



# *Inter-city Solidarity* *Newsletter*

World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity

August 10, 1999 / No.12

## We Attended the Hague Appeal for Peace 1999

### The Hague, Netherlands, May 11-15, 1999

The Hague Appeal for Peace 1999, an international conference on peace, was held in The Hague, Netherlands, May 11-15, 1999. This conference was held in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the First Hague International Peace Conference held in 1899. About 8,000 persons attended from more than 600 NGO's and cities from a hundred countries. Under the overall theme of, "peace is a human right / time to abolish war" many sub-conferences were held on the four major strands: Disarmament and Human Security, Prevention, Resolution and Transformation of Violent Conflict, International Humanitarian and Human Rights Laws and Institutions, and Root Causes of War / Culture of Peace .

The World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity was represented by President and Mayor of Hiroshima Tadatoshi Akiba, and Vice President and Mayor of Nagasaki Ichio Itoh. Both mayors spoke at the Overview Session of the Disarmament and Human Security and appealed for the abolition of nuclear weapons. (Please see pages 2 through 5.) The Mayors Conference co-sponsored a workshop with the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities that focused on peace activities related to the theme: Roles of Municipalities for Peace and Human Rights. The workshop sought, through discussions with representatives of international NGO's, to strengthen solidarity among cities of the world and NGO's. (Please see pages 6-11 for conference agenda.).

We saw peace initiatives enthusiastically implemented by numerous NGO's, and heard their opposition, based on human rights, to the clinging of governments to the logic of force, which leads to the use of armed force. This opposition was powerfully expressed in the Hague Appeal. We were struck again with the truth that the 21st century will be the age of the NGO.

The atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki has been recognized as the most impor-

tant event of the 20th century, yet no hibakusha (atomic bomb survivor) spoke in either the opening or closing ceremony. This oversight raises a question about the general credence and respect afforded Hiroshima [and the hibakusha]. Furthermore, the idea that we could not tolerate the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, and that the NATO bombing was unavoidable, is deeply entrenched in Europe because of the "lesson learned from the holocaust of W.W.II." One of the greatest challenges we face at this point is how to respond to those who say that if the Kosovo situation were to escalate, we must ultimately be prepared to use nuclear weapons.

We need to develop more articulate and persuasive arguments to overcome these attitudes and find ways to spread more widely and root more firmly the message of the hibakusha—the absolute evil of nuclear weapons. To increase the effectiveness of the statements and activities of the Mayors Conference, we intend to move as quickly as possible to reevaluate its efforts to date. We ask for your cooperation and support in this effort.



Opening Ceremony

HAGUE APPEAL FOR PEACE 1999

# Hiroshima and Nagasaki Mayors Speak at Overview Session

**Tadatoshi Akiba,  
Mayor of Hiroshima  
President of  
World Conference of  
Mayors for Peace  
through Inter-city  
Solidarity**



It is my honor and privilege that I can speak here today at a conference such as this, dedicated to the abolition of war.

Since I represent the City of Hiroshima, I would like to summarize the human history after Hiroshima as a battle of the human race, against war in general and against the nuclear weapons in particular. Furthermore, I would like to claim that we have won the first several rounds of this battle.

Now let me mention just three of these “rounds” as I have chosen to call them:

(1) Nuclear weapons could not destroy the very essence of what makes us human. They failed to obliterate the spirit and the backbone of human beings.

I do not have to tell you how terrible the A-bombs were. Hibakusha describe the condition after the bombings as hell on earth. Nobody could justifiably blame hibakusha if they had chosen death literally, psychologically or otherwise. However, most hibakusha have chosen to live and to continue to be human.

I consider this fact our victory against nuclear weapons in the first round.

(2) Hibakusha have effectively prevented another use of nuclear weapons.

The Hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have kept sending the message of peace to the rest of the world despite their physical and psychological pains and all other odds against them. Their message has been direct and simple: No one else in the world should go through the same agony and tragedy they

had experienced. Their voices became the beacon of conscience which effectively prevented nuclear weapons powers from using their weapons once more. Actually, this is essentially what Mr. John Hersey, author of the book “Hiroshima”, told me in 1985.

In what ways have hibakusha conveyed their message, then? One example is the Peace Declaration which both cities issue every year in August. Hibakusha and citizens also hold conferences. Many of them. They attend conferences. This is one of them. They send missions of peace to the rest of the world. They welcome missions of peace from all over the world. They send doctors to treat those affected by radiation. They accept patients exposed to radiation and provide expert care and healing environment. The list goes on and on.

In sum, I would like consider the content of hibakusha’s message and activities, which prevented another use of nuclear weapons, as our victory in the second round.

(3) The Hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have been devoted advocates of a new model of relations among nations. Instead of the obsolete model of pitting one nation against others as “adversaries”, they have promoted a cooperative and altruistic model of the world.

This way of thinking started right after the bombings. Hibakusha understood right then that blaming the United States would not solve their problems. Instead of shouting “Remember Hiroshima!”, they cried “No more Hiroshimas!”. Instead of resolving to invent more destructive and more lethal weapons to take revenge on the United States, they focused on abolishing nuclear weapons and creating real peace in the world.

This attitude is beautifully captured in the inscription on the memorial cenotaph in the Peace Park of Hiroshima. It reads, “Please rest peacefully, for we will not repeat the evil.” Yes, we, the human race, will not repeat the evil.

The same philosophy guided Japan when the “peace” constitution was promulgated in 1946. It enunciates the principle that the coming world must be built on peace, trust and justice, renounces war forever and prohibits Japan from possessing any armed forces.

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It is true that such thought had existed in human history for centuries. It is also significant that one country in the twentieth century took it seriously enough to make this principle as one of the pillars of its constitution.

This describes the victory in the third round.

I believe that these victories are important. They are important for hibakusha because they gave meaning to their survival. They are important for us because they provide the means for our survival.

I also believe that if the world can really understand the messages hibakusha have been sending, and act on them, it will not take long to eliminate nuclear weapons from the surface of the earth.

However, the fact is that the world as a whole has not appreciated the importance of these messages or victories, nor have they shown enough respect or gratitude towards the hibakusha themselves. In other words, the world has taken hibakusha and their words and commitment for granted.

I am pointing this out in order that we come to grips with certain realities and that by overcoming them we come closer to accomplishing our common goals. With this line of thinking in mind, let me continue.

I am sure that those who are present are exceptions, but the world at large have stood alongside the bombardiers and thus helped justify the logic of nuclear war and undermined the effectiveness of hibakusha messages. What goes on in Kosovo is a good proof of it.

Imagine an even worse case. Suppose the hibakusha had

taken a completely different path in order to come to terms with their experiences. Suppose they had advocated that the only way not to repeat Hiroshima and Nagasaki would be to build even more powerful nuclear and other weapons, that is, to believe in the logic of more elevated form of mutually assured destruction. I am pretty sure that the world would have come to an assured extinction during the past half century because nuclear powers would have interpreted such an attitude on the part of hibakusha as God's permission to use nuclear weapons.

Luckily, there were enough hibakusha who voiced their opinions and feelings, which led to the three rounds of victories I mentioned earlier.

In order to make sure that hibakusha's message would not fade away, I see a need to condense the messages of hibakusha into the highest moral principle. "Thou shalt not kill" is important, but from the standpoint of the human race collectively we might want to give the principle, "Nuclear weapons are an absolute evil", a higher priority.

Of course, we may not be able to achieve this goal entirely within a short span of time. For one thing, we must convert those non-believers such as nuclear weapons powers. Therefore, we need to design a well thought out, realistic strategy to reach this goal.

What I would like to propose as a possible first step is to separate an important component of the "absolute evil" thesis and make it the overwhelming rallying point of the world's public opinion. I am thinking about the principle, "One should not kill non-combatants in war or similar conflicts." Or slightly nar-



Overview Session

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rower, "One should not kill children in war or similar conflicts."

One clear advantage of this principle is that a wider range of people accept it: even those who believe nuclear weapons are God-given or necessary evils are compelled to endorse it.

Another advantage is that real grassroots democracy can be involved. Cities all over the world can declare this principle as "sacred" and pass local ordinances to ban the existence of not only nuclear weapons but ordinary weapons within their city limits in order to qualify for the "non-combatant" status. Such an effort is something that the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity can undertake.

Of course, what I am proposing here is just one possibility among many others. Some of you might have a more focused idea which would be strategically more practical as a rallying point of the public opinion.

I cannot over-emphasize the importance of education from the point of view of hibakusha. Those hibakusha who are active today were themselves children in 1945. They were some of the first initiators of children's movement for peace and won the three victories as I have mentioned. We must make sure that this tradition is passed down to all future generations. Therefore, I would like to continue Hiroshima's effort to provide curricula, educational materials and other resources to schools, colleges and universities so that the younger generation will understand the meaning of survival.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki are not just cities. When someone mentions "Hiroshima" people do not visualize the local landmarks, or the new shopping mall. Why? Because there is a historical trauma so intense attached to these two cities that people continue to remember.

When one looks into a bright flash of light, it is possible to see the image of the light for some time afterwards, ghostly yet present. We still see the image at this time, fading but real.

We cannot and must not allow ourselves to have the message of Hiroshima and Nagasaki fade completely from our minds, and we cannot allow our vision or ideals to fade, either. For if we do, we have but one course left for us. And that flash of light will not only rob us of our vision, but it will rob us of our lives, our progeny, and our very existence.



**peace is human right**  
**time to abolish war**

**Ichcho Itoh,**  
**Mayor of Nagasaki**  
**Vice President of**  
**World Conference of**  
**Mayors for Peace**  
**through Inter-city**  
**Solidarity**



Honorable chairperson Ms. Cora Weiss, ladies and gentlemen, it is my great honor as vice-president of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity and mayor of Nagasaki to have this opportunity to speak to you today.

It is clear that "disarmament and human security," the theme of today's plenary session, includes a variety of issues such as the reduction of conventional weapons, starvation, poverty, refugees, suppression of human rights and environmental degradation. But as mayor of Nagasaki I would like to call particular attention to the threat and inhumanity of nuclear weapons.

Nagasaki was opened in the year 1570 as a port for trade with Portugal and later flourished as a gateway for exchanges with the Netherlands and China. The mingling of foreign culture with indigenous Japanese culture produced a unique ambience that is still evident today in Nagasaki's cuisine, festivals and local customs.

On August 9, 1945, three days after the explosion of a uranium atomic bomb over Hiroshima, a plutonium atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. Although the question of why different bombs were used remains controversial to this day, I would like to comment on this subject.

Nagasaki was reduced instantly to rubble as a result of the explosion, and more than 74,000 people—almost all of them non-combatant citizens—were killed. The death toll also included some 8,500 Japanese Christians. Even the people who managed to survive continue to this day to suffer from the late effects of exposure to radiation and from mental and physical injuries.

Nuclear weapons are tools of mass destruction that bring instantaneous death to huge numbers of people without any discrimination between combatants and noncombatants.

The citizens of Nagasaki and Hiroshima understand from their own personal experience that nuclear weapons are inhuman, that their use can never be justified, and that, if used, they will push humankind to the brink of extinction. On the basis of this experience, we have appealed to the world relentlessly for

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the abolition of nuclear weapons. Please let me add that we are making these appeals, not out of hatred or resentment, but out of an ardent aspiration for peace and for the safety of our children and grandchildren in the 21st century.

In 1955, ten years after the atomic bombing, Nagasaki joined in a sister-city affiliation with St. Paul, Minnesota, and for 44 years since then we have participated in various exchanges at the grassroots level. I think you will see from this that our appeals for peace have always been accompanied by the deepening of friendship and mutual understanding with our friends overseas.

In November 1995, three and half years ago, I presented a statement to the International Court of Justice here in Hague about the "illegality of the use of nuclear weapons."

In this statement I said that: "It is my understanding that the free and unlimited selection of weapons is unacceptable in terms of international law concerning warfare, and that 1) attacks on civilian communities, 2) the infliction of unnecessary suffering and 3) the destruction of the natural environment are prohibited, even with regard to weapons that are not expressly banned. The use of nuclear weapons obviously falls under the scope of this prohibition and therefore is a manifest infraction of international law."

After this, I was approached by one of the judges, who said: "Thank you for a very moving statement." For the atomic bomb survivors, this unusual comment was brimming with enough warmth to wash away all the sufferings of half a century.

In July the following year, as you know, the International Court of Justice stated in its advisory opinions that the "threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of International law."

Subsequently, a large number of prominent politicians, scientists and retired military officers who had been closely involved in nuclear strategy also made concrete proposals for nuclear disarmament.

But last May, in the midst of this situation, India and Pakistan conducted successive underground nuclear tests, making our fears about nuclear proliferation a reality. I immediately sent letters to the United Nations, to the five nuclear states, to India and Pakistan and to disarmament-related NGO calling for the swift conclusion of a Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty. In this letter, I asked the leaders of the nuclear states and all countries to declare a ban on the development, testing, manufacture, deployment and use of nuclear weapons, to dismantle and abandon existing nuclear weapons and to start negotiations aimed at the swift conclusion of such an treaty.

On the eve of the 21st century I have raised two important subjects for special effort by Nagasaki as an atomic-bombed city. These are 1) the transmission of the atomic bomb experience, and 2) the enhancement of world opinion in favor of the

abolition of nuclear weapons through cooperation with NGO.

Citizens born after World War II now account for about 70% of the Nagasaki population. I consider it a matter of vital importance to convey the reality of the atomic bomb experience to the young people who will lead the world tomorrow.

Nagasaki City is currently conducting a variety of activities to inform young people about the atomic bombing and war and to cultivate an appreciation for the value of peace. Please let me introduce just one of these activities. This is a photograph of a camphor tree at Sanno Shrine located only 800 meters from the hypocenter of the Nagasaki atomic bomb explosion. Although given up for dead after being ravaged by the heat and blast generated by the explosion, the tree came back to life and in that way greatly encouraged the citizens picking up the pieces of their lives from the rubble. In recent years, however, the tree's vitality was declining, and concerned local children made efforts to restore the health of the camphor tree with the help of "tree doctors" and other adults. Nagasaki City also helped to fund this project. This photograph shows the fruit of those efforts.

Since then the students of Shikimi Junior High School in the city have even produced seedlings from this camphor tree, and they have launched a project to distribute "second-generation atomic-bombed camphor trees" throughout Japan. Nagasaki City will continue to commit itself to the preservation of atomic-bombed structures and trees.

With regard to cooperation with NGO, the swift conclusion of the recent treaty banning land mines was due in large part to the grassroots efforts of NGO above and beyond national borders. Inspired by the remarkable success of this campaign, we are now searching for a new approach to the movement for the abolition of nuclear weapons. A recent NGO survey shows that, even in the United States and Britain, the vast majority of people think that negotiations for the elimination of nuclear weapons should be started. The same thing can be said for Canada, Australia and the countries of Europe. If the people and NGO of the world gather together, the driving force thus achieved will be powerful enough to influence the trends of international politics. Ladies and gentlemen, I ask for your cooperation. As they advance into old age, the atomic bomb survivors live in increasing anxiety about the failure of humankind to blaze a trail to the abolition of nuclear weapons.

May all the citizens and NGO of the world gather together to ensure the security of our children in the 21st century. I hope that this Hague Appeal for Peace 1999 will provide an opportunity for world citizens and NGO to exchange opinions about the solution of various global problems, to strengthen the bonds of solidarity, and to make new steps in the direction of world peace.

Thank you very much.

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# To Make the Coming Century one of Peace and Human Rights for All

In The Hague conference of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity held May 14th, 88 persons from 22 cities in 12 countries and 45 NGO's discussed the roles of local governments in peace and human rights. A summary of the conference follows, focusing especially on the speeches given.

### Session 1

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#### **Tadatoshi Akiba, coordinator, mayor of Hiroshima:**

Although the hibakusha have fought several rounds against nuclear weapons, I would like to speak about their victories in three of those rounds: (1) The hibakusha overcame the trauma of their dreadful experiences and continued to live as decent human beings. (2) They play an effective role in preventing nuclear weapons from being used again. (3) The hibakusha do not reply to their terrible injuries with reproach or with revenge, but devote themselves to abolishing nuclear weapons and achieving world peace.



Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima

The message of the hibakusha has been carried throughout the world, yet we cannot say that their primary assertion, that nuclear weapons must be eliminated, has become a deeply felt value. Some people say nuclear weapons can be used in any kind of conflict that develops between countries. Some NATO officials, too, thought nuclear weapons should be used to resolve the Kosovo issue. I believe that in order to overcome these attitudes and root the message of the hibakusha widely and deeply through the world, we need a slogan with which even nuclear powers will be forced to agree, a slogan like

“Children are not for killing, even in war.” If cities were to join together and act in solidarity under a slogan like this, it might help prevent war. I hope you will consider launching a global movement to create a new world, uniting cities and involving grassroots democracy movements, and defining concrete goals in pursuit of the abolition of nuclear weapons, such as the declaration of more nuclear free zones.

#### **Wim Deetman, mayor of The Hague:**

Sitting back and doing nothing while just a few hundred kilometers away in Europe an ‘ethnic cleansing’ is taking place is also a form of violence. Anyone who allows a murder to take place is an accessory to that murder. Saying that, of course I hope that a diplomatic solution will soon be found. Once the war in Kosovo is over, the refugees will hesitatingly return to their towns and villages, whereupon work on reconstructing society will begin. That is when the cities of the rest of the world can make their contribution. This is why I support our government in its decision to contribute to intervention in Yugoslavia.



Mayor Deetman of the Hague

The world's cities must have the courage to state that they can contribute to world peace. They must then put those words into action. I believe that if the administrative methods of local authorities reflect human rights, they can contribute to world peace. For instance, such a local authority could work to build a tolerant multi-culture society in which different cultures are respected.

I will present two projects implemented at The Hague based upon the above concept. (1) In the “World journey through your own city,” residents visit the organizations of minority

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populations such as mosques, churches, and temples. (2) In the District Codes project, each of the seven districts of The Hague has a special organization that creates a “code of conduct” with regard to the multicultural society. These organizations help each other in promoting tolerance and in opposing all forms of discrimination and racism.

**Giuseppe Villani, deputy mayor of Como City:** The twentieth century which is now ending will be remembered as a period of wonderful scientific and technological discoveries; from explorations in space to bio technologies. But at the same time, it has been the century with the most violent and destructive armed conflicts which have caused the death of more than 100 millions of people. The wars of the 20th century continue to produce civilian victims not only through combat, but in many other ways. Particularly the invisible deaths of persons not included in the official casualty figures, such as those caused by 2,025 nuclear tests, will continue. As regards the atomic heritage of the Cold War, researches on cancer carried out by the American Academy of Science, the ex-Soviet Union Academy of Science, and the United Nations have found that cancerous diseases from radiation provoked by nuclear experiments in the atmosphere will have caused at least 400,000 deaths by the year 2000, double the human losses in Hiroshima and Nagasaki explosions.



Deputy Mayor Villani of Como

Despite these successes in seeking the abolition of nuclear weapons after the Cold War, one must not forget the foot-dragging in dismantling warheads and the absolutely enormous nuclear arsenals.

The dismantling of nuclear warheads proceeds very slowly (about 2,000 a year for USA and Russia). The most serious problem is the fissile materials produced during the Cold War. Landau Network-Centro Volta (LNCV) and other NGO's of Como can contribute to solving this problem. LNCV is a research agency that deals with nuclear disarmament and other issues from a scientific and technical perspective, and an

advisory agency of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In late May this year it organized an informal discussion forum between India and Pakistan regarding the signing of the CTBT treaty by these two countries and promoting a greater effort in the international scientific community for disarmament and Peace.

**Theresa Mthembu, mayor of Durban South Central:** Without democracy there certainly can be no human rights, but it is much easier to talk of democracy and human rights when one has access to basic facilities and when people are not sick, cold, hungry and homeless.



Mayor Mthembu of Durban South Central

I live in a Township (a non-white area) to the south of Durban that is the second biggest township in South Africa. Hundreds of thousands of people still do not have access to a ready supply of potable water, electricity, street lights, or proper health care.

Human Rights and Peace Education in our communities are issues linked to other issues like HIV/AIDS Education. You may that at present we have a 30-50% prevalence of HIV/AIDS in our Province with no signs of this catastrophic curve changing direction. We also have a horrifyingly high incidence of rape and other forms of abuse of women and



Coordinator and Speaker

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children, which the government and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are doing their utmost to address in various ways. But we desperately need to form alliances and partnerships with businesses, with overseas organizations, with people who have the expertise to deal with these matters who can work with us to address these serious issues.

**Ichcho Itoh, mayor of Nagasaki:** The city of Nagasaki suffered its atomic bombing on August 9, 1945, three days after Hiroshima. The city was instantly reduced to rubble, and 150 thousand people, or two thirds of the population, were killed or injured. Because of this terrible experience the people of Nagasaki have appealed continually to the world to abolish nuclear weapons and achieve lasting world peace. The generations born since the war now account for 70 percent of Japan's population, and we feel a weighty need to somehow hand on the experience of the atomic bombing and of the war to those who will carry our nation through the 21st century.



Mayor Itoh of Nagasaki

Nagasaki is therefore implementing numerous peace initiatives, and has made August 9th, the day the bomb was dropped, a day for elementary and junior high school students to return to school to hear the hibakusha tell their experiences of the bombing and to discuss war and peace with them. Blazing the trail to nuclear weapons abolition during the 20th century has been the most important task entrusted to Nagasaki. It was for this reason that I sent the text of "A Call for the Swift Conclusion of a Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty" to the UN and to nuclear power nations.

Lastly, Nagasaki and Hiroshima, knowing too well the horror, are seeking to unite with cities and peoples around the world. We intend to strengthen our ties with the UN, NGOs, and other international organizations to stimulate and arouse public opinion in favor of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

**Jacques Jobin, Director, International Union of Local Authorities:** Founded in 1913, The International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) unites more than 100 associations of local governments, 200 individual local governments, and 100 associate member organizations such as universities and training institutes. The IULA's mission is to promote and unite democratic local governments worldwide. I will present some of IULA's human rights and peace education activities.



Director Jobin of International Union of Local Authorities

When the Cold War ended we thought peace would soon arrive. Conflicts, however, continue to arise in every corner of the earth. We are searching for ways to peacefully solve local disputes, such as discussion at local levels. The IULA held a workshop, for instance, on the theme of local governments working for peace at a IULA World Congress in Barcelona, in which the mayors of Palestine's Gaza and Israel's Karmiel convened. Engineers are more useful than philosophers in settling disputes and it is local governments that should play the role of the engineer. Local governments have common problems; by networking they can play an important role in discovering new methods to peacefully improve the quality of life.



The Hague Conference

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Session 2

**Andre Hediger, coordinator, mayor of Geneva:** I am the president of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities and Mayor of Geneva. We have worked ceaselessly on the question of the roles of cities, towns, and villages in peace and human rights in the Peace Messenger conferences. The staffs of these community governments are close to the people and the task of discovering methods to build a peaceful world must fall to them. This becomes possible only through respect for each and every human being. Methods differ according to the sensitivities of the people and their standards of living. Geneva has taken in people from many lands; not just foreign government and bank employees, but manual laborers and refugees. Geneva has implemented many initiatives in school education, sports facility utilization, and housing policy to help these foreign people live harmoniously with the Geneva residents and to promote peaceful coexistence. Unemployment has brought out a selfish, xenophobic attitude in spite our efforts, however, and we have intensified lessons on the spirit of equality and tolerance in school classes and lectures and taken other steps to reconcile the people.



Mayor Hediger of Geneva

In spite of the efforts of these cities, Krusevac, Yugoslavia, which is one of our cities and also one appointed a Peace Messenger City by the UN, is now at the center of a destructive conflict shattering lives and social values and destroying the tolerant attitudes achieved over several decades of effort. Can we allow the living conditions of the general population to degenerate because the political leaders could not find a peaceful solution? What kind of measures should the Krusevac authorities have taken to allow the people to continue to believe in the peaceful ideal which they had been taught? We have not yet found the answer to this question, but it is a question we should all ask ourselves as if it were to become our own problem to solve tomorrow.

**Martin Hemingway, President of International Nuclear Free Zones Local Authorities:** Etched on our

memory are the images of terrible suffering from the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. When we think of that suffering, it fuels our determination to ensure that such crimes against humanity are not repeated.



President Hemingway of  
International Nuclear Free Zones  
Local Authorities

It was the recognition, in the Cold War era, that cities everywhere were vulnerable

to the devastation suffered at Hiroshima and Nagasaki that drove the development of the municipal nuclear free zones movement in the early 1980s. The International Nuclear Free Zone Local Authorities movement was formed nearly two decades ago, but after the end of the Cold War, the priority of the campaign against nuclear weapons shifted its focus to other movements. Nonetheless, the maintenance of the structures of the nuclear free zone local authority movement remains important. As we meet, in Russia suspicion of NATO is extremely high, and has not been greater since the height of the Second Cold War in the early 1980s when US tactical nuclear missiles were deployed in Europe. It is time to renew our links and play our part in efforts to secure peace, good will and sustainable security. East-west relations must not be allowed to degenerate. US talk of abandoning the Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty together with NATO expansion is creating a climate of fear in Russia. Instead of exploiting the opportunities at the end of the second millennium for a cooperative and stable future we are destroying them.

The International Nuclear Free Zones Local Authorities network, will continue its work to resolve this situation and to cooperate with all other organizations seeking to abolish nuclear weapons. I would like to propose two initiatives today. I propose we send a resolution to all nuclear states and the UN urging them to begin work on a treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons in the next century, and that we send a message to the leaders of all NATO member states setting out the urgent need for nuclear weapons abolition.

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### **Jaime Vazquez, deputy mayor of the Jersey City:**

Wholesome and sound education of our young people is necessary in order to achieve peace in the future. An article, *Keep Calm Force*, appeared in a US newspaper. These 'forces' were established by students in New Jersey to become involved in the process of mediation when dealing in confrontational situations. They wear blue vests, akin to the blue color of the United Nations. By involving young people in the process of mediation and peace keeping, we are taking a step in the right direction.



Deputy Mayor Vazgues of  
Jersey City

The City of Jersey City has cordially and warmly received scores of delegations from all over the world. We have ten sister-cities in seven different countries. Jersey City is very ethnically diverse. We have people from India, Pakistan, and Kashmir, and although their countries have confrontations and military conflicts, the Indian and Pakistani communities generally maintain cordial relationships with respect and acceptance. We have been developing a mutual respect and acceptance of different cultures. These two elements are essential for building peace, I think.

We gather here at the Hague Appeal for Peace Conference to let the world know that we abhor war, and that war is an unacceptable price for Peace, and that we will continue and redouble our commitments, our sacrifices and our efforts to insure that Peace comes to those who need it without having to pay for it with the lives of the innocent.

**Michel Cibot, deputy mayor of Malakoff:** In addition to my duties at Malakoff City Hall, I also participate in the activities of the French Association of Communes, Departments, and Regions for Peace (formed by the French municipality members of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity) and in those of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki research center to spread the message of the hibakusha within France.

It is very difficult for French local municipalities to advance human rights and peace. There are three reasons for this: The first is that France is a nuclear power. The second is that regional municipalities in France are divided into very small units and their financial scope is therefore quite limited. The third is that peace is not generally recognised as a human rights issue.



Deputy Mayor Cibot of Malakoff

The French Association of Communes, Departments, and Regions for Peace is working in the field of peace education to overcome this situation. I will provide a few examples. One member city, Angers, exhibited Jean Lurcat's great tapestry, "Le Chant du Monde" in the Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art and other places in Japan, and distributes *On a Paper Crane*, an animation of a story based on the true story of Sadako Sasaki of Hiroshima.

Finally, while the importance of media in the home is recognised, that media typically devotes more time to violence than to peace. The responsibility of parents and teachers is discussed in France, but seldom that of the media. If we want the world to become aware that peace is the most important of all human rights issues, then some day we will have to tackle this.

When the speakers had finished, the workshop considered the proposed Resolution on the Bombing of Yugoslavia. Strong opposition, from the standpoint of human rights, to the habitual dependence of governments on the logic of force, which leads to the use of armed force, conflicted with the opinion that ethnic cleansing absolutely cannot be tolerated and there is no other way to prevent it. In the end, those attendees who agreed with the resolution signed it, the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities secretariat finalized it and sent it to relevant governments, the UN, NATO, and others (please see page 11 for the text of the resolution).

# Resolution on the Bombing of

Whereas elected and appointed officials from cities and international municipal organisations gather at The Hague Appeal for Peace conference to consider their responsibilities for peace and human rights;

Whereas the great city of The Hague is internationally recognised for its historic commitment to peace, justice, human rights, democratic dialogue and the rule of international law;

Whereas we meet, deeply concerned about the continuing suffering caused to innocent citizens by violence and war, including the current situation in Yugoslavia, Kosovo, Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro and neighbouring regions, where hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced from their homes and thousands have been killed;

Whereas we condemn the abuse of human rights and the repression of minority racial, ethnic, religious, and cultural groups everywhere;

Whereas we recognise that the most important aspects of the war in Yugoslavia are to stop the killing, stop the bombing, allow people to return to their homes and provide them with the resources to rebuild their lives;

Whereas we reject any international military force which usurps the authority of the United Nations and of international law; and

Whereas we recognise the continuing possession of weapons of mass destruction by parties to the conflict in Yugoslavia, and the great potential for war in the region to escalate, threatens the existence of towns and cities everywhere;

Therefore RESOLVE to:

Call for the immediate cessation of bombing by NATO of Yugoslavia, and a ceasefire in the Kosovo region between Serbian and Kosovar Liberation Army Forces;

Insist upon the immediate resumption of political negotiations, including peacekeeping arrangements and the identification of resources required to restore the health and wellbeing of all dislocated people and the rebuilding of devastated economies in the Balkan region, and that the costs be borne by the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, the United States, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Yugoslavia and other countries party to the military actions;

Affirm the United Nations, or other neutral body acting with its authority, as the only means to achieve a just and peaceful solution, taking into account the interests of the sovereign nation of Serbia, the federation of Yugoslavia and all indigenous people within the Kosovar region;

Urge that humanitarian assistance, organised through the United Nations and other international civil aid organisations, be immediately provided to both Serbian and Kosovar refugees;

Appeal to all local elected officials, devoted to the sacred cause of peace, to speak out and request their citizens to demand a return to the respect for international law and norms, and for negotiations as a repudiation of the threat or use of force with its attendant destruction and human suffering;

In recognition of our determination to work for peace among all people, we attach our signatures below and agree to submit this resolution to:

- ] The Secretary General, United Nations
- ] Permanent Members of the UN Security Council
- ] The Secretary General, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
- ] Heads of all NATO member States
- ] The President, Serbia
- ] All Members of the international local authority organisations
- ] Relevant local authority bodies in the countries of the Towns and Cities

Date: 14 May 1999

## Mayors Conference Urges NPT Signatory Nations to promote Nuclear Weapons Abolition

The Mayors Conference sent the following message under the joint signatures of the president and vice president to NPT Signatory nations on the occasion of the third meeting of the Preparatory Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference (NPT Prep Com) which was held from May 10 to May 21 in

### Message

In August 1945, atomic bombs exploding over Hiroshima and Nagasaki instantly transformed them from bustling cities to plains of scorched rubble. Over 200,000 precious lives were lost, and the after effects of radiation lingered on. The suffering of survivors continues today, 54 years later. The people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki know from their own personal experiences the horror of atomic weapons. We know, too, that nuclear war would mean the extinction of the human race. Thus, we have transcended our own pain and sorrow to appeal unceasingly for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the realization of permanent and genuine world peace.

Last May, India, then Pakistan conducted nuclear tests, raising tensions in South Asia and seriously undermining the nuclear non-proliferation regime. The international community has responded, exerting every effort to resolve this critical situation involving nuclear weapons, and the United Nations General Assembly passed one resolution after another seeking their elimination.

The United States and Russia, however, going contrary to these efforts, have competed in subcritical nuclear testing over the last year, making clear their intention to retain their nuclear arsenals. The people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are deeply concerned that this will further intensify the mistrust that non-nuclear powers feel towards nuclear powers, and lead to the further spread of nuclear weapons.

In contemplating the circumstances surrounding these weapons, we have come to the conclusion that an indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as it stands will never lead to our goal, the total abolition of nuclear weapons.

Although 185 countries are now members of the United Nations, only a very few of those have or are suspected of having nuclear weapons. The great majority of countries do not have these weapons and long for a world free from them.

Based on the idea that not having nuclear weapons is advantageous to national security, the Republic of South Africa boldly did away with its nuclear arsenal, and many former military leaders and heads of nuclear states who had been involved in nuclear strategy have called publicly for the elimination of nuclear weapons. These events show that, with the Cold War over, the idea that nuclear deterrence is necessary to a country's national security is unfounded in reality.

The nuclear powers must acknowledge and respond to this outpouring of world opinion. Article 6 of the NPT obligates each of the parties to negotiate in good faith relating to nuclear disarmament. From this obligation, it is clear that the nuclear powers must immediately halt all subcritical nuclear testing and establish a clear and specific timeframe by which they commit themselves to eliminating their nuclear weapons.

We demand that they exert every effort toward early effectuation of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and prompt conclusion of the Cut Off Treaty to ban the production of weapons-grade fissile material. In addition, all parties to the NPT should seek to conclude an international treaty to ban all nuclear weapons and expand the nuclear-free zones to encompass the entire planet.

### Sixteen New Member Cities Join Mayors Conference

Since March 8 1999, the following sixteen cities have become members of organization.

Minsk (Belarus) ; Belfast, Georgetown, Northampton, Oxford (England) ; Audincourt, Chaville, Gongreville L'Orcher Harfleur (France) ; Bhopal, Calcutta (India) ; Hyderabad (Pakistan) ; Perm (Russia) ; Maribor (Slovenia) ; Middelburg

(South Africa) ; Atlanta (U.S.A.)

[City names are listed in alphabetical order of the countries to which they belong.]

Our membership as of July 1, 1999 including these sixteen cities, stands at 480 cities in 102 countries and regions.

### World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity Secretariat

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