

STATEMENT BY
HITOSHI MOTOSHIMA, MAYOR OF NAGASAKI
ON THE OCCASION OF THE SECOND SPECIAL SESSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT

24 June 1982

I came from Nagasaki, on behalf of its 450,000 citizens, as the city Mayor. First of all I pray for the repose of the souls of war victims all over the world, particularly of those who were killed by atomic bombs.

I am here to bear witness of the truth about the horrifying effects of nuclear weapons.

None of you have ever seen in reality the destruction of the world or the annihilation of humankind. We, from Nagasaki, have seen it with our own eyes.

In our city there were places known from centuries ago, like Dejima, the famous window the Orient opened to trade with the rest of the world.

On August 9, 1945, a single atomic bomb was dropped on our town. That atomic bomb, compared with the present nuclear weapons would look like a toy. But even such a nuclear "toy", when it exploded, liberated such an intense thermic energy, that it melted stones and converted the concrete in dust, destroying our city flat to the ground. On top of it we were bathed on the terrible radiation rays.

Under the mushroom cloud, in an instant, our town was converted into a furious inferno where people were charred to death in a split of a second, or were killed pinned down under crushed buildings. The terrible sufferings of the ones unable to move while the flames were reaching them, consuming them slowly. The devastation embraced all kinds of animals, as well as plants, thus destroying literally all life.

When the last lament and groaning of pain finally ceased, our town turned into a silent, desolate city of death. The charred bodies scattered everywhere, together with the debris covered the surface in its totality. Near the hypocenter the intensity of the heat rays was such, that even the bones of the victims were consumed.

In an instant, half of this town of several ten thousand people disappeared. When we saw this horrible view, we contemplated, indeed the end of the world. That is why we believe that we are witnesses of the destruction of the world and of the annihilation of humankind.

The present nuclear weapons have thousand times the destructive power of the bomb of Nagasaki. A whole country of ten million population could be destroyed with only one of the modern most powerful nuclear weapons.

What would happen, in this present situation, if ever these nuclear weapons are used? The answer is evident. Your countries, wherever they are, would look like the tragic inferno I described above. Because there will be no way of limiting it to miniature proportion, but surely it will embrace the whole world, thus destroying it and all human beings.

We are afraid of the existence of those nuclear weapons. For there is no such a thing as a sure guarantee that they are not going to be actually used some day. There is no absolute certainty that accidents can be prevented either.

During these last thirty-seven years we strived for the reconstruction of our city and at the same time overpowering any feeling of hate, on the ideal of the mutual coexistence of humankind, we have been appealing for the total ban of nuclear weapons.

Our present town has been rebuilt on the ashes of innumerable victims, but still live in our city many who are suffering from the effects of radiation, sometimes totally disabled, sometimes leading an unbearable solitary life of pain.

We are talking about our own experience, knowing what kind of menace for humanity nuclear weapons are!

There should never be a third nuclear attack! The city of Nagasaki has to be the last city of our planet ever destroyed by nuclear weapons, for ever!

Thank you very much.