

February 18, 2005

His Excellency George Walker Bush
President
The United States of America

**Request for leadership and positive action for the total elimination of nuclear weapons in 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 US 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.

We sincerely hope that the United States will ratify the Comprehensive nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) as soon as possible, stop all nuclear testing, including sub-critical tests, take the initiative in abolishing your own nuclear weapons, and begin negotiating the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty as early as possible. We urge you to do your best to build a peaceful 21st century free from the threat of nuclear weapons.

We close with best wishes for the prosperity of the United States and for the happiness of your citizens.

Sincerely,

The 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
Catherine Margate	Vice President	Mayor of Malakoff
Tom O’Callaghan	Vice President	Mayor of Manchester
Jaime R. Fresnedi	Vice President	Mayor of Muntinlupa
Eugeny P. Ishchenko	Vice President	Mayor of Volgograd