

**Statement by Mayor of Nagasaki
at the Third Special Session of the United Nations
General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament**

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Hitoshi Motoshima Mayor of Nagasaki

Mr. President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

I am Hitoshi Motoshima, Mayor of Nagasaki City. It is a great honor to have this opportunity to speak as vice-president of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity.

On August 9, 1945 a single atomic bomb exploded in the sky over Nagasaki, generating heat rays, blast wind and radiation that killed or injured more than 150,000 people and transformed the city below into a raging sea of fire. Even today, the atomic bomb survivors are living in constant apprehension, never knowing when the scourge of late effects may come.

The people of Nagasaki realized that the atomic bomb is capable of driving the human race to extinction, and ever since we have appealed relentlessly for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

However, nuclear weapons have increased to such an extent that there are more than 50,000 warheads existing today. Mankind is now standing at a fork in the road, with one sign pointing to death and the other to survival. It has been 43 years since the atomic bombs exploded over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and also 43 years since many cities in Europe, Africa and Asia were reduced to ash and rubble by other weapons of mass destruction. In spite of this fact, we have still not succeeded in eradicating nuclear and conventional weapons.

Although military expansion has continued without stop since the end of World War II, the INF Treaty signed last year by the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. and the negotiations presently underway between the two countries to reduce strategic nuclear weapons mark an epoch-making turn in the direction of concrete nuclear disarmament.

However, even if a reduction in intermediate nuclear forces and strategic nuclear weapons is realized, there will still be enough nuclear weapons to kill the entire human race several times over, and the looming threat to mankind will remain. In particular we must not forget that nuclear missiles deployed on ships or submarines are traveling around the world's oceans and can be fired in the direction of an opponent country at any time.

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, as mayor of a city that directly experienced the horror of nuclear weapons, I make the following appeals:

(1) I ask that the United Nations and all its member countries sit down to serious discussions for the ultimate purpose of abolishing all nuclear weapons, and that an epoch-making resolution for nuclear disarmament be passed at this 3rd Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament.

(2) Nuclear tests are hotbeds of the nuclear arms race. It is imperative, therefore, that an international treaty for the suspension of nuclear tests be formed as quickly as possible as the first phase of the abolition of nuclear weapons.

(3) I ask that efforts be made to prohibit chemical weapons which, like nuclear weapons, are extremely inhuman. Chemical weapons were prohibited by the Geneva Traffic in Arms Conference in 1925, but we have to realize the fact that they have been used in warfare since then and that there is still the danger they will be used in the future.

(4) I propose the establishment of an international medical center for the treatment of atomic bomb survivors and the victims of exposure to radiation from nuclear tests or nuclear energy plant accidents. The international community must join together to help these people, who are victims of modern scientific technology that should be used for the benefit of mankind.

(5) We must reflect upon past wars and think very seriously about peace education for young people, who will be the leaders of the next generation. I believe that the United Nations is in an ideal position to promote worldwide peace education.

(6) I request positive support for the peace activities of world cities and the NGO, which are strengthening solidarity beyond the barriers of nationality. The mayors of 219 cities from 39 countries, who share the common recognition of the fact that the safety of our citizens is our foremost responsibility, established the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, and through mutual exchange we are striving to awaken world opinion in favor of nuclear disarmament.

The abolition of nuclear weapons is the most urgent problem facing mankind, but even if nuclear weapons disappeared it does not mean that the world would suddenly be at peace. Genuine global harmony cannot be achieved without conventional disarmament and a solution to other problems obstructing world peace such as starvation, refugees, disease and unemployment.

The unchecked expansion of military expenditures is seriously obstructing the development of the global economy. It is imperative that we reduce military expenditures and use these resources to develop civilian industries. At present, however, military reductions would have a grave effect on the industrial structure of many countries, and therefore we must make serious efforts, including aid to the developing nations, to cultivate industries that can substitute for military-related industries.

Peace is the most precious of all inheritances. Let us take the vital responsibility of our generation and leave this beautiful planet and human love to our children and grandchildren.

The citizens of Nagasaki pray that the tragedy of a nuclear holocaust is never, ever repeated. Nagasaki must be the last place on Earth subjected to the horror of an atomic bombing.

Thank you very much.