'd like to listen more about it, partly because I've been involved in the anti-DU campaign, but if I do I might be blamed for being partial later, so I think I'd like to go back to the Mayors for Peace related, directly related to the topic, and I have Steve Leeper, who has been working really hard for the Mayors for Peace conference. Would you like to say something? And actually as a staff player on the list of speakers for this exchange program?

Steve Leeper, U. S. Representative of Mayors for Peace Secretariat, U.S.A: I guess I have a very fundamental question that we are dealing with in the campaign, and that is that the world now seems to be moving very much the way it did before World War I and World War II. The gap between rich and poor is getting very large and the poorer people are getting very angry. And in the United States, we have the problem of a government that uses that anger and directs that anger and is riding on that anger. And that anger is coming into the peace movement so that the peace people themselves are angry at each other, angry at President Bush. There's a lot of intense hatred expressed, even among the peace people.

And I am wondering if any of the mayors in their cities or anybody has found some good way of addressing this anger and some way of sort of generating peace and kind of a more emotional, and he was talking, and the important thing is the heart and the mind of the people. How do we touch the people who are getting angrier and angrier? How do we change that anger and turn it toward love and peace and kind of coexistence, tolerance, cooperation, all of the things of peace culture? I think in our campaign we realize that this is an extremely important step and we do not have a good answer for it and I wish someone would help us with that.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for a very important, fundamental question, I think which is addressed directly to all of us, but I think there were some mayors who mentioned about their attempts to sort of gear up towards the peace culture, so if there are some mayors who would like to add to what they have already said in more concrete terms, please do not hesitate, especially those who are the first speakers whom I'd like to ask to finish up quickly. Or, yes?

Unkown: I am not a mayor but I am an A-bomb survivor in Hiroshima and people are mentioning about the fading of the memory of the war, but I have high expectations of you.

In 1945, I was six years old and I was 1.3 kilometers away from ground zero. I was looking at the airplane that was sparkling and shining, and we A-bomb survivors don't want anyone to experience the tragedy we had. Somebody mentioned that the cenotaph at the Peace Park says that each one of us is the main player of making the peace. And also, the city, the Mayor of Hiroshima says that we have to have the reconciliation, and now my sister has come from Osaka. She is now 70 years old and

then she says that she might not be alive next year. This summer we thought that I might not be able to come here next year with the healthy body; that's why she came to visit me this year. That really touched my heart.

About ten years ago, I had the disorder in the thyroid gland and because of that the talking and walking capability and the hair, this was all lost in me and then I couldn't even stand up like this. And this thyroid gland is not the unique symptom for only the war A-bomb victims, but the health authority of Japan decided that it is the result of the atomic bomb.

I think nuclear weapons should not be used in any part of the world because nobody should experience the disaster we had. In order to make sure that will come true we have to abolish the nuclear weapons, that includes the depleted uranium bombs in Iraq and in Bosnia. Especially the small children and women are most damaged. Look at the disaster in Iraq. They don't have drugs and children are dying one after another. When I look at what they're going through my heart aches. Why in the world, why can't we help them? That's very painful. Our pain is not fading away.

There is a sister who was lost and my aunt who was pregnant passed away 500 meters away and the bones were her bones, and my sister who came back, her back was filled with maggots and the maggots went into her nerves and it gave her great pain, and on the 16th of the same month, August, she passed away. This sister, I was able to find her body, but there was another sister who has been lost. I was given life and therefore I came to this place and I came to hear the words of the mayors of the world and I came here to ask the mayors all over the world, including the Mayor of New York, to abolish nuclear weapons while people are still living. And I think we need to create such a world. We have to inherit, we have to provide a good and nice and clean world to our descendents.

It's not fading away. Our experience is never fading away. We have become old but we are not fading away. We A-bomb survivors are willing to visit anywhere as long as our health is maintained, as well as we are invited to share our experience. Although my thyroid gland disease is still prevalent, with medicine I am able to stand and speak like this today and I am able to travel. So as long as I have my medicine with me, I can visit anywhere and share my experience with the other people. So as long as the experiences of A-bomb survivors are effective, I am willing to visit anywhere.

And I certainly hope that nuclear weapons will be abolished from the world as soon as possible. I am sorry that I became a little emotional but I would like to stop here.

Chairpersopn: Thank you very much. Your talk is the kind of talk which it is quite difficult for us to respond to in words. I think we feel that we need to engage in concrete actions in order to respond to what has been just said. And actually, this Mayors for Peace conference is being held exactly for that purpose.

As you all know, as the future activities proposed by the Mayors for Peace campaign, as a final very concrete objective, I think this Mayors for Peace conference has already been trying to set goals, a set of activities that will press for a nuclear weapons convention treaty concluded by 2010 and the total elimination of nuclear weapons by 2020. And I think this is what we really need to achieve, but of course it will not be easy, so I think we try to come up with a concrete suggestions, proposals or requests directed to the Mayors for Peace campaign.

And so in that sense, I'd like to ask you to try to respond to what has been just said with that concrete objective in mind. And also I think I'd like to draw your attention to the fact of the very important question raised by Steve Leeper. Actually, the talk just given is a response to Steve Leeper's question, but are there any other people who'd like to continue in this line or respond to Steve Leeper's question? Okay, please go ahead.

Susan Walker, Humanitarian Affairs and Disarmament Consultant, Former ICBL Intersessional Programme Officer, U.S.A.: Domo arigato gosaimasu. I just want to thank the woman who just spoke. My name is Susan Walker. I've been working in humanitarian work and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines for 26 years now. And your story is what brings the horrors of nuclear weapons to the world and they should be heard more.

I am very moved, very saddened, of course, the loss of your sister, your health problems, and your willingness to come here. I know, I work with landmine survivors. It is not easy to tell your story, and never apologize for getting emotional. This is a terrible situation that you have endured all your life, since 1945. And the world needs to hear that. You said yourself, you are getting older, and this will be lost to the world, so your stories must not only be heard like you've come tonight, and I thank you very, very much again for coming. I think I speak on behalf of all of us. I know I and the gentleman councilor from the Philippines, I think many people came here, ah, he is still there. Many people came here to speak with the people of Hiroshima, not to hear ourselves speak again, and also to hear from A-bomb survivors.

So it is very important, and as you've said, you're willing to travel even though you're not in good health as long as your stories are useful. You must know from the bottom of your heart that these stories are not only useful but very, very important. And I thank you for sharing that and for being willing to continue to discuss it. Thank you. Domo arigato gosaimasu.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for the very, it's hard to express, but very heartfelt response to what she just said. So please. Could you stand up?

Chantal Bourvic, Councilor, Val de Marne, France: I am the member of the province council in Val de Marne in France. And after the statement of a very moving A-bomb survivor, it is hard for me to speak, but in France, in our municipality, we are beginning various actions and one of them is, one of these days all of the A-bomb survivors may pass away in the future, but we feel it's very important that we maintain the experience, the voices of the experience and we must advocate "No More Hiroshima! No More Nagasaki!" And the world view, also we have to change the world view of people's mind and also we have to change the consciousness of power in people's minds.

And with the abolishment of nuclear weapons, true peace will come. In order to advance the human society forward, nuclear weapons are not the only way. Nuclear weapons are never the only way is what we need people to understand, what we need to have the people understand. And also, abolishment of nuclear weapons is very important but at the same time we must abolish poverty as well. Poverty is providing much pain to the people as well.

Maybe this isn't a specific proposal but our future depends upon this. The municipalities in France, 30 young participants are participating from my province in this conference, and I think it is very important that young people, the young generation participate in this kind of assembly.

Chairperson: I see some hands raised, and so let me ask her and let me go, move down this way. Pardon?

Johanne Winchester, Director, Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations, U.S.A.: Konbanwa. My name is Johanne Winchester, Director of the Communications, Coordination Committee for the United Nations. We're the oldest non-governmental organization founded when the UN was formed and we specialize in doing communications-related projects. So I wanted to respond directly to what Steve brought to the table and also to a few other points that have been raised.

It is my personal opinion that the way to build a world culture of peace, which is the mission of the United Nations system, to establish a world culture of peace, is to start in the imagination of everyone. And perhaps the Mayors for Peace and the other initiatives that are represented here tonight and around the world can really focus on what that imagination process is and begin to find creative ways of engaging people in designing what the future could look like if it weren't about conflict and violence, violence as a way of resolving conflict.

So part of it is about withdrawing our support - our dollars as consumers, our dollars with municipal funds - the economic approach from organizations, corporations that contribute to violence in many forms. Environmental violence is the big time bomb waiting to go off for all of us. So part of it is withdrawing funds.

The gentleman from the Philippines reminded me that knowledge is power and in our research, when we're looking at doing a divestment campaign, the way they did with South Africa, we're dealing with nuclear apartheid now, in South Africa when the world began to decide to withdraw its financial support from the regime in South Africa that was creating the violence of racial apartheid, it was very systematically done and big universities began to withdraw their funds and large pension funds began to withdraw their funds and then private investors withdrew their funds. And it brought that regime down. So I think that one approach is to look at what countries are insisting on maintaining their nuclear weapons arsenals, starting with my own country, and looking at how to withdraw funds from those Treasury Bonds and other things.

There are 13 major corporations, there are many corporations that contribute to the weapons cycle of just-in-time delivery in supply chains, but there are 13 major ones and the No. 1 happens to be Japanese. It has \$175 billion a year in gross income. And then the usual ones that we all know about in America and so on.

And in New York, two representatives spoke about having municipalities, this is from Belgium, decide to withdraw their funds from any bank that was invested in any way in weapons productions, and the City of Tacoma Park, Maryland, spoke about having a law on the book for 22 years that prohibited the local government from buying a paperclip or a piece of paper or anything from any company that was affiliated or engaged in weapons manufacture. So there are many creative ways to just say no to continuing this madness.

On the other side, we have to take all of those resources and look at how to invest them in building a positive future. And that's where the imagination of everyone can be engaged. So remember, you have a lot of power with your purchasing dollars and with organizing yourself with other organizations, individuals, alliances. So thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for bringing in another new proposal in terms of imagination. Yes, The lady in the back,

Unknown: Hello. Welcome to Hiroshima. I am working in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and I am trying to communicate peace to people. I'm trying to meet people from all around the world, peace-loving people, and I am shaking hands with all of them in order to abolish nuclear weapons.

Many people from many different countries have made comments and it was very encouraging for me, especially the comments from the City of Berkeley, and also the French people said that they are incorporating Sadako in their education. When I heard that I am very happy about that. And you have come to Hiroshima, We would like to know a more concrete explanation about what kind of initiatives they are doing.

Chairperson: Well, okay. I'm going to let the other people who raised their hands speak first and then try to have your question answered later. Thank you very much.

Shinichiro Tsukada, Peace Depo, Japan: Shinichiro Tsukada. I came from Tokyo. I am working as a volunteer at an NGO peace level and in Tokyo at Meiji University I am in the international department and I have actually many questions, but I actually wanted to know the concrete initiatives undertaken by the youngsters in other countries. As a student I wanted to know what the students in other countries are doing. But it seems like we don't have time for that. But I have a favor.

I actually attended the NPT Review Conference as an auditor or observer. And in general, people say it was a failure, and I think the Mayors for Peace has the main body which can inflict a very positive influence on the NPT like the abolition 2020. Also people were there in New York so I think people have high hopes and expectations for this body. And as Mr. Akiba says, the Hiroshima-Nagasaki process, we need to change to it and I was expecting maybe I will hear something quite overwhelming. However, it's been only three months since that meeting in New York, so unless you have a magic wand you cannot come up with a wonderful solution. So I guess there is some action plan, but there is not much concrete substance in it. So I think you are now mapping that out.

Now we have 15 years to accomplish the goal and I am now 22 years old, so in 15 years I will become 37 years old. So we will be the generation who are going to undertake that initiative, so the students I think should take the class of Hiroshima-Nagasaki lectures and those activists' information gave me a very good influence. That's why I'm here today. The mayors from various countries are here today and lectures of Hiroshima-Nagasaki maybe should be shared in other parts of the world. Please host them. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for that request for future action. And the next person?

The Marine Animal Institute is where I am from. More than half a century has passed since the A-bomb, but when Mayor of Hiroshima joins any NPT assembly he is forced to speak in front of an audience who are very few in lunch break. And so I feel that the A-bomb or nuclear A-bomb experience of Hiroshima is not well-accepted. The common sense of Hiroshima citizens and the common sense of the world has a very large gap between the two, so I think this needs to be revised and improved or else we will never be able to abolish nuclear weapons.

And Mayor Akiba, more than ten years ago, started the Akiba Project, and the local newspapers and other newspapers like the *New York Times*, global media, took it up and the press people of such influential media people were invited to Hiroshima to appeal to them on the 6th August. And I think this kind of approach is very important.

And also, the A-bomb survivors are separated into five organizations actually, depending on different political parties. And on the 6th August the socialist people look towards the east, the communist party looks to the west, and so there are other organizations looking in different directions during the ceremony. But when people from abroad come to Hiroshima, when they see the different organizations looking towards different directions they would not really appreciate the realism of such ceremonies. I think these organizations need to be unified. The A-bomb survivors now are separated and divided into different organizations, but they need to be unified in order to appeal more to the people from abroad and have their true understanding.

Chairperson: Thank you for your opinion, which I share personally very much. So, the next person please.

Unknown: I am not a Hiroshima citizen nor a Japanese citizen. Sixty years ago, Aug. 6, 8:15, more than 100,000 Koreans became the victims of the A-bomb at this location. Why were these Koreans in Hiroshima on that day? When I am asked where I belong, I only respond by saying that I am a poet. The reason is, with regard to the victims of Koreans of A-bomb, in the past 60 years the Japanese government has not clarified such victims, and South Korea and North Korea, which is developing nuclear, actually there were people from North Korea who became victims of the A-bomb in Hiroshima on that day. And the Korean victims were actually separated. And only five dollars was paid as compensation by the Japanese government to these Koreans. And for the 36 years Japan has colonized the Korean peninsula and there the responsibility of this colonization has not been compensated; the Japanese government is not taking any responsibility.

I bring a picture of Mr. Shin Yong who has already passed away. He was the victim of the Hiroshima A-bomb and he went back to his homeland but his parents said, "Oh, you're a ghost, you're not my son." And they tried to put him away. And he went through plastic surgery several times and he looked like this, but at that time he was blind. He could not hear and his nose was deformed and his mouth was deformed, so he did not look like any human being, therefore his parents said that he was a ghost or a monster. And he said, "Well, I *am* your son, my name is Shin Yong", he wrote it on a piece of paper, and reading that piece of paper his father for the first time recognized that he was his loving son.

So Mitsubishi in Japan and other companies, when there was an escalation of aggression towards the Chinese continent, this place became where the military industry expanded by four-fold in this location. And in order to collect the labor force they forced Korean people to come to this place and Toyo Kogyo and Mitsubishi were

the companies that they were forced to work for. And there were several hundred women students who also were supposed to come to this Western Japan. And the Nagasaki Mitsubishi military plant was another place where 700 or more or less of the Korean women were forced to come to Nagasaki.

However, they were prohibited to speak in their language, and also their names were forced to be pronounced in the Japanese way and their nationality was forced to be ignored and they were forced to pay the greatest respect and honor to the Japanese emperor. So because of the colonization policy of Japan, the Koreans were denied in terms of nationality, and Korean identity was fully denied because of the colonization policy of Japan.

After the World War II, Japan has been called the only A-bomb victimized nation. But with this they have become very silent to the fact that there has been a great aggression and invasion from Japan to the Korean peninsula. I think we are still under the colonization policy. Ninety per cent of the Koreans who returned to the Korean peninsula have passed away. And they have received no support with regard to treatment after being victimized by the A-bomb as well.

And these people, there are 44 people who were forced to come and work for Mitsubishi and became victims of the A-bomb and made a lawsuit, and for the first time in history they required full compensation from the Japanese government. And this court litigation is going on still for the past ten years. And to West Japan, the imperial headquarters of West Japan, towards them the Korean victims asked, required the compensation that is provided to the A-bomb survivors of Japanese and this also, the litigation started and we won the litigation, the Koreans won the litigation. But still it is taking ten years for the compensation from the Japanese government to pay compensation for the colonization policy.

So the Korean A-bomb victims, they are still colonized by the Japanese government. Even now they haven't been regarded as human beings. If Japan wants to walk on the path of peace, truly, then they have to recognize what they did in colonization. They have to do soul-searching and through that they can establish reconciliation with the Korean A-bomb victims and then we can see the light in the coexistence together. However, the Japanese government still has not clarified or identified the scope of the damage to the Korean A-bomb victims.

I came here but I wasn't allowed to speak out until the very last. I was very sad. Even in the international conference, the Korean A-bomb survivors are not fully recognized and we are not restored, so those people from France and Germany and Italy, please listen to me. There is another Hiroshima A-bomb story in Hiroshima.

Now I'm going to wrap up. So I actually have made a book compiling the testimonials of the Korean A-bomb survivors and then we've also made a movie about the Korean experiences, and I've brought the video. And then also there is the photo exhibition about the Korean experience in the A-bomb. The venue is pretty close from here, so please pay attention to that. Please understand another story of the Hiroshima A-bomb and then please bring this story back to your country. Thank you very much for sparing time for me.

Chairperson: Thank you. And I think I need to say the point just brought into focus is the reality we have to face anew, especially at this occasion. And I guess

everybody knows that because of this kind of problem, Japan has now, at this very moment, difficult times in its relationship with China, Korea and North Korea.

So actually that is also in the United States, there is a huge gap between the government and the American people.

And also, actually I would like to say only a few words, and being aware that it would not be sufficient, but I guess you know that looking at only Hiroshima there are all sorts of activities and lots of people are involved in all sorts of peace activities, not only anti-nuclear activities. Actually, my friends and some of the members in our group are involved in the attempt to work exactly for that purpose mentioned together with Korean people. And of course we are aware that this kind of attempt at the level of people has been far from enough in the sense that the Japanese government has been able to get away with its very pragmatic attitude towards its history.

But there is yet another point. I am really sorry that I did not give a chance to speak out in the beginning. Let me explain. Maybe you didn't see because you are sitting in the front, but there are so many people raising their hands in the back, so many people, so I didn't avoid you by design. Please understand that. I think I would like to first ask the very first person who raised his hand, yes, please.

Unknown: If possible the people in and outside of Hiroshima they should be provided more time and opportunity to speak their minds. That's all I wanted to say and then I would like to stop talking here. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Close. Then I would request to finish up. Yes?

Unknown: I am the mayor of a city in France. What we have heard is related to us. We ourselves have something to do with it. I understand that people had a very disastrous experience, but I hope that you keep talking about it. I hope that you keep sharing what you have experienced.

And Mayors for Peace believe that peace is necessary, however, even among us we have some differences, differences of opinion, and also what kind of actions we should make. To this we also have some differences. But we are now making arguments about abolishing nuclear weapons, but we can also solve other problems. The world has various problems now, the inequality issue, the inequality and then unequal development and the nuclear weapons problem is one of the problems as well. We shouldn't give up taking action. We have to take action in order to accomplish the nuclear weapons disarmament.

Disarmament is the issue, not just non-proliferation, because some people say that, actually yesterday, at the exit of the museum, there was a young lady who speaks French and she noticed that I was French so she just came to me and started talking in French trying to practice French. And then she said that Hiroshima's atomic bomb was dropped at 8:15 in the morning on the 6th August. And where are we in the history of human beings? I cannot imagine. I cannot imagine that we will ever have another atomic bomb or nuclear bomb blast, that's what she said. But I said, in Nagasaki and in Hiroshima the atomic bombs were dropped. And wherever you are in the world, there is the possibility and the risk of having the third atomic bomb blast, so we cannot bear that, we have to start taking action, we have to abolish and eliminate all the nuclear weapons.

So mayors are now gathering in Hiroshima. But what are we going to do? Right. The NPT Review Conference was a failure, however, the treaty is still living. And based on that, the signatory countries have to fulfill their tasks and nuclear powers are not fulfilling their tasks in the context of NPT. So we have to of course stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons. That's necessary. And the US is now trying to start the new nuclear arms race. We have to stop that as well. But I would like to say one thing.

We are gathering here as the mayors. If we don't have the citizens we cannot make any use, so wherever you are, in whichever cities you are, we have to work together with the citizens. And the government of the US, France, UK, Russia and other nuclear power governments, India, Pakistan and Israel as well, those nuclear weapons-owning countries like North Korea, so to those nuclear power governments we have to give pressure from the people, from citizens, and we have to force the government to stop nuclear development, have to put the pressure on the government to reduce the number of nuclear weapons. That's the goal of 2020, and we have to be true to this target. Sorry for speaking so long. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you for the very determined and powerful talk which was a response to the question made by the young Japanese man. I think I'd like to ask the other foreign participants to respond to his question, but I think we are really out of time. Yes, and may I ask the last speaker to give his talk?

Unknown: I am an A-bomb survivor in Hiroshima. I came here with great expectations, and what I want say is, in Japan the greatest concern is the nuclear issue of North Korea. And I have no time to go into details, but I am, however, wondering how much of the participants of the conference Mayors for Peace know about this nuclear weapon in North Korea. They agree to the abolishment of nuclear weapons but they still want to continue to use nuclear in a peaceful way. That is the information that I know from the newspapers.

And there is this abduction issue as well. And the six-nation talk. Japan is not very being taken much into serious consideration. And also I must mention the fact that Japan objects to the utilization of nuclear in a peaceful manner in North Korea. In Japan we have many, many nuclear power plants, and if we wanted to, we do have the technology and the capability of making nuclear weapons. And also in the Diet there are some Diet members who are for making nuclear weapons in Japan. So we must be also aware of that. I feel that this kind of issue is a very important issue which should be brought up in this conference of Mayors for Peace.

And so it is not true that Japan is really a peaceful nation, and there is this kind of danger within Japan as well. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Thank you very much for your very important point. Actually I've been feeling the same problem and people talk a lot about the so-called American double-standard. I think there is a Japanese double-standard in terms of nuclear policy.

Also, concerning the very fact that Japan is sending, has sent the so-called Self Defense armies to Iraq, just following America, the USA. So I think we are, in many regards, in a very dangerous situation and we have to focus on the Japanese government's problems if we would like to appeal to the international community for

the nuclear disarmament and a peaceful world. And I think we have to conclude. Very short?

Walker: Just two very short, the microphone again, but I just wanted to say to the gentleman in the back. I agree, I wish there had been more time and I know, I speak only for myself, but I know there is free time tomorrow morning after the ceremony and before the session starts, and I know I would be happy to meet with people, even though I'm not directly involved in the nuclear movement. And my guess is there would be a number of people from the Mayors for Peace conference that would be interested, because I think the point, it's really too bad that people have come and really not had time to talk. So thank you for your comments.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. Of course I do not have something to round up this exchange meeting with. But just a very short thing. I have personally participated in lots of conferences, international conferences, not only in my specialty, which is philosophy, but also in the peace activities conferences, and I think every time I participate in this kind of conference meeting I feel again that this kind of meeting is not an end, it's just a starting point, and there will be lots of expecting developments coming out of this exchange. I think hoping for that, the kind of development which even we ourselves might not be able to foresee.

I think I'd like to conclude, but I'd like to ask for your pardon. I'm aware there must have been lots of points to be desired but I did my best to come up with the exchange between people as freely as possible.

Osamu Kimura, Japan: Sorry, a very short comment. I came from Osaka, my name is Kimura. I have a comment to Mr. Freedkin. I am a friend to Mr. Freedkin. Peace and the abolishment of nuclear weapons issue is an issue that is directly related to democratism. And Berkeley was opposed to the Iraqi war, and also they have adopted the convention to abolish any nuclear-related flying objects and also they are discussing with regard to the issue of dispatching soldiers from California. So all of these things are related to the citizens' movement.

There are more than 40 committees in the Council and all of the citizens participate in these commissions and I was very shocked for such participation of the citizens and the democratism that we see in Berkeley. Compared to this, the democracy in Japan is very much limited. So what I want to ask the people in Hiroshima is that we have to establish a process in which the citizens can participate more in the government, the politics, and we have to really study that and we have to develop this process of citizens participating in democracy.

Chairperson: There must be a lot of things which we wish, in a different way, but I think I would like to say, as you may know, there was a plenary session this morning and this plenary session had to end with no discussion time left. So when we think of that, I think, if I may say so, I think we did have almost one-and-a-half hours for exchange of opinions, and I'm aware that it is not enough, far from enough, but I think, please believe that I did my best to bring up the free exchange of time. And I'd like to thank every participant for coming and staying late to the end. And thank you very much. And let's work together, for the future together. [applause]