

February 18, 2005

His Excellency Mr. Junichiro Koizumi
Prime Minister of Japan

Request for leadership and positive action for the total elimination of nuclear weapons at the Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

The Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the most crucial conference for the elimination of nuclear weapons, will be held at UN Headquarters in New York from May 2 to 27 this year.

Since 1982, Hiroshima and Nagasaki have jointly chaired the Mayors for Peace, an organization that seeks to galvanize international will to work for a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons. Our rapidly growing membership, now 714 cities in 110 nations and regions, demonstrates the growing international consensus that nuclear weapons must be abolished.

A gleam of hope appeared in the “unequivocal undertaking” by the nuclear weapon states to “accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals,” adopted by the 2000 NPT Review Conference. However, the current situation regarding nuclear disarmament constitutes a crisis.

The United States, the nuclear superpower, has refused to accept a treaty that would ban the use of nuclear weapons against Non-nuclear Weapons States. In addition, leading up to the NPT Review Conference this year, the US has signaled its intent to declare null and void the “unequivocal undertaking” and the 13 steps it agreed to at the previous review conference in 2000.

Following the US lead, other nuclear weapon states have similarly made no significant efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons. Thus, the NPT regime, the central agreement for the abolition of nuclear weapons, is on the verge of collapse.

To cope with this situation, we request that the Government of Japan, as the responsible agent of the only nation to have suffered nuclear attacks, fully support the Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons initiated by the Mayors for Peace and play an active, leading role at the NPT Review Conference pressing for adoption of an action program that calls for conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention by 2010 and the total elimination of nuclear weapons by 2020.

To demonstrate publicly Japan’s determination never to possess nuclear weapons and clarify this position at home and abroad, we sincerely hope that the Government of Japan will articulate an approach to national security that does not rely on the “nuclear umbrella” and make every possible effort to legislate the prohibition of nuclear armaments.

Mayors for Peace is planning to participate in the NPT Review Conference this year with a delegation of more than 100 mayors. We will be most grateful for your endorsement of our activities, including negotiations with officials representing the Nuclear Weapons States and attendance by Japanese Government Officials at meetings hosted by Mayors for Peace.

Sincerely,

The World Conference of Mayors for Peace

Tadatoshi Akiba	President	Mayor of Hiroshima
Ichio Itoh	Vice President	Mayor of Nagasaki
Stefano Bruni	Vice President	Mayor of Como
Herbert Schmalstieg	Vice President	Mayor of Hannover
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