

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Appeal

We, the representatives of 122 cities in 38 countries, convened at the 3rd World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki—the only cities to have experienced nuclear destruction—and earnestly discussed the keynote theme of the conference, “The Role of Cities in Building Peace—Toward the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons.”

We observed the effects of nuclear weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We met with citizens of the two cities and thereby deepened our understanding of their appeals for the total abolition of nuclear weapons based on personal experience of nuclear warfare. We also attended the forty-eighth annual Peace Ceremony, offered prayers for the repose of the souls of the atomic bomb victims and the great many other victims of World War II, and renewed our aspiration for a peaceful world free of the scourge of war.

The world has undergone dramatic changes since the 2nd Conference of Mayors four years ago. The conflict between East and West, which has dominated international politics since World War II, is drawing to an end. It is an undeniable fact, however, that the “nuclear age” initiated by the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki continues.

We have seen signs of progress such as the Russo-American treaties calling for significant reductions in nuclear weapons and temporary moratoria on nuclear testing. However, nuclear weapons equivalent in destructive capacity to hundreds of thousands of Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombs remain stockpiled in the world, and the decreasing reliability of the nuclear weapons control system, the danger of proliferation and the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons in regional conflicts constitute serious threats to world peace.

We must also consider additional problems confronting humanity, most notably the widening gap between the industrialized and developing countries, hunger, poverty, the population explosion, refugees, and environmental degradation, all of which are going from bad to worse. Moreover, numerous regional conflicts taking the form of ethnic and religious disputes, as exemplified by the tragic strife in the former Yugoslavia, have resulted in the violation of human rights, massive violence against women and children and particularly systematic rape as a means of warfare, genocidal bloodshed and the devastation of cities.

War, especially nuclear war, destroys cities and victimizes citizens. It is the duty of municipal governments to take every possible means to prevent war, to ensure the safety of citizens and to rid cities of conflict, discrimination and environmental degradation.

We pledge our day-to-day efforts to achieve lasting world peace by rising above national borders, by promoting mutual understanding and exchange, and by reaffirming the following goals:

1. To recognize the reality that, despite the defusing of the Cold War, the world is still threatened with nuclear war, and in view of this fact, to reinforce the organization of the Conference of Mayors, to mobilize and rally international public opinion in favor of the abolition of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and to strengthen solidarity with nuclear-free local authorities and other associations of cities devoted to peace.
2. To respect the diversity of religious and cultural values and to encourage civic exchanges on the basis of mutual trust;

to put special emphasis on instilling in young people—the generation that will lead the world in the coming century—a keen awareness of the horror and misery of war and the crucial importance of peace, a deep respect for human rights, and a desire for peaceful multiethnic coexistence; and to actively engage in the cultivation of human resources and public opinion contributive to world peace. The complete rejection of violence should be inherent in all peace education.

3. To provide wide-ranging support for the resolution of such problems as hunger, poverty, discrimination on all levels including that against refugees and foreign workers, the violation of human rights, and environmental degradation.

We, the participants in the World Conference of Mayors, jointly appeal to all national governments and international organizations to do the following:

1. To ratify an international treaty on the total abolition of nuclear weapons, the weapons capable of annihilating the human race.

2. To take immediate concrete measures to abolish weapons of mass destruction; to reduce conventional weapons; to prohibit the export and ultimately the production of modern weapons; and to rely not on arms but on peaceful means in the resolution of conflicts.

3. To promote comprehensive disarmament and to use the “peace dividend” resulting from the reduction of military expenditures for the solution to such problems of global concern as hunger, poverty, refugees, and environmental degradation; to urge the industrialized nations to provide a greater amount of aid to developing countries and to cooperate with their citizens in raising the standard of living of their own countries.

4. To establish an international system of cooperation to prevent pollution and environmental contamination resulting from the leakage of nuclear substances and radioactive waste; to provide efficient medical treatment to the victims of nuclear radiation; and to guarantee the disclosure of information on nuclear materials and radiation damage.

We have renewed our awareness of the importance of global inter-city solidarity, especially in view of the current lack of a new international order in the post-Cold War world. Furthermore, we strongly request the United Nations to take the initiative in holding a conference on disarmament where a firm pledge for the prompt abolition of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons will be made in 1995 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations and the fiftieth annual commemoration of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

August 9, 1993

3rd World Conference of Mayors for

Peace through Inter-city Solidarity