

**Statement by Mayor of Hiroshima**  
**at The Amendment Conference of the States Parties**  
**to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests**  
**in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water**

**January 1991**

**Takeshi Araki Mayor of Hiroshima**

Mr. President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

My name is Takeshi Araki, mayor of the city of Hiroshima and president of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity. As an A-bomb survivor and mayor of the first city in the world to suffer the horror of an atomic bombing, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for having the opportunity to speak before you today.

Mr. President:

At 8:15 in the morning on August 6, 1945, a 15 kiloton atomic weapon, a mere toy compared to modern nuclear weapons, laid Hiroshima to waste and snuffed out hundreds of thousands of lives in the blink of an eye. I remember this as if it were just yesterday. I myself was exposed to the A-bomb in a factory 3.5 kilometers away from the hypocenter. I was fortunate to have escaped injury, but 20 days later, came down with a fever and began to vomit blood. Thanks to the treatment I received after fleeing Hiroshima I lived to see this day, but I cannot erase the hellish experience etched in my mind. Forty-five years later, those who barely survived the bombing and still suffer the dread and agony of the aftereffects of radiation, are passing away, one by one.

Mr. President:

Based on this terrifying A-bomb experience, Hiroshima continues to insist that war be rejected as a means of resolving disputes. Foreseeing clearly the end of civilization and the extinction of the human race if nuclear war is ever allowed to break out, we call for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Now, I raise my voice in heartfelt appeal:

"We must never forget Hiroshima! We must never repeat the mistake of Hiroshima!"

Mr. President:

Concerning the specific and urgent subject of nuclear disarmament, the world's citizens strongly desire the total abolition of nuclear weapons testing. The theory of nuclear deterrence, using nuclear weapons and continuing nuclear weapons tests in order to support so-called international security, strikes me as a true balance of terror. Public opinion is shifting overwhelmingly against precisely these kinds of militaristic and menacing governments.

Mr. President:

Hiroshima adamantly opposes any nuclear weapons tests conducted by any country, and, since 1968, has protested such tests a total of 514 times. Our protests notwithstanding, the testing continues unabated. These outrageous acts are pushing the human race further toward the brink of destruction. We cannot accept this.

I have heard that people living in the areas surrounding nuclear test sites are concerned about radiation aftereffects, yet scientific investigation and medical treatment have been utterly inadequate. Cries for help from people engaged in the Nevada-Semipalatinsk movement have even reached Hiroshima. Thus, from a humanitarian standpoint, the nuclear powers should ban nuclear weapons testing immediately and sign a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty as soon as possible.

Mr. President:

As mayor of Hiroshima, I would like now to say a word about the Persian Gulf Crisis.

I support the United Nations resolutions against Iraq's actions, but, at the same time, I fervently hope that this crisis can be resolved by peaceful means.

Immediately after the Gulf Crisis, the U.S. responded to Iraq's hint that it might resort to chemical and biological weapons with a threat to use nuclear weapons. The worst-case outcome of this kind of posturing is a plunge into nuclear war. While public opinion strongly condemns Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, no justification exists for the use of nuclear weapons by the multi-national forces, not even a just end to the crisis.

Hiroshima's tragic experience 45 years ago, impels us to strongly appeal for a resolution that avoids military force, especially chemical, biological or nuclear weapons. The United Nations must use the authority and respect it holds in the world community to insist that its member nations observe this prohibition.

Mr. President:

As mayor of the first A-bombed city in the world, I have in the 16 years since my inauguration, carried out U.N.-oriented peace policies and tried to spread throughout the world the spirit of Hiroshima, our intense desire for everlasting world peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Now, a kaleidoscope of memories of the two speeches I made to the U.N. General Assembly devoted to Disarmament and other U.N. experiences rush through my mind. I will continue to hold fast to my vision of world peace and pour all my energy into its realization.

Mr. President:

As mayor of Hiroshima, let me close by restating my appeals:

Hiroshima is more than a witness to history. Hiroshima is a perpetual warning for the future of mankind.

Should Hiroshima ever be forgotten, the evil will be repeated and human history will come to an end.

Thank you