

February 18, 2005

The Right Honorable Mr. Tony Blair MP
Prime Minister
The United Kingdom

**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 world is facing the real danger of new proliferation and a third use of nuclear weapons, mainly due to the nuclear policies of the United States and North Korea. However, the United Kingdom, which should be abiding by its obligations as a nuclear-weapon state under the NPT, conducted a joint sub-critical nuclear test with the United States in February 2002, which also runs counter to the effort to eliminate nuclear threats.

Such actions and attitudes are inhibiting the efforts of other nuclear weapons states to abolish their nuclear arsenals, and are encouraging the creation of new nuclear weapons states, including India and Pakistan. North Korea has announced its withdrawal from the NPT and determination to arm itself with nuclear weapons. 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 United Kingdom 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.

With the end of the Cold War and the vanishing threat of nuclear attack by the former Soviet Union, nuclear weapons are no longer necessary for your nation’s security. We sincerely hope that the United Kingdom will take the initiative in abolishing your own nuclear weapons, begin negotiating the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty as early as possible, and press for early entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. 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 Kingdom 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