



Inter-city Solidarity Newsletter

World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity

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Fifth Executive Conference of the World Conference of Mayors

The Fifth Executive Conference of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity held on September 1 and 2 of 2000 in Hannover, Germany, discussed the operation of the 5th General Conference coming up in 2001 and ways of fortifying the activities of the Mayors Conference.

In attendance were President Tadatashi Akiba, mayor of Hiroshima City, Vice President Ichho Itoh, mayor of Nagasaki City; and twelve other participants from Executive Cities, including Herbert Schmalstieg, lord mayor of the host city Hannover. The Conference discussed five agenda items prepared with reference to the results of a survey of member cities conducted between late March and early July of 2000 and resolved to utilize those results in future planning. (See pages 8 and 9.)

On the first day of the Executive Conference, reports on Mayors Conference activities since the 4th General Conference were followed by discussion of measures to strengthen the activities of the Mayors Conference taken immediately under the authority of the president. (See page 2.)

Next, the Conference debated and adopted a Resolution to Promote the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons. (See page 3) This measure was taken because, despite agreement reached at the NPT Review Conference regarding "an unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear weapon states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals," the US and Russia have continued to conduct sub-critical nuclear tests, thus revealing their intent to maintain nuclear weapons indefinitely.

The next issue was making the 5th General Conference as



The 5th Executive Conference

meaningful as possible. Having studied the results of the survey of member cities, the Executive Conference discussed ways to reflect the opinions expressed in the operation of the General Conference to be held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki cities in August 2001. (See pages 4-5.)

On the second day, September 2, the Executive Conference discussed the Overall Action Plan for the Mayors Conference. This agenda item was presented based on the recognition that, if Mayors Conference activities in general are to be fortified on the eve of the 21st century, a comprehensive activity plan that incorporates new activities must be adopted. Thus, this item generated animated, intense discussion. A final Action Plan will be drawn up to incorporate the opinions expressed during the Conference and will be presented and vigorously promoted at the General Conference in August 2001. (See page 6.)

Then, the Conference turned to the final agenda item and adopted a final communiqué stating the matters discussed and determined during the proceedings. The meeting was then closed. (See page 7.)

The Conference ended with a general understanding that the Executive cities share a strong desire to make the 21st century one of true peace and agree that nuclear weapons must absolutely be abolished. To these ends, we must make the activities of the Mayors Conference more meaningful. We will continue our efforts toward holding an effective 5th General Conference that will serve to greatly fortify the activities of the Mayors Conference.

Strengthening the Activities of the Mayors Conference

The World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity was founded in 1982. Almost 20 years have passed since the Conference was founded. The Cold War has ended, the international climate has changed dramatically, and the needs of our member cities have also changed. In light of these changes, we must strengthen our activities to make the 21st century a peaceful one free of nuclear weapons. And based on certain conditions related to implementation (decision-making authority, implementation timeline, etc.), we have broadly divided measures to reinforce our activities into the following three categories.

- (1) Measures requiring immediate action under presidential authority, such as increasing the number of member cities within nuclear weapon states, etc.
- (2) Measures such as revamping General Conference operations that can be implemented only after referral to the Executive Conference for approval by the Executive Cities.
- (3) An overall action plan and other measures that can be implemented only after referral to the 5th General Conference this year and approval by a majority of member cities.

The measures to be immediately implemented under presidential authority were drawn up by the Secretariat and referred to the 5th Executive Conference. The Secretariat's proposal was approved in full. The approved measures to strengthen activities are as follows:

1. Increase members in NWS and suspect states

Since fiscal 1997, we have emphasized membership invitations to major cities in nuclear weapon states and suspect states. These efforts have resulted in an addition to our membership of 43 cities in such states (from 80 to 123). We will continue to bolster membership calls to cities in nuclear weapon states and suspect states.

2. Cultivate leader cities in nuclear weapon states and suspect states

Although some cities in nuclear weapon states and suspect states have joined, which represents a large increase, more than half of these cities, 29 cities are in France. We owe this to the fact that Malakoff City (a vice president city of the Mayors Conference) established in 1997 the French Association of Communes, Departments, and Regions for Peace, then called on each city in France to join the Association. This activity has convinced us of the great importance of leader cities in our organization. Therefore, we believe it is essential to cultivate leader cities in nuclear-weapon states and suspect states. It is especially urgent to develop a leader city in the U.S., which is, after all, the key to nuclear disarmament. We intend to work swiftly on this issue.

3. Strengthen protest and demand activities

On the occasion of the NPT Review Conference in spring of 2000, we gathered messages from member cities and sent them to various national governments. We found this tactic quite effective. In the future, we want to pursue similar actions for all international disarmament conferences sponsored by the UN or other international organizations. To protest nuclear testing, we have previously sent out protests over the names of the executive cities. Henceforth, we intend to intensify our protests by asking member cities in the countries that conduct the tests to issue their own protests to their own national governments.

4. Obtain sponsors and additional project funds

One of the critical issues in developing new Mayors Conference activities is finding the additional project funds. We are now gathering sponsor-related information, and as soon as we have gathered and digested it, we plan to launch a search for sponsors.

5. Establish a rapid information exchange system

An independent Mayors Conference homepage is now in preparation. Also, in an effort to improve the quality and quantity of information communicated by the Secretariat, we are organizing a number of mailing lists. (The homepage will be available this spring. The mailing lists were opened for use last December. See page 12.)

6. Recommendations for abolishing nuclear weapons

City governments are the governments closest to the people and the most likely to reflect true public opinion. Therefore, we, as cities, should make clear recommendations regarding measures to be taken by national governments and international institutions for the abolition of nuclear weapons.



The Ceremony of welcoming participants in the Executive Conference

A Resolution to Promote the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

The World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity is a gathering of cities that was established in 1982 and overseen by the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On an international level, its objective is to awaken the conscience of individual citizens worldwide who desire to live in a peaceful world without nuclear weapons.

Cities and residents of cities are the ones who have been forced to sacrifice themselves and suffer damage by war, in particular through the use of nuclear weapons. In order to preserve peace in the lives of citizens, the mayors especially have a responsibility to do their utmost to abolish all the nuclear weapons and to protect its citizens from war.

From its foundation, the number of member cities has grown. Presently, there are 498 cities from 102 countries or regions. This shows that there has been a big surge in international opinion supporting the abolition of nuclear weapons.

However, nuclear weapon states continue to exhibit their position of maintaining nuclear weapons while India and Pakistan conduct nuclear tests. These conditions have confronted us with the possible collapse of the system of nuclear non-proliferation.

Along with this, at the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) held at the United Nations headquarters in New York, the non-nuclear states who were received worked tenaciously and expressed strong international opinion for the abolition of nuclear weapons. In the final document, the statement "an unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear weapon states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals" was included.

The World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity strongly requests that the nuclear weapon states sincerely accept international public opinion for the abolition of nuclear weapons as well as the 6th Article of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. It also requests that they specify a time limit by which they intend to fulfill the "unequivocal undertaking" they have promised.

Besides the abolition of nuclear weapons, there are many pressing problems to be solved in the world including the environment, population, hunger, poverty, and war.

In order to make the 21st century a true century of peace, quickly discovering the clue to solving the negative legacy lingering from the 20th century is our generation's duty to the children who will carry the 21st century.

Once again, we declare, "for the future of humanity, one of the most important duties that we must achieve as humans is the abolition of nuclear weapons."

September 1, 2000
Executive Conference

5th World Conference of Mayors for Peace

From August 4 to 9, 2001, the 5th World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity will be held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The recent 5th Executive Conference determined the conference schedule and themes as follows. (We will send in the near future an advance program with registration procedures and other details.)

We look forward to your active participation.

Schedule for the 5th World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity

Date	Time	Activity	Notes
8/4 (Sat)	9:00	Registration	Int'l Conference Center, Hiroshima
	14:00	Executive Conference	"
	16:00	Opening ceremony	"
	17:30	Tour Peace Memorial Museum	"
	18:30	Visit Cenotaph of the A-bomb Victims	"
	19:30	Hiroshima City welcome reception	Hiroshima Museum of Contemporary Art
8/5 (Sun)	9:00	General Conference	Int'l Conference Center, Hiroshima
	10:00	Plenary session1	"
	13:00	Lunch	"
	14:00	Plenary session2 After-convention	"
8/6 (Mon)	7:15	Attend Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony	Int'l Conference Center, Hiroshima
	9:00	(Exchange with Hiroshima citizens)	
	11:30	Listen to survivor testimony	
	13:00	Lunch	
	14:30	Session1, Session2	
	17:30	Press conference After-convention	
8/7 (Tues)	9:00	Leave hotel Travel to Nagasaki City by bus (sightseeing in Yamaguchi and Fukuoka Prefectures on the way)	
	18:00	Arrive in Nagasaki City	
	19:30	Welcome reception by Nagasaki City	
8/8 (Wed)	9:00	Opening ceremony	Nagasaki Brick Hall
	9:30	Symposium	"
	11:30	Coffee break	"
	11:45	Listen to survivor testimony	"
	12:30	Lunch	"
	14:00	Session3, Session 4 After-convention	"
	20:00	Appeal Drafting Committee (members only)	Hotel New Nagasaki
8/9 (Thu)	9:00	Tour Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum	Nagasaki Brick Hall
	10:30	Attend Nagasaki Peace Memorial Ceremony	
	13:00	Lunch	
	14:30	Plenary session3	
	16:30	Closing ceremony	
		Announce Hiroshima · Nagasaki Appeal	
	18:00	Press conference	
19:30	Farewell party		

**Themes for the 5th World Conference of Mayors for Peace
through Inter-city Solidarity**

Keynote Theme

In Order for Humankind to Live through the 21st Century

– *Toward Reconciliation between Humankind and Science and Technology* –

(Summary) The 20th century can be distinguished from others in that science and technology created a real and present danger that the human species could exterminate itself with nuclear weapons or by destroying the environment. If the most important problems related to human survival are to be solved in the 21st century, it will be necessary to build a society in which science and technology are utilized for human purposes. This session will explore the role the Mayors Conference can play in realizing such a society.

Plenary session1

What citizens can do for a 21st Century free from nuclear weapons

[*Nuclear Abolition / Disarmament*]

(Summary) Focus on the urgent steps to be taken by cities and citizens to make the 21st a century free from nuclear weapons. (Consider how cities can utilize the advisory opinion of the ICJ.)

Plenary session2

The Peace Culture among Children – Eradicating the Culture of Violence –

[*Peace Culture / Peace Education*]

(Summary) Study measures to break out of the present situation in which the children who will lead us in the 21st century are turning increasingly to violent crime. Also, measures for improving the relationship between children and electronic media, one cause of crime among children; discuss a framework to prevent children from being involved in wars.

Plenary session3

Toward Reconciliation between Humankind and Science and Technology

[*Subcommittee Report, Conference Summary*]

(Summary) Summarize conference in accordance with keynote theme.

Session1

Making the A-bomb Experience a Legacy Shared by All

[*Conceptualization and dissemination of the A-bomb Experience*]

(Summary) The survivors overcame their grief and rage to appeal to the world for the abolition of nuclear weapons and worked to build a new, collaborative relationship between nations and peoples. To make this A-bomb experience a legacy for all people, from the intellectual aspects and the emotional aspects such as art, study measures for conveying it to the world's people. (Explore how to conceptualize the experience and have Hiroshima-Nagasaki courses taught in colleges around the world.)

Session2

Exploring Paths toward the Peaceful Resolution of Conflict

[*Peaceful Resolution of Conflict*]

(Summary) Invite cities in North and South Korea, Israel and Palestine, India and Pakistan, Kosovo and Serbia and other countries of conflict to offer them a forum for discussion with the premise of reconciliation; strive for confidence building and serious exploration of paths toward peaceful resolution of conflict.

Session3

Bequeathing a Beautiful Earth to our Children

[*Environmental Problems*]

(Summary) Global warming, destruction of the ozone layer, and other environmental problems that threaten the survival of the human race are worsening at an accelerating pace. To meaningfully address such situations, efforts from a global perspective are required. Explore what the Mayors Conference and its worldwide network can do.

Session4

International Coordination to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

[*Working with NGOs*]

(Summary) To arouse international public demand for the abolition of nuclear weapons, we need to work closely with NGOs, taking advantage of their expert knowledge and ability to move quickly. To promote such collaboration, study concrete linkages between cities and NGOs.

* Schedule and themes may change.

Overall Action Plan for the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity

To make the 21st century one of peace free from nuclear weapons, we must strengthen the activities of the Mayors Conference. To this end, we must adopt an overall Action Plan that incorporates effective new activities. Opinions about the Action Plan were exchanged at the 5th Executive Conference.

After obtaining the agreement of most member cities regarding the overall action plan, we see the need for the Secretariat to promote it vigorously. We organized the Executive City views expressed at the Executive Conference and will prepare a final proposal. We intend to implement this plan after referral to and approval by the 5th General Conference in August 2001.

We believe that an action plan and system of specific activities are needed to pursue the Mayors Conference goal of world peace. A brief presentation of the Secretariat proposals submitted to the Executive Conference follows:

1 Efforts toward a world without nuclear weapons

1. Arousing the international demand for the abolition of nuclear weapons

- (1) Arousing demand in nuclear weapon and suspect states
- (2) Conceptualization and dissemination of the A-bomb experience
 - Develop member city program to establish Hiroshima-Nagasaki-courses in colleges around the world
- (3) Seek worldwide consensus for nuclear abolition
 - Develop ways for cities to utilize ICJ advisory opinion
 - Develop Open City Campaign

2. Strengthen protest and demand activities

- (1) Protests against nuclear tests
- (2) Strengthen Hiroshima-Nagasaki Appeals

3. Promote inter-city diplomacy utilizing the Conference network

- (1) Support reconciliation in areas of conflicts
 - Create forums at the General Conference for reconciliation dialogue
- (2) Restore cities damaged by conflicts
 - Study training projects for personnel contributing to resolution and prevention of conflicts

4. Build societies that protect children from war and violence

- (1) Popularization of peace culture (eradicate culture of violence)
 - Study to improve relations between children and electronic media

- (2) Establish framework to protect children from war
 - Study to establish frameworks to protect children from war

2 Solve problems that threaten peaceful coexistence, including environmental destruction, hunger, poverty, etc.

1. Arouse international public opinions for the elimination of hunger

- (1) Enhance awareness of human rights protection
- (2) Civilian conversion of military industries
- (3) Efforts to protect global environment

2. Promote projects utilizing the Mayors Conference network

- (1) Learn from advanced case studies
- (2) Promote projects with NGOs and international institutions

3 Reinforce executive system to strengthen all activities

1. Create information exchange system

- Establish Mayors Conference homepage
- Organize mailing lists

2. Obtain new project funds

3. Strengthen and improve Secretariat system

Resulting from opinion exchanges regarding the policy system and action plan, as we develop the discussion using the Internet, our intent for the time being is to:

- 1) Develop a member city program to establish Hiroshima-Nagasaki courses in colleges around the world, 2) Explore frameworks to protect children from war, and 3) Develop ways for cities to utilize the ICJ advisory opinion.



Mayor Akiba (at the center) speaking at the press conference after the Executive Conference

Final communiqué

On the occasion of the World Exposition EXPO 2000 the Member Cities of the Executive Conference of the 5th World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity met in Hannover in the Federal Republic of Germany on September 1st and 2nd, 2000. They discussed the present state of their efforts to bring about the realization of their demand for a peaceful world free of all nuclear weapons and prepared further steps towards the implementation of this objective.

The participants expressed their great satisfaction that the number of Member Cities has increased to 498 cities from 102 countries, as a result of which the World Conference has developed into an effective international network of cities committed to peace. Now that public awareness of the campaign for the complete abolition of nuclear weapons has been successfully enhanced in this way, it is important that it should be permanently maintained and strengthened. On this basis, the Executive Conference adopted the following five resolutions:

1. The change in the international situation after the end of the Cold War has led to a change in the interests of the Member Cities, as a broadly based survey conducted among the cities involved in the network has shown. In view of these changes, and in order to make the 21st century a "century of peace without nuclear weapons", we should adopt a new Action Plan by the time of the 5th General Conference.
2. New focuses of activity should be initiated through which the Action Plan would support the commitment of the Member Cities and strengthen cooperation and solidarity between them. Among these new activities there will for example be ones that aim to nurture a general culture of peace. This includes in particular the dissemination of the legacy of the atom bomb survivors (hibakusha). The network of cities for peace should also be involved in the process of reconciliation in regions of the world that have been the victims of war and violence. For this purpose it is necessary to support and enhance the mutual exchange of information between the cities for peace by means of new technologies, in particular the Internet.
3. The first General Conference of the 21st century, the 5th World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, shall be held in both Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 2001. We shall attempt to optimise the proceedings of the General Conference by asking all Member Cities to present their ideas in advance of the event.
4. The "Resolution to Promote the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons" adopted by the Executive Conference will be sent to the governments of the nuclear weapon states. This calls upon the nuclear weapon states to lay down a timetable for the fulfilment of their "unequivocal undertaking" to eliminate their nuclear arsenals which they gave in the final document of the participating countries at the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" (NPT). The Executive Conference appeals to Member Cities in the nuclear weapon states to put pressure on their governments to this end and, for example, to protest directly to their governments in the case of any future nuclear tests.
5. This Final Communiqué shall be sent to all Member Cities.

It has been nearly 20 years since the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity was founded. Against the background of great changes in the international situation such as the end of the Cold War, we see the need to intensify Mayors Conference activities to make them more congruent with the present age, more practical, and more effective.

In reviewing our past activities, the Secretariat felt that future activities must reflect the opinions of the member cities more fully. Thus, we conducted a survey of member opinions from the last part of March until the beginning of July last year. In response, we received valuable input from 85 cities.

Based on the results of the survey, we prepared the proposals for the operation of the 5th General Conference and the Overall Action Plan, which we submitted to the 5th Executive Conference.

We cannot present all of the survey results here, but will present key excerpts.

Impressions or opinions of the General Conference

Of the cities that replied, 96% gave positive evaluations of the General Conference. However, there were calls for improvements. Some suggested taking up themes other than nuclear weapons, and many want presentations that delve deeper into

Responding cities: 26 (multiple response)

Opinions praising the General Conference	96%
Opinions that pointed to needed improvements	23%

Continuing the present format of holding the General Conference once every four years in Hiroshima and Nagasaki

In response, 70% of the cities said the present format should be continued. In giving their reasons, nearly all expressed an opinion to the effect that "it should be held permanently in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in order to increase awareness of the threat to humankind posed by nuclear weapons."

However, of responding cities in Africa, South America and other places far from Japan, more than half said the present format should be abandoned and we should explore various methods of allowing greater opportunity for dialogue and participation by cities in those areas through, for example,

Responding cities: 75

Continue present format	69%
Discontinue and devise another format	31%

The themes to be discussed at the General Conference

More than half of the respondents suggested nuclear weapons/nuclear disarmament, environmental problems,

Responding cities: 80 (multiple response)

Nuclear weapons abolition, nuclear disarmament, general disarmament	69%
Environmental problems	66%
Peaceful resolutions to conflicts	54%
Issues concerning where people live	53%
Peace culture and peace education	50%
Problems related to food and agriculture	44%
Human rights-related problems	40%
Rebuilding cities devastated by war	21%
Other	16%

Languages to be used at the General Conference
English was the overwhelming first choice. In mentioning languages other than English, about one fourth of the respondents supported French. Over half of the cities that requested a language other than English requested French.

English	95%
French	26%
Spanish	17%
Russian	16%
Arabic	10%
Chinese	9%
Other	13%

What criteria to be used if we decide to lower the participation fee to promote participation by cities with smaller budgets

Almost half of the respondents suggested using the size of the city budget and whether the city was from an advanced or a developing nation. However, many respondents were strongly opposed to any sort of sliding scale. Since there are various problems concerning this matter, we will continue to study it.

Responding cities: 77 (multiple response)

Size of budget	56%
Categorizing countries as developing countries, market transition countries, advanced countries, etc.	47%
Population	23%
Gross city product	16%
No distinction should be made	7%
Other	5%

Of the problems that hinder peaceful lives of people, what kind of problems need to be addressed urgently

In response, nearly 30% of cities called for the eradication of the culture of violence (teaching children peace culture). We found that cities in advanced countries, especially, expressed grave concern about increasing violent crimes committed by children and youth. Given this social climate, we believe it is increasingly important to teach peace culture and peace education to the coming generations.

Responding cities: 58 (multiple response)

Eradicating the culture of violence	28%
Environmental problems	16%
Housing and other problems related to where people live	14%
Hunger and poverty	12%
Nuclear disarmament and security	10%
Human rights problems	10%
Unemployment, growing gap between rich and poor	10%
Peaceful resolution of conflicts	9%
Other	36%

What cities hope to obtain from the Mayors Conference with respect to solving the problems with which they are struggling

In response, the following suggestions were made for new activities that the Mayors Conference has not previously been engaged in: create an information exchange system, support

Responding cities: 51 (multiple response)

Reinforce protests and request activities	16%
Advanced cities share information and examples	16%
Create survey and research functions	12%
Galvanize int'l opinion, develop campaigns	12%
Reinforce information communication functions, create information exchange functions	10%
Support amicable settlement of regional disputes	8%
Strengthen exchanges among cities	8%
Economic support of cities that have suffered war damage	8%
Collaboration with NGOs	6%
Other	14%

Suggestions for taking advantage of our world-wide network

Nearly 40% of the cities suggested improving the provision of information through the use of Internet. We also received suggestions for taking advantage of our world-wide network. We also received suggestions for taking advantage of our world-wide network.

Responding cities: 28 (multiple response)

Strengthen information provision by using the Internet function.	40%
Increase discussion opportunities	25%
Promote city exchange	21%
Create survey and research function, establish project themes	18%
Other	7%

How cities can express their position on abolishing nuclear weapons

Most cities said it was possible to make declarations or pass resolutions in their city councils. Enacting laws or ordinances seems a little difficult. Therefore, we feel it is not appropriate to claim any of them as a city should do something that suits its various abolition.

Responding cities: 58 (multiple response)

Make any of them as a city should do something that suits its various abolition.	47%
City Council makes a resolution concerning nuclear weapons abolition	35%
Enact ordinances concerning nuclear weapons abolition	20%
Other	40%

Reply from the British Government

The Secretariat sent the *Resolution to Promote the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons* adopted at the 5th Executive Conference to the five nuclear-weapon states as directed by the final communiqué. We requested them to establish a timetable for fulfilling the promise of “an unequivocal undertaking to eliminate their nuclear arsenals” that was incorporated in the final document of the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The British government sent the following reply.

Dear Mr. Akiba

November 10, 2000

Thank you for your letter of 21 September to the Prime Minister about the abolition of nuclear weapons. This matter falls within my area of responsibility as Minister of State for the Armed Forces and the Prime Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

You will have heard news of the very positive outcome of the NPT Review Conference, which concluded on 20 May this year. For the first time since 1985, all participants were able to agree on a Final Document which both reviewed progress over the last five years, and set out an agenda for the next five. I enclose a copy. This was the product of detailed negotiations between the five Nuclear-Weapon States, the seven countries who form the New Agenda Coalition (Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden), and other key States. It is also worth highlighting the call for more work on verification issues, which was included as a result of a UK initiative, drawing on work we set in hand in our 1998 Strategic Defence Review.

As was widely recognised in New York, the UK Delegation played a key role in the success of this negotiation. We hope the agreements reached will provide a timely boost to the non-proliferation regime and global disarmament efforts. The challenge now will be to translate them into concrete international progress over the next five years.

We wish to see a safer world in which there is no place for nuclear weapons. Progress on arms control is therefore an important objective of foreign and defence policy. Nevertheless, while large nuclear arsenals and risks of proliferation remain, the United Kingdom's minimum deterrent remains a necessary element of national security. The United Kingdom's arsenal is already much smaller than those of the major nuclear powers. We have made clear that when we are satisfied with progress in mutual, balanced and verifiable reductions in those arsenals, the United Kingdom's nuclear weapons will be included in multilateral negotiations.

As we have stated on many occasions, we strongly support the goal of the global elimination of nuclear weapons, and believe that adequate verification and mutual and balanced reductions are necessary elements in that process. We remain to be convinced, therefore, of the wisdom of a pre-set timetable for nuclear disarmament.

I hope this explains the position.

JOHN SPELLAR MP
Minister of State for the Armed Forces



Protests against the Subcritical Nuclear Tests of the US and Russia

The US conducted its 12th subcritical nuclear test on August 17, 2000 and its 13th on December 14, 2000. It was also revealed that Russia conducted three subcritical nuclear tests between August 28 and September 3, and more tests between October 20 and 27.

At the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which took place in April and May last year, the nuclear weapon states promised “an unequivocal undertaking” to eliminate their nuclear arsenals. The World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity sees the nuclear tests conducted since then as acts that trample on the hopes of people around the world seeking the abolition of nuclear weapons. We have sent out the following protest letters over the names of the nine mayors of Executive Cities to both governments. (The letters sent to protest the US test on August 17 and the Russian testing between August 28 and Sept. 3 are omitted.)

Letter of Protest to the United States

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

December 15, 2000

On the 14th of this month, the United States conducted a 13th subcritical nuclear test. As the century of war and nuclear weapons draws to a close, people around the world are working hard to make the next century one of peace free from nuclear weapons. Your repeated subcritical nuclear testing, revealing your evident intention to carry your nuclear weapons into the 21st century, tramples on the hopes of those seeking nuclear abolition. We are outraged, and, on behalf of the 500 cities in 102 countries that are members of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, we vehemently protest.

Despite your promise of “an unequivocal undertaking...to accomplish the total elimination of your nuclear arsenal,” declared in the final document adopted at the NPT Review Conference in May of this year, the United States continues its nuclear testing and displays no indication whatsoever of a sincere effort to eliminate nuclear weapons. We are gravely concerned that your actions are impeding the movement in the international community to ban nuclear weapons, thus increasing distrust among the non-nuclear nations and provoking a new round of nuclear proliferation.

The World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity demands that the United States look objectively at the history of the 20th century and realize that nuclear deterrence does not prevent war. Rather, it invites escalation and proliferation of nuclear weapons, thus placing the entire human race at risk of annihilation. Please listen to the international community’s sincere desire to eliminate these weapons. Please immediately halt your subcritical nuclear testing, and take your proper place at the forefront of the effort to make the 21st a century free from nuclear weapons.

Letter of Protest to Russia

The Honorable Vladimir V. Putin
President of Russian Federation

November 3, 2000

The Russian Federation today announced that it conducted subcritical nuclear tests on the 20th and 27th of last month. After your previous tests in late August and early September, people around the world seeking the abolition of nuclear weapons begged you to immediately halt such testing and engage actively in the process of eliminating those weapons. You ignored our numbers and our pleas and almost immediately conducted another series of tests. I am outraged by your arrogance and, on behalf of the 500 cities in 102 countries belonging to the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, I vehemently protest.

Russia, along with France and China, abstained when a resolution for nuclear abolition submitted to the UN General Assembly by the Japanese government was adopted by the First Committee. However, observing other recent actions, we are forced to the extremely regrettable conclusion that you remain determined to cling to your nuclear weapons.

The World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity hereby demands that Russia abide in good faith by the promise of an “equivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals” adopted at the NPT Review Conference. We further demand that you immediately halt all sub-critical nuclear testing and, working with the United States, take the lead in the effort to make the 21st a century free from nuclear weapons.

Efforts by Member Cities

Celebration of Twenty Years of Its Nuclear Free Policy

Manchester City has a well-developed peace consciousness, as evidenced by its position as Secretariat for Nuclear Free Local Authorities, an international association of local authorities that have declared themselves to be nuclear free zones. On November 22 last year, Manchester held a ceremony to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of its nuclear-free declaration.

At Manchester city's request, the president of the Mayors Conference sent a video message to that ceremony stating, among other things, that to bring peace in the 21st century, the people of the world must learn from the *hibakusha* and cultivate a strong will for nuclear abolition. To that end, we must inherit the experience of the *hibakusha* and establish it as a legacy of the human race as a whole. The Mayors Conference must play an important role in that endeavor.

General Conference of the French Association of Communes, Departments, and Regions for Peace

As the French chapter of the Mayors Conference, the French Association of Communes, Departments, and Regions for Peace has been established by our vice president city, Malakoff. The general conference of this Association was held in Paris at the National Congress on December 13 last year.

In response to a request from that Association, the president of the Mayors Conference sent a message stating the importance of strengthening the activities of the Mayors Conference to help make the 21st century one of peace. The president asked the Association to continue its active participation in the Mayors Conference.

Seven New Member Cities Join Mayors Conference

Since July 25, 2000, the following seven cities have become members of the organization.

Septèmes Les Vallons, Roussillon, Grigny, Viry-Chatillon, Poitiers, La Courneuve (France); Detroit (USA)

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

Our membership as of January 31, 2001 including these seven cities, stands at 500 cities in 102 countries and regions.

Opening the Mailing Lists

At the recent 5th Executive Conference, a proposal was put forward to utilize the Internet for opinion exchanges in order to make better use of the Mayors Conference global network.

In the survey conducted last year regarding new activities of the Mayors Conference, nearly 40 percent of responding cities expressed a desire for increased information to be provided over the Internet or in some other ways.

In response, a Member Mayors List and a Member City Administrators List were opened in December last year. The Member Mayors List is a forum for direct exchange of information and opinions between the mayors themselves. We want to utilize the Member City Administrators List as a forum for information exchange and real-time information provision about matters such as the 5th General Conference, protests against nuclear tests, and sending out the newsletter as an E-magazine.

In that connection, we opened a Forum List that allows opinions to be exchanged on certain themes. As our first discussion theme, we have selected "City efforts to eradicate the culture of violence." We chose this because so many of our members expressed concern in the survey we conducted last year regarding increased violent crimes by young people and urged involvement in improving the relationship between children and electronic media. In the future, we intend to increase these lists in line with the needs of our member cities. We hope all of you will use these mailing lists for the active exchange of opinions.

At present, only the executive cities are registered on these mailing lists. However, any city that wishes to register can do so by simply sending their e-mail address to the Secretariat.

Secretariat E-mail address:

mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

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

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