



Inter-city Solidarity *Newsletter*

World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity

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“An Unequivocal Undertaking” to Eliminate their Nuclear Arsenals NPT Review Conference Held

Mayors Conference Delegation Developed Lobby Activities

The 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City from April 24 to May 20. A five-member delegation from the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, including Vice President and Nagasaki Mayor Icho Itoh and Hiroshima Deputy Mayor Koshi Morimoto, traveled to the US to attend the conference from April 29 to May 6. Making requests and lobbying representatives of various governments and UN officials, they conveyed the desire for nuclear weapon abolition of the member cities of the Mayors Conference.

The delegation's first activity was to pay courtesy calls on the concerned UN officials: Under-Secretary General Jayantha Dhanapala and Mr. Abdalah Baali, President of the NPT Review Conference. They asked them to strive to enhance the conference's effectiveness in moving the world toward nuclear disarmament. They next paid courtesy calls on government officials of nuclear weapon states: H.E. Mr. John Ritch, US Representative to the Vienna Office of the UN and Deputy US Representative to IAEA; and H.E. Mr. Yuri Kapralov, Director of Department of Security and Disarmament Issues, the Russian Foreign Ministry. They asked that the countries they represented play a central role in bringing about nuclear weapon abolition.

During the time for NGO representatives to address the parties to the NPT, Nagasaki Mayor Icho Itoh addressed the Conference on behalf of the Mayors Conference. He also distributed an appeal by the Mayor of Hiroshima and spoke of the Spirit of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which is the two cities' desire for nuclear weapon abolition. (See pages 2~5.)

In a new project prepared particularly for this NPT Review Conference, the Mayors Conference collected “peace messages” from member cities, printed these under the title *Messages for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons from Members of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace*

through Inter-city Solidarity (see pages 6~10), and reinforced its lobbying efforts by distributing them to governmental representatives. This project was intended to arouse international will for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

On May 20, the NPT Review Conference adopted a final document that incorporated the concept of “an unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear weapon states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.” The Conference was able to agree on this only because of the New Agenda Coalition and other tenacious efforts by non-nuclear weapon states, and because of the strengthening international resolve to abolish nuclear weapons. Efforts by the Mayors Conference have also contributed to this growing wave.

Issues still remain, as exemplified by the lack of a stated deadline for nuclear weapon abolition in the final document. As the document itself lacks legal binding power, to what extent each government will follow the agreement and genuinely work for nuclear weapon abolition is unclear. For such efforts to proceed swiftly and steadily, the cities and NGOs of the world must continue to cooperate in arousing international public opinion toward the cause. As we redouble our efforts, I ask for support and assistance from all of you.



Mayor of Nagasaki and the Deputy Mayor of Hiroshima making requests to NPT Review Conference President Abdalah Baali.

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A Concrete Path to Nuclear Weapon

On May 3, representatives from NGOs addressed the Conference for the first time. Facing 300 government officials from roughly 80 countries, Nagasaki Mayor Iccho Itoh gave a speech representing the Mayors Conference. The speech is reprinted here, along with the appeal by the Mayor of Hiroshima that was distributed at the same time.



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

Honorable Chairman Abdalah Baali, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honor as a representative of the U.N.-registered NGO "World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity" to have this opportunity to speak on the occasion of the NPT Review Conference.

The World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity is an international network of 487 cities in 102 countries and regions. It was established in 1982 in response to a worldwide call from the atomic-bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki for the promotion of international opinion in favor of the abolition of nuclear weapons.

In the event of war, and especially nuclear war, the first targets of attack are cities and the first victims of destruction are their residents, particularly noncombatants such as the elderly, women and children. Not only the atomic bombings but also the devastation repeated innumerable times in wars and local conflicts clearly attest to this fact.

As a result of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings, more than 210,000 people were either killed instantly or died of injuries during the ensuing months. The vast majority of these people were not soldiers but non-combatant citizens. Dropped from an altitude of about 9,000 meters, the atomic bombs exploded 500 meters above the ground, causing a heat flash of several thousand degrees Centigrade, showering the cities below with deadly radiation, and crushing and burning everything under the tremendous force of the blast. Even today, 55 years later, about 300,000 atomic bomb survivors in Hiroshima and Nagasaki continue to live in fear of death and to suffer from late effects.

In November 1995, I spoke to the International Court of Justice in The Hague, the Netherlands as mayor of Nagasaki

and made the following appeal concerning the illegality of the use of nuclear weapons: "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."

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."

This advisory opinion brought a bright ray of encouragement not only to the atomic-bombed cities but to all the individuals and organizations throughout the world struggling to eliminate nuclear weapons. Moreover, as though inspired by the ICJ opinion, world-renowned scientists and politicians as well as former key military personnel came forward with concrete proposals for the abolition of nuclear weapons. The citizens of Nagasaki, worried for so long about the future of nuclear disarmament, felt as though they were seeing a light at the end of a dark tunnel.

In May 1998, however, India and Pakistan conducted successive underground nuclear tests, making our worst fears about the proliferation of nuclear weapons a reality.

Ladies and gentlemen, both India and Pakistan conducted these nuclear tests on the pretext of protecting their national safety. But are the two countries really safer than they were before? Is it not a fact that the people of both countries are now trembling in fear of a nuclear attack?

In the Nagasaki Peace Declaration, which I deliver every year at the Peace Ceremony on the August 9 anniversary of the atomic bombing, I have repeatedly criticized the nuclear states for clinging to the theory of "nuclear deterrence," that is, reliance on nuclear weapons as a means to maintain peace and security. Nuclear weapons will bring about the annihilation of

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the human race; there can be no lasting peace for humanity as long as nuclear weapons exist in our midst.

Today, we are questioning the extent to which the nuclear states are fulfilling Article VI of the NPT, namely their duty to “pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race. . .”

Today, the Russian Federation ratified the second Strategic Arms Treaty (START II), seven years after the signing of this agreement, and is preparing to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) which was passed with the agreement of 158 countries around the world. These actions should be applauded, but it is also a fact that the Russian Federation acknowledged the first use of nuclear weapons in its new military doctrine.

The Senate of the United States of America, meanwhile, rejected a resolution for the ratification of the CTBT, and there is no hope for a ratification during the present administration. In addition, the United States has conducted 11 sub-critical nuclear tests on the premise that these tests do not violate the CTBT, and both the United States and the Russian Federation have announced their intention to proceed with further tests. It can only be said that the United States, the world superpower that has steered the course of international politics since World War II and promoted the expansion of nuclear weapons, bears a heavy burden of responsibility.

I was born on August 23, 1945 and so am a member of the first postwar generation. I am well aware of the fact that the United States supported the postwar restoration of Japan and the introduction of a splendid system of democracy. Most Japanese people including myself are deeply grateful for these favors. With regard to the issue of nuclear weapons, however, we feel that the United States should be severely condemned for its present policies.

The human race achieved an unprecedented level of prosperity during the 20th century. At the same time, however, the century was marred by conflict and destruction and rocked by two world wars. Now the 20th century is coming to a close, and we are about to greet the arrival of the 21st century.

The Russell - Einstein Manifesto issued in 1955 delivers the following warning about the threat of nuclear weapons : “It is stated on very good authority that a bomb can now be manufactured which will be 2,500 times as powerful as that which destroyed Hiroshima. . . But the best authorities are unanimous in saying that a war with H-bombs might quite possibly put an end to the human race. It is feared that if many H-bombs are used there will be universal death.”

Forty-five years have passed, but we have still not escaped from the danger of human annihilation that Russell and

Einstein pointed out in their joint statement. The nuclear states continue to possess nuclear weapons, hailing them as essential to the protection of peace, but, on the contrary, this only perpetuates the danger of global destruction because it casts an unbreakable “ nuclear spell.”

Ladies and gentlemen, the citizens of Nagasaki and Hiroshima are not appealing for the abolition of nuclear weapons out of hatred or resentment over events of the past. Our only reason is our clear knowledge, gained from the miserable experience of the atomic bombings 55 years ago, that nuclear weapons are inhuman tools of indiscriminate, mass destruction that violate all rules of international law.

Now is the time for the nuclear states to announce their political commitment to the elimination of nuclear weapons from the Earth and to begin negotiations for the swift conclusion of a Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty that will ban the development, manufacture, testing, deployment and use of all nuclear weapons.

I look forward to your intensive and constructive discussions, and I ardently hope that the present NPT Review Conference will blaze a trail straight to the abolition of nuclear weapons and assure that these weapons are not carried into the 21st century.

Nagasaki will continue to join with Hiroshima in deepening solidarity with world cities and in amplifying the cry for the abolition of nuclear weapons. In November this year, we will be inviting NGO from around the world to participate in the Global Citizens’ Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons in Nagasaki.

I believe that the abolition of nuclear weapons can be accomplished by consolidating the efforts of world citizens and NGO and mobilizing the conscience of humanity. Let us focus all our efforts on realizing a 21st century free from nuclear weapons and building a world in which our children can live in peace.

Thank you very much.



Nagasaki Mayor Itoh giving an address.
In the center is UN Under-Secretary General Jayantha Dhanapala.
On the right is NPT Review Conference President Baali.

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

We are in the final year of the 20th century. Last year, the world's media voted to select the most important news event of the 20th century, and this dubious distinction went to the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Whatever else it may mean, this vote demonstrates that the atomic bombings are defining symbols of the 20th century, a "century of war."

The latter half of this century, beginning on August 6, 1945, with humankind's first use of a nuclear weapon, has witnessed a continuous struggle between those instruments of evil, threatening to destroy us all, and people of conscience, seeking a genuinely peaceful world free from nuclear weapons. And all along, A-bomb survivors (hibakusha) have been in the lead on the side peace. Now, with the 20th century coming to an end, I would like to briefly review what those hibakusha have accomplished in their battle against nuclear weapons.

I believe the hibakusha have made three major contributions. The first involved transcending the hellish pain and despair the bombings wrought and returning to decent lives as human beings. In doing so, they proved that the human spirit is capable of rising above even the unspeakable evil of nuclear weapons. I see no need to repeat here the gruesome details of the cruel tragedy inflicted by the A-bomb. The hibakusha have already done so. It is from them that we have learned about the living hell.

Families, neighborhoods, cities—all gone in a flash. Then, hovering for days, weeks, months, even years between life and death in a corpse-strewn sea of rubble and ruin—none would have blamed them had they chosen death or insanity. Yet they chose life. They insisted on remaining human.

The hibakusha's second contribution is preventing a third use of nuclear weapons. Whenever conflict and war break out, there are those who advocate nuclear weapons. This was true even in the conflict over Kosovo. By relating their own experience to the world, however, the hibakusha have argued effectively that using nuclear weapons means annihilating the human race. They have continuously asserted that such weapons represent the ultimate evil, and they have solemnly pledged never to allow a repetition of such evil. It is largely through the power of that pledge that the human race, thus far, has refrained from committing a third act of nuclear lunacy.

The hibakusha's third contribution is their articulation and modelling of a new world view. The hibakusha rejected the path of revenge and enmity that leads to human extinction. Taking onto their own shoulders not only the sins of Japan as a nation but the evil of war itself, they have, with their eyes fixed firmly on the future, selected a path that relies on the virtue and trustworthiness of the human race as a whole.

Rather than "Remember Hiroshima," the cry of the hibakusha is "No more Hiroshimas." Rather than developing an even more destructive, even more lethal weapon with which to extract revenge from the nation that dropped the bomb, they have worked steadfastly to abolish nuclear weapons and build a world of genuine peace.

The philosophy of hibakusha is beautifully expressed on the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims in Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima. Engraved on that symbolic stone coffin are the words, "Let all the souls here rest in peace; for we shall not repeat the evil."

This philosophy was dominant in 1946 when the Japanese constitution was written. That document clearly states that the world must be built on peace, trust, and justice, and, renouncing war forever, it prohibits Japan from ever again becoming a military power.

The same philosophy was incorporated in the Hague Appeal adopted by peace-loving people who gathered from all over the world for the international peace conference held in The Hague, Netherlands, last May. This committed rejection of war is precisely the path that human beings must choose if we are to make the 21st a century of peace.

However, we must admit that the precious message of the hibakusha has yet to be accepted by much of the world. This planet still bristles with vast stockpiles of nuclear weapons, and the survival of the human race is still at risk.



NGO's representatives making a speech at the meeting hall

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The NPT Review Conference now underway came about because of strong negative reaction and harsh criticism from many signatory countries that arose when the previous NPT Review and Extension Conference decided in 1995 to extend the NPT indefinitely. And generally, the international climate with respect to nuclear weapons has deteriorated since that 1995 Conference. The nuclear-weapon states have blatantly revealed their intention to cling to nuclear weapons and have refused to engage in any sincere effort toward nuclear disarmament. Just before the signing of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), for example, France and China hastened to conduct a series of soon-to-be-banned nuclear tests. After the signing, the US and Russia have continued their rivalry through subcritical nuclear testing.

Such behavior by the nuclear powers has intensified the feeling among non-nuclear nations that the NPT regime is discriminatory and unfair. In May 1998, India and Pakistan shocked the world by conducting their nuclear tests and have brought the NPT regime to the brink of utter collapse. To make matters worse, the US Senate recently refused to ratify the CTBT, and Russia has publicly declared a military doctrine characterized by increased reliance on nuclear weapons. Clearly, the once-promising trend toward nuclear disarmament seems to have reversed.

I am gravely concerned that present attitudes and actions among nuclear-weapon states are exacerbating distrust among non-nuclear nations, thereby inviting a new round of nuclear proliferation and threatening to destroy the NPT regime. The key to breaking free from this cycle and moving again toward a world of peace free from nuclear weapons is the powerful will of the hibakusha. If all of us were to join the hibakusha in their absolute determination to abolish nuclear weapons—if this will were present in the leaders of the nuclear-weapon states—we could eliminate nuclear weapons tomorrow. A powerful will like that of the hibakusha is born of truth. The truth in this case is that nuclear weapons are an absolute evil that could destroy the entire human race.

To proceed steadily toward the abolition of these weapons, first, the nuclear-weapon states must present clear evidence to the international community that they intend “to pursue negotiations in good faith” to abolish nuclear weapons, as stipulated in Article 6 of the NPT. The advisory opinion handed down by the International Court of Justice in 1996 clarifies this obligation. “There exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.”

Standing on these legal obligations, Hiroshima demands that the nuclear-weapon states keep their promises under Article 6



Meeting between Government and NGO Representatives

of the NPT and commit themselves before the international community to a concrete, time-limited process by which they intend to abolish nuclear weapons.

We further demand that the United States and Russia immediately halt all subcritical nuclear testing, the premise of which is on-going possession of nuclear weapons, negotiate an early agreement in the Third Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START III), and begin making a genuine effort to drastically reduce their strategic nuclear warheads.

Finally, we request that the NPT signatory states take full advantage of this Conference of States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to exert a maximum effort toward early effectuation of the CTBT, early conclusion of a treaty to ban production of weapons-grade fissile materials (Cut Off Treaty), expansion of nuclear-free zone treaties to include the entire planet, and a treaty that bans possession of nuclear weapons entirely.

Scientific and technological progress in the 20th century has brought great prosperity. That progress has also given us nuclear weapons, instruments of evil that could ultimately cause the extinction of the human race. As a species and as a planet, we confront numerous urgent problems, from nuclear weapons and war to the population explosion, poverty, starvation, and environmental destruction and pollution. To make the 21st century one of genuine peace, we must move quickly to pay down these “negative assets” of the 20th century. This is our duty, a mission we must accomplish for our children, their children, and the generations to come.

Let me declare again my firm belief that, for the future of the human race, our most vital and pressing duty is to eliminate nuclear weapons. I hope you will take this opportunity to move boldly and unmistakably in that direction.

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A New Endeavor by the Mayors Conference for the NPT

Distribution of the Messages for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons from Members of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity to Government Officials

In a new project, the Mayors Conference solicited and compiled messages from its members for the NPT Review Conference.

The collection contains “peace messages” by 65 cities in 32 nations. They were hand-distributed by the members of the Mayors Conference delegation to government representatives and UN officials as part of requests and lobbying efforts. Though we cannot reprint all the messages, here is a representative sampling.

Alberto Botta , mayor of Como (Italy) , Vice President:

Please accept, dear President our sorrowful but urgent appeal to You and to all the Participants to the Conference: we have to do every efforts every concrete steps for a free world without nuclear weapons. I hope You will consider this appeal and thank you for the efforts you are making for Peace in the world.

Herbert Schmalstieg , mayor of Hannover (German) ,

Vice President: It is our hope, as Hiroshima’s partner city and as a member city in the World Conference of Mayors that a further reduction of the nuclear threat will be achieved at the conference in New York and that the conference will bring us nearer to the goal of complete nuclear disarmament.

Catherine Margate , mayor of Malakoff (France) , Vice

President: The city of Malakoff is party to the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity. I feel it would be useful for me to express my hopes that France will honor its commitments to the United Nations and contribute in a creative and vigorous fashion to the elaboration of procedures that will lead to the controlled elimination of all weapons of mass destruction. Having been declared the “International Year of Culture and Peace”, the year 2000

could provide opportunities for an open national debate on new proposals.

Jaime R. Fresnedi , mayor of Muntinlupa

(Philippines) , Vice president: We have all agreed to eliminate arguments that may result to diversity of race, religion and ideology. We all believe in one common vision to abhor crime and violence, poverty and injustice and above all to fight for a nuclear-free world.

Yury Chekhov , mayor of Volgograd (Russia) , Vice

President: I believe that being held at the dawn of the new millennium in the year of 2000 proclaimed by the UN as the International Year for Culture of Peace and Non-Violence the upcoming Conference comes out to have a very special meaning. The same year we will celebrate the 55th anniversary of the Victory over fascism and mark the 55th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the Japanese cities.

George Harrison , mayor of Wollongong (Australia) ,

Vice President: I urge all governments to take a strong position at the upcoming Review Conference of the NPT in New York and for all governments to pressure the nuclear weapon States to do more to fulfill their obligations, under Article VI of the NPT, and negotiate their nuclear weapon stockpiles down to zero sooner rather than later.

Ian Stromborg , mayor of Bankstown (Australia): As

Mayor of the City of Bankstown, I seek a peaceful world without nuclear weapons so that future generations can enjoy life as we know it.

Peter Costigan , mayor of Melbourne (Australia): The

City of Melbourne is pleased to stand shoulder to shoulder

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with those city's around the globe, which declare that we wish to see a world free from the spectre of nuclear weapons. We encourage you to continue to strive for the peaceful ideals which form the basis of your mission. The people of Melbourne will work in our part of the world to achieve those ideals as well.

Hamilton Green , mayor of Georgetown (Guyana): We direct our energies to help construct new societies where the Leaders and the led will have appropriate concepts of love, tolerance, fairness and the ability to share equitably the fruits of our earth. This is my plea and remain willing to work out the means to change the attitude, responses and minds, of men which is the real problem. The task may seem difficult, but it is possible, for the longest journey starts with a single step –if that first step is bold, creative and confident our goal and dreams will be fulfilled.

Rostislav Vondruska , mayor of Lidice (Czech): It is our responsibility to never stop to try influence the powerful leaders of this world to take up their responsibility and to fight for better world without nuclear weapons.

Omar Kamil , mayor of Colombo (Sri Lanka): As a Member of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, and as the Premier Local Authority in Sri Lanka, a non-nuclear weapon State, the Colombo Municipal Council join hands with other Member Cities of the World Conference of Mayors in calling upon all Member States of the United Nations to give serious consideration to the importance of the NPT Review Conference and the dire necessity to genuinely strive for nuclear abolition with the main objective of making this planet a peaceful place to live in without the threat of any nuclear weapons.

A.W.D. Bandula Seneviratne , mayor of Nuwara Eliya (Sri Lanka): We as city fathers must carry forward the message of the future world being clear of nuclear weapons to the governments, the public without any bars and or barriers to achieve the noble task we are aiming at.

Luiz Paulo Conde , mayor of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil):

The city of Rio de Janeiro is fully aware of the significance of that meeting and hopes that the mankind, through the joint efforts of all governments represented at the meeting, may come to be safe from the intrinsic danger of all kinds of nuclear weapons.

Jean Paul Lecoq , mayor of Gonfreville L'Orcher (France):

It seems to me that France has an important role to play on the occasion of this conference. Let us actively contribute to creating solutions that will keep the moratorium in place and to a decision to eliminate in a controlled fashion all the world's weapons of mass destruction.

Francis Lahaut , mayor of Saint Claude (France):

“Imagine...”, “I had a dream...” Yes, and we're struggling to make that a reality, struggling for a world that will have achieved real peace by abolishing nuclear weapons, which are utterly abominable.

Nikos Tabakidis , mayor of Aghii Anargiri (Greece):

Cities are living history. They reflect human accomplishments but also human mistakes. The request for the abolition of nuclear weapons is not a simple slogan. It is the lesson of history. Abolish nuclear weapons!



Hiroshima Deputy Mayor Morimoto delivering the Messages for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons from Members of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity to Mr. John Ritch, US Representative to the Vienna Office of the UN and Deputy US Representative to IAEA.

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Theodoros J. Dimitrakopoulos , mayor of Peristeri (Greece): Greece, in the European family insists on taking by the European Union certain measures in the international effort to create a peaceful world without nuclear fear. This aspect is closely connected with the nature of Greek people who, through history, have struggled for the idea of freedom and suffered a lot from conquerors. I would, therefore, summarise my opinion with our commitment to the idea of peace and your initiatives towards creating a world without nuclear fear.

Prasanta Chatterjee , mayor of Calcutta (India): I sincerely believe and wish that the 21st Century shall be the Century of peace on prosperity for the people of all the countries. To that end it is imperative that all nations should strive in consonance to put an end to arms race particularly the nuclear arms race. It has been observed that nuclear super-powers are dictating terms to others to desist from nuclear tests. My City feels all nuclear power should undertake to destroy nuclear stockpiles simultaneously and world can thus be made free of nuclear menace for good.

G. Moirangjao , chairperson of Imphal Municipal Council (India): My City, Imphal, Manipur India is the Only City in India that has experienced the horror of World War II. Being the first and the only city in India to experience World War II, I, on behalf of the people of this City request people of India and the rest of the world to support the movement for



Courtesy visit to Mr. Yuri Kapralov, Director of Department of Security and Disarmament Issues, the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation and complete destruction of Nuclear Weapons from this earth. We know that Nuclear Weapons are harmful to both countries which deployed and receive it. India being a peace loving countries always cherished for a peaceful world.

Akhilesh Das , former mayor of Lucknow (India): Armament is the main cause of wars. Armaments cause fear and suspicion which lead to alliances and alliances lead to war. Thus arms race is one of the important causes of War. Disarmament may facilitate and strengthen the process of peaceful settlement of problems by reducing fear and tension. Complete disarmament can provide enduring peace and security.

Sagar Pratap Pana , mayor of Siddharthanagar (Nepal): I would like to appeal everyone think for peace, carry out every activity with the light of peace culture, live and let other live peacefully and come on! Come in! Let's march on the path together for peace and for the safety of our children and grand children in the days to come. Let's take strong steps to create appropriate environment for this.

Garry Moore , mayor of Christchurch (New Zealand): I fully support the action of the Mayors Conference in sending a delegation to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Conference in New York to convey the hibakusha message, "nuclear weapons are an absolute evil." I also support the Mayors Conference in its efforts to galvanise international support for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

A.B.M. Mohiuddin Chowdhury , mayor of Chittagong (Bangladesh): We, the people of Bangladesh, urged the World Community to please save us from the grave cause of this unprecedented nuclear armament race. Please help us for a peaceful life of this subcontinent, including our beloved Chittagong City.

Sheikh Tayebur Rahman , mayor of Khulna (Bangladesh): The World Conference of Mayors for Peace

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through Inter-city Solidarity came forward to voice the slogan for total abolition of nuclear weapons from the surface to build a Nuclear-Weapon-Free-World from a common platform of the NPT and CTBT. I, on behalf of the citizens of Khulna, Bangladesh, stand abreast with the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity to add to the slogan for total abolition of Nuclear Weapons.

Joaquim Moreira Raposo , mayor of Amadora (Portuguese): We like to regard Amadora as a city of future. We do believe that peace is the greatest legacy we can leave to our children. Finally, we firmly believe that a world without nuclear weapons is the best start of a great future to all of us.

Joao Soares , mayor of Lisbon (Portuguese): As Mayor and citizen committed with the construction of this common goal that Lasting World Peace constitutes, I take advantage of this opportunity to express to you all my profound concern, that I strongly believe is shared with all and every one of you as citizens of the Global Village, all my support and commitment in the fulfillment of actions that can contribute to the abolishment of the nuclear and to the awakening of the conscience of everyone to the necessity of carrying out the stipulated in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Franco Rusticali , mayor of Forli (Italy): The current administration has long been working for peace and solidarity among people. We have been sensitizing and training this city's youth to dialogue with the youth of other countries to help them realize the need for peace and cooperation in the future and the difficulties involved. I sincerely hope that the first Conference to Revise the Treaty of Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons will contribute to defining the 21st century as "a century of peace without nuclear weapons."

Andris Berzins , chairman of Riga City Council (Latvia): Think peace, not war! Think of poverty, starvation, human rights and environment! These are things we have to

win, not the nuclear race! Think of friendship and solidarity! We all are aware of the terrible truth—there will be no winners in the race for the superior nuclear power. Let us stop then! We are saying NO to the ominous prospects of devastation and horror. The terrible suffering of Hiroshima and Nagasaki caused by of the A-bomb explosion shall never be faced again.

Nomusa Dube , mayor of Durban North Central , Theresa Mthembu , mayor of Durban South Central (South Africa): Through the "World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity", we have a platform through which we can actively engage both our national and international governments to abolish nuclear weapons and its technology. And the city of Durban's commitment to this process must not be doubted. Let us all strive for a desirable world of peace without nuclear weapons. Together we can.

Vicente P. Eusebio , mayor of Pasig (Philippines): Hiroshima and Nagasaki are enough lesson of history and must not be repeated. It can only materialize by supporting the total abolition of nuclear weapons, nuclear power plants and other arsenal of mass destruction. I believe that it is our obligation to our children and the next generation to give them a world which is free of nuclear weapons and a world where they can live in an everlasting peace, joy and harmony.

Hasib Kabuye Takuba , deputy mayor of Kampala (Uganda): We in Kampala City do endorse the original position reached at in the earlier Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) Review Conference. We are sincerely concerned about the default by some states where it is clear that they have not been working in good faith towards Nuclear disarmament. We therefore encourage the renewed efforts to lead to a comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Zdenko Trebula , mayor of Kosice (Slovak): It is the desire of the city of Kosice that the coexistence of the nations spread around all continents may bring about permanent peace for the whole world. For this reason we would like to con-

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tribute with our message to the collection of the World Mayors Conference and to the need of a complete global ban of nuclear weapons.

Ruslan Bodelan , mayor of Odessa (Ukraine) , Serafim Urekyan , mayor of Chisinau (Moldova) , Wieslaw Kaminski , mayor of Gdansk (Poland) , Mehmet Duman , mayor of Istanbul (Turkey) , Gregory Bereznyak , mayor of Haifa (Israel) , Alexander Omelchenko , mayor of Kiev (Ukraine): Education in the spirit of culture of peace and mutual respect, tolerance and mutual understanding –these are the landmarks on the way to steady progress and firm peace, when the walls of hatred, distrust, denial and neglect fall down.

Brian Fitch , councillor of Brighton & Hove Council (U.K.): We join you in support for the total abolition of nuclear weapons and wish you every success in bringing this important message to the U.N. and hope for a positive decision.

Tony Burns , lord mayor of Manchester (U.K.): You will be aware that the obligation on nuclear weapons states under Article VI of the NPT, which was reaffirmed by the International Court of Justice in 1996, to achieve nuclear weapons disarmament in all its aspects, remains unfulfilled. My Council recognises the collective failure of the nuclear weapon states to act on their obligations places an increasing strain on the NPT and that each new nuclear weapon state adds further to the appalling prospect that one day, nuclear weapons might again be used. Such a prospect undermines all our efforts at municipal level to secure prosperity and peace for our citizens and therefore our desire and commitment to see a world free of nuclear weapons remains very strong.

Wellington E. Webb , mayor of Denver (U.S.A.): As representative of the people of Denver and President of the US Conference of Mayors, I am a strong believer in a peaceful world without nuclear weapons and wholeheartedly approve of the World Conference of Mayors in its efforts to secure



Press conference held by NGOs

nuclear disarmament commitments from non-compliant world governments.

Sharon Sayles Belton , mayor of Minneapolis (U.S.A.): In your view, we believe that you will find that the nuclear weapons states, including the United States of America, have endangered the world by testing nuclear devices during these last five years and that they have not made adequate efforts to change their weapons policies. We hope that your review will call attention to these challenges to world safety, and that it will help world leaders to understand the need for redirection of their defense establishments.

John F. Street , mayor of Philadelphia (U.S.A.): A world of peace without nuclear weapons is something that every citizen and every country of the free world can endorse and as America's first city we are happy to support peace through Inter-city Solidarity.

Although we have received many more messages from member cities as indicated below, please understand that we reluctantly have to omit them for want of space.

Blacktown, Manly, Marion, Shellharbour (Australia), Galle (Sri Lanka), Aubagne (France), Mashhad (Iran), Hiroshima, Nagasaki (Japan), Phnom Penh (Cambodia), Banepa (Nepal), Middelburg (Netherlands), Hutt City, Manukau (New Zealand), Comilla Paurashava, Sylhet (Bangladesh), Vienna (Austria), Bursa (Turkey), Glasgow (U.K.), Honolulu, Saint Paul (U.S.A.)

The 2000 NPT Review Conference

Request from Member Cities to their own Governments to Genuinely Strive for Nuclear Weapon Abolition

In recognition of the importance of the NPT Review Conference, another project of the Mayors Conference was to ask member cities to request their own governments to seriously strive to abolish nuclear weapons. A total of 17 cities in 11 countries later reported that they had made such requests to their governments.

The Mayor of Bagneux, France reported that the city had received a response from the national government to its request. We will summarize the letter here.

Member Cities Requesting to their own

Marion (Australia), Aubagne, Bagneux, Gonfrevill L'Orcher, Malakoff, Saint Claude, Vitry-sur-Seine (France), Hannover (Germany), Calcutta (India), Hiroshima, Nagasaki (Japan), Banepa (Nepal), Hutt City (New Zealand), Lisbon (Portuguese), Forli (Italy), Kosice (Slovak), Minneapolis (USA)

Reply from the Government of France to Ms. Janine Jambu, Mayor of Bagneux City

Dear Mayor Jambu,

The President of the French Republic read your letter thoroughly and directed me to reply to it.

The head of state recognizes that nothing is more important than continuing international efforts toward nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

In truth, based on the provisions of Article VI in the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), France has decided to move toward the goal of nuclear weapon abolition. The Treaty states, "Each of the Parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control."

Since the indefinite extension of the Treaty, during the three meetings of the Preparatory Committee that laid the groundwork for the Conference that just ended, France, like other nuclear weapon states, has consistently reconfirmed its obligations stemming from decisions made in May 1995 related to the principle and objectives of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

France has actively participated in international negotiations on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament to give potency to the Program of Action adopted by the parties to the NPT in 1995. We continue to do so. France is the only nuclear weapon state to make a final decision prior to the effectuation of related treaties, as it did on the issues of testing and production of nuclear fissile materials.

In January 1996, after France finally terminated nuclear testing, we completely dismantled our nuclear testing center in the Pacific. On April 6, 1998, France and the UK became the first nuclear weapon states to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

We closed the Marcoule reprocessing facility in 1992 and the Pierrelatte uranium enrichment facility in 1996. The dismantling of these facilities is underway.

The process of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament concerns every country. A definite prospect for a new stage is opening in front of us. The first step is to begin long-awaited negotiations on a universal, verifiable treaty on banning the production of weapons-grade fissile material.

The NPT Review Conference has started, and we must recreate the ring of virtue that has brought progress over the past several years. A revision of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM), in particular, could abet the intensifying nuclear arms race by destroying the strategic balance and allowing the proliferation of ballistic missiles. We must scrupulously avoid any such revision.

Annie Lheritier
Chief of the Cabinet
President of the Republic



Protest against US Subcritical Nuclear Testing

On April 6 of this year, the US conducted its 11th subcritical nuclear test.

Conducting a nuclear test while governments and NGOs are striving to move toward nuclear disarmament on the eve of the NPT Review Conference flies in the face of the desire of people around the world for nuclear weapon abolition. Thus, the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity sent to the US government the following protest signed by the mayors of the nine Executive Cities.

Letter of Protest

April 7, 2000

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The President
The United States of America

On April 6, your country conducted an eleventh sub-critical nuclear test. With various countries and NGOs energetically preparing efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation and further nuclear disarmament in support of the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) Review Conference just around the corner, your country's insistence on pushing ahead with sub-critical nuclear tests flies in the face of universal hopes for nuclear abolition. On behalf of the 486 cities in 102 countries and regions that are members of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, we vehemently protest.

The US and the other nuclear weapons states must take a hard look at the recent backlash against the trend toward nuclear disarmament, recollect that the nuclear weapons states promised to strive for that disarmament under Article 6 of the NPT, in part to prevent further moves toward nuclear proliferation, and actively work toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity strongly demands that the United States, as a nuclear weapons state, immediately halt all sub-critical nuclear testing and play a central role in establishing the concrete process by which we will eliminate nuclear weapons in the 21st century.

Mayors Conference Homepage to Open

Until now, information about the Mayors Conference could be accessed on the Hiroshima Peace Site, the homepage operated by Hiroshima City for the purpose of providing information on peace. Starting in August 2000, the Mayors Conference will open its own homepage, which will offer more detailed information on its activities.

We invite you to access the Mayors Conference homepage.
(address) <http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/mayorcon/>

Please Fill out the Questionnaire

As stated in our last newsletter, in order to reexamine our activities, the Secretariat is asking member cities to fill out a questionnaire on said activities.

To help us draw up a plan to improve and reflect your opinions in our activities, we ask all cities who have not yet filled in and sent back the questionnaire to please do so.

Nine New Member Cities Join Mayors Conference

Since April 1, 2000, the following nine cities have become members of the organization.

Belo Horizonte (Brazil); Bagneux, Ivry sur Seine (France); Pune (India); Jerusalem (Israel), Napier (New Zealand), Kazan, Nizhny Novgorod, Omsk (Russia)

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

Our membership as of July 6, 2000 including these nine cities, stands at 493 cities in 102 countries and regions.

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

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