



Mayors for Peace Newsletter

Mayors for Peace Secretariat

December 25, 2002 / No.18

Working to Establish Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Courses - Let's tell the world about the A-bomb experience -

What follows is a report on our efforts to address an urgent priority in the Mayors for Peace Overall Action Plan - establishment of Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Courses in colleges and universities around the world.

Preparatory Conference held prior to : the Exploratory Conference for the Hiroshima- Nagasaki Peace Study Course (tentative)

To conduct a study of course content, curriculum, teaching materials, and other aspects of the course from an international perspective, and to globally publicize the course, an Exploratory Conference for the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course (tentative name) will be jointly held in Paris in April 2003 by the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris.

A meeting preparatory to this conference was held in Hiroshima on May 24 and 25. It was attended by the mayor of Hiroshima and five people representing the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, Tufts University (USA), International Christian University, and the Hiroshima Peace Institute. This group agreed to establish the course around

the world. They further agreed to begin lectures linking the Hiroshima-Nagasaki experience to courses in various academic disciplines at each school and to create an international committee to prepare teaching materials.

Meeting to study establishment and popularization of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course

To study issues related to course content and popularization, a committee of 15 domestic experts in international political science, philosophy, peace studies, and other fields was launched and met for the first time in Hiroshima on July 31, 2002.

The participants in this initial meeting agreed on the significance of establishing courses at universities and colleges around the world, academically elucidating Hiroshima and Nagasaki's A-bomb experience as a universal



Preparatory Meeting in Hiroshima



First Research Conference

issue for the human race. Problems identified include “the existence of a strong international consensus regarding the evil of the Nazi holocaust but not regarding the evil of the atomic bomb,” and “The universality of the course content will be tested when the course is offered elsewhere in Asia.” The committee plans to study ways to address these issues as they move toward creating and popularizing the course around the world.

PR at the International Peace Research Association

Hiroshima’s mayor appeared in a video message at the 19th General Conference of IPRA held July 1 to 5, 2002, in Suwon, Republic of Korea. The director of this project for the secretariat attended the conference and made a presentation on the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Study Course. Many of the participants voiced support and the desire to assist the establishment of the course.

Assisting with Model Courses

On July 8 to 12, 2002, at Illinois Wesleyan University (USA), a workshop entitled “Hiroshima and Nagasaki for Physics Teachers” was offered to teach physics teachers about the physical, biological and social effects of the atomic bombing. The secretariat provided teaching materials and covered a portion of workshop expenses.

Request for Assistance

September 3 to 10, 2002, Hiroshima’s mayor visited Lomonosov Moscow State University and Volgograd State

Technical University (Russia) where he requested help with the peace study course. Moscow University supports the intent of the course and, as a first step, will hold a student conference on the subject. It was agreed to proceed with concrete preparations.

Volgograd State Technical University also supports the intent of the course and evinced special interest in establishing a course to be offered via the Internet. They indicated an intent to hold a conference related to the course by May 2003.

In addition, on October 15, 2002, the mayor visited Tufts University (USA), met with the president and requested assistance. He received a commitment of full support and help with such aspects as a high-speed communication network.



Visit to Tufts University in the USA

Toward the Future

In the fall of 2003, beginning with the course that will open at the Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Paris, several colleges and universities will begin the process of establishing the courses. The secretariat will prepare teaching materials, a list of instructors, plan model curricula and assist the efforts of schools around the world.

We ask all member cities to request that the schools within them establish Hiroshima-Nagasaki courses. Please refer any faculty member showing interest in the course to us. Please give whatever support and assistance you can to the development and popularization of these courses.



Visit for Volgograd State Technical University in Russia

Hiroshima Mayor requests the U.S. and Russian governments to work to abolish nuclear weapons in person

As part of “Action 21 - Taking the Peace Message to Nuclear-Weapon States,” the mayor of Hiroshima has launched a project to visit these states to directly convey the hopes of the people for nuclear weapons abolition to government officials, members of national legislative bodies and other persons capable of influencing government policy. Last year he visited Britain and France and this year he visited Russia and the U.S.

On September 5, Hiroshima Mayor Tadatashi Akiba met with Mikhail M. Bely, Director of the Second Asian Department of the ministry of foreign affairs of the Russian Federation in Moscow and handed him a letter addressed to President Putin urging Russia to take a larger role in working toward nuclear weapons abolition, and that this effort include a presidential trip to Hiroshima.

Director Bely responded, “I agree with Hiroshima’s stance and assertions. I want my country to cooperate with Japan in finding ways for Russia to play a larger role in this regard. I will definitely pass this message on to President Putin.”

On October 16, Mayor Akiba met in Washington, D.C. with Assistant Secretary of State Stephen Rademaker. He requested the U.S. to work towards nuclear weapons abolition and President Bush and Secretary of State Powell to visit Hiroshima. Regarding the Iraq problem, he conveyed the “spirit of Hiroshima,” the desire that chains of hatred and violence be broken and that peace be created through reconciliation and harmony.

On October 17, he met with UN Under-Secretary General Jayantha Dhanapala and asked that the UN intensify its efforts toward nuclear weapons abolition and to hold a “UN Conference on Cities” (suggested name) to launch city-level efforts for disarmament. He also asked the UN to work for a global agreement to ban the killing of children even during wars.



Meeting with Assistant Secretary of State Stephen Rademaker



Protest against U.S. subcritical nuclear test

The U.S. carried out nuclear tests on June 7, August 29, and September 26. The September 26th test is the 19th subcritical test carried out by the U.S and the 4th this year. It is the 6th in the roughly year and a half since the Bush administration took power.

Under the signature of the executive members, the Mayors for Peace sent the following letter of protest.

The United States conducted its 19th underground sub-critical nuclear test in Nevada on September 26.

Even with the international community dreading the possibility of an American attack on Iraq and the potential use of nuclear weapons, the U.S. has followed up August’s sub-critical test with another this month. I am outraged by this affront to the atomic bomb survivors and all others around the world who seek the abolition of nuclear weapons. On behalf of the Mayors for Peace, which has a membership of 532 cities in 105 nations and regions, we vehemently protest these repeated acts of violence.

Members of the Mayors for Peace deeply fear that broad U.S. hinting at a military attack on Iraq that might even include nuclear weapons will only entrench the cycle of

revenge that grips the world and further promulgate the logic of power. The National Security Strategy Report issued by the U.S. this month attempts to use self-defense to justify preemptive attacks and display its power and military might to force the world to accept a Pax Americana. We can only shudder at a U.S.-led headlong rush down the path toward human annihilation.

Just as the U.S. fears nuclear proliferation to other countries and terrorist organizations, the international community fears the vast stockpiles of nuclear weapons possessed by the U.S. and its continued development of new weapons. Preventing nuclear proliferation requires cooperation and mutual monitoring within the international community, best facilitated by prompt effectuation of the CTBT and conclusion of the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty. The U.S. must do its part by ratifying the CTBT as soon as possible and by ceasing all forms of nuclear testing. We further urge the U.S. to fulfill the “unequivocal undertaking” to eliminate its nuclear arsenal promised as a nuclear-weapon state in the final document adopted by the NPT Review Conference, and to do everything within its power to make the 21st a peaceful century free of nuclear weapons.

Peace Activities among City Members of the Mayors for Peace The 17th Commonwealth Games–Manchester

Manchester, UK, an executive city of the Mayors for Peace, hosted the 17th Commonwealth Games this past summer (2002). At the closing ceremony on August 4, 2002, residents of Manchester and the North West gathered with lamps in their hands to form a giant dove with a wingspan stretching from one side of the stadium to the other. As the 2,000 lanterns were rearranged, the outline of the dove dissolved into a plea for the world to Seek Peace.



15 New Members Join Mayors for Peace

Since March 29, 2002, the following 15 cities have joined the Mayors for Peace (listed in the order they joined).

Johor Bahru (Malaysia)
Medway (UK)
Leon (Nicaragua)
Dakar (Senegal)
Izhevsk (Russia)
Lethbridge (Canada)
Bandar Abbas (Iran)
Edmonton (Canada)
Belem (Brazil)
Osasco (Brazil)
Cox's Bazar (Bangladesh)
Santa Barbara (USA)
Bobigny (France)
Cambridge (USA)
Cork (Ireland)

These new members brought membership in the conference to 535 cities in 105 countries and regions as of November 29, 2002.

Correction and Apology

On page 69 of the Japanese and page 64 of the English Report of the 5th World Conference of the Mayors for Peace issued March 31, 2002, we mistakenly labelled a picture of Amiya Das, mayor of Chandernagore, India, as Deputy Mayor Mohamed Razick of Kandy, Sri Lanka.

Mayor Das' statement appears on page 57 in the Japanese and 54 in the English. We sincerely apologize for this serious error.

From the Secretariat

We would like to thank Manchester for sending in the wonderful article and photographs of their peace activity. We hope all of you will feel free to send in articles, photos of peace activities in your cities, and comments about the newsletter, or any material you may wish to have printed. We will be happy to do so.

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