

Nagasaki Appeal

We have acknowledged the fact that 40 years ago nuclear weapons brutally devastated the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and killed more than 210,000 people. Also, we have confirmed that although both cities have made a miraculous recovery, the scourge of radioactive poisoning, one of the crucial factors distinguishing nuclear from conventional weapons, continues even today to cause suffering among atomic bomb survivors.

Modern nuclear weapons are said to possess several thousand times the destructive power of the bombs that exploded over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It follows that if our cities, which are centers of population and vital activity, become targets for a nuclear attack, the damage incurred will be several thousand times that of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Retaliation will provoke further attacks and further retaliation, soon covering the entire world in a blanket of radioactive fallout, changing even the Earth's climate, and, undoubtedly, driving the human race into extinction.

On the basis of this knowledge we, the mayors of 81 cities from 23 countries, gathered in Nagasaki and conducted intensive discussions in order to alleviate the threat of nuclear war, which is the greatest crisis of this century; to ensure the development of cities, which are the fruit of untold human wisdom and effort; to protect the lives of the world's people; and to pass on to the next generation a beautiful Earth that inspires bright hope for tomorrow.

Consequently, we make the following appeals to all the cities of the world in accordance with the general consensus of this conference:

1. We must increase our knowledge concerning nuclear weapons, strive for the prevention of nuclear war while aiming for the immediate reduction of nuclear weapons and ultimately for their total abolition, and not allow the arms race to spread to outer space. At the same time, we must appeal for reductions of conventional weapons which are increasing without restriction; we must free ourselves of the economic burden of the arms race, turning our international problems such as starvation in developing countries.
2. To this end, we must transcend the barriers of differing racial, national, cultural, political, social and economic circumstances. We must promote various forms of inter-city exchange, enhance mutual understanding, and, when necessary, join together in solving common problems. We must also support and cooperate in the endeavors of international organizations for the elimination of poverty and the maintenance of world peace.

August 9, 1985

1st World Conference of Mayors for
Peace through Inter-city Solidarity