

Resolution on the Bombing of Yugoslavia

Whereas elected and appointed officials from cities and international municipal organisations gather at The Hague Appeal for Peace conference to consider their responsibilities for peace and human rights;

Whereas the great city of The Hague is internationally recognised for its historic commitment to peace, justice, human rights, democratic dialogue and the rule of international law;

Whereas we meet, deeply concerned about the continuing suffering caused to innocent citizens by violence and war, including the current situation in Yugoslavia, Kosovo, Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro and neighbouring regions, where hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced from their homes and thousands have been killed;

Whereas we condemn the abuse of human rights and the repression of minority racial, ethnic, religious, and cultural groups everywhere;

Whereas we recognise that the most important aspects of the war in Yugoslavia are to stop the killing, stop the bombing, allow people to return to their homes and provide them with the resources to rebuild their lives;

Whereas we reject any international military force which usurps the authority of the United Nations and of international law; and

Whereas we recognise the continuing possession of weapons of mass destruction by parties to the conflict in Yugoslavia, and the great potential for war in the region to escalate, threatens the existence of towns and cities everywhere;

Therefore RESOLVE to:

Call for the immediate cessation of bombing by NATO of Yugoslavia, and a ceasefire in the Kosovo region between Serbian and Kosovar Liberation Army Forces;

Insist upon the immediate resumption of political negotiations, including peacekeeping arrangements and the identification of resources required to restore the health and wellbeing of all dislocated people and the rebuilding of devastated economies in the Balkan region, and that the costs be borne by the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, the United States, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Yugoslavia and other countries party to the military actions;

Affirm the United Nations, or other neutral body acting with its authority, as the only means to achieve a just and peaceful solution, taking into account the interests of the sovereign nation of Serbia, the federation of Yugoslavia and all indigenous people within the Kosovar region;

Urge that humanitarian assistance, organised through the United Nations and other international civil aid organisations, be immediately provided to both Serbian and Kosovar refugees;

Appeal to all local elected officials, devoted to the sacred cause of peace, to speak out and request their citizens to demand a return to the respect for international law and norms, and for negotiations as a repudiation of the threat or use of force with its attendant destruction and human suffering;

In recognition of our determination to work for peace among all people, we attach our signatures below and agree to submit this resolution to:

] The Secretary General, United Nations

] Permanent Members of the UN Security Council

] The Secretary General, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

] Heads of all NATO member States

] The President, Serbia

] All Members of the international local authority organisations

] Relevant local authority bodies in the countries of the Towns and Cities

Date: 14 May 1999