

**Statement by Mayor of Nagasaki**  
**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**

**Hitoshi Motoshima Mayor of Nagasaki**

Mr. President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

My name is Hitoshi Motoshima, and I am honored by this opportunity to speak before you as mayor of the City of Nagasaki and vice-president of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity.

August 9, 1945, near the end of World War II, a single atomic bomb transformed Nagasaki into a city of death. In the instant of that explosion, searing heat rays, a crushing blast, and deadly radiation devastated the city.

Men and women, children and adults were burned, blown through the air, and died in excruciating pain. It was a scene straight from hell: Bands of wounded survivors wandering about, trying to find water; children screaming, searching for their parents; innumerable corpses lying everywhere. Within five months more than 74,000 had died.

Even today, the majority of our survivors continue to suffer, plagued by blood diseases, malignant tumors, and keloids as they face the compounding problems of loneliness, old age, and discrimination.

Mr. President:

As mayor of Nagasaki, I am here today to convey the painful outcry of these people. The suffering caused by the atomic bomb is not confined to the history books of 46 years ago. We have witnessed the truth, that nuclear weapons are the ultimate tool of destruction, capable of bringing extinction to the human race. We want to ensure that Nagasaki will remain the last city on Earth to experience the horror of nuclear weapons.

At the same time, I think it is essential for us, as Japanese, to acknowledge our role in initiating World War II. The dropping of the atomic bomb resulted from our country's invasion of Asia. We must recognize that we cannot appeal persuasively to people around the world for the abolition of nuclear weapons without first reflecting on our own past wars.

Mr. President:

Our planet today is changing dramatically. The cold war has ended, and the trend is away from conflict and competition toward dialogue and collaboration. Nevertheless, in the name of deterrence, the nuclear powers continue to test and stockpile enough nuclear weapons to annihilate the human race many times over. And the regional conflicts in the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Central and South America never cease.

We human beings have built today's civilization on our dreams of tomorrow, our hopes for the future. But, in the process, we have invented a device capable of ending all life on this planet. As mayor of a city where this potential was convincingly demonstrated, it is my duty to appeal to people the world over and call on them to concentrate the accumulated knowledge and wisdom of our species and, over the final ten years of this century, make every possible effort toward the following goals:

1. First, let us sign a comprehensive nuclear weapons test ban treaty.

Nuclear testing is the prime mover of the nuclear arms race. Problems of verification remain to be sorted out, but an immediate halt to nuclear weapons

testing, including underground testing, is the first step toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.

2. Second, let us actually eliminate nuclear and chemical weapons.

These evil weapons were created in this century. Let us rid ourselves of them before it ends.

3. Third, let us begin with disarmament and move to development.

The present 950 billion dollars being spent for military purposes is an obstacle to the world's economic growth. Let us vastly reduce our military expenditures and turn the funds we save toward civilian industries and aid for developing countries.

4. Fourth, let us eliminate the problems that stand in the way of world peace.

There are so many problems in the world today, destruction of the environment, oppression of human rights, discrimination, starvation, refugees, disease, drugs, poverty, and unemployment. True peace cannot be realized without lasting solutions to these problems.

In addition, I ask all non-governmental organizations working for peace to focus on the following points:

1. Widening the Network of Grassroots' Peace Movements

Our power as isolated grassroots activists is relatively small, but by working together we will become a powerful voice in international politics. For example, the 288 mayors of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity represent 49 countries. In addition to our mutual exchange of ideas, we should now go on to sponsor international debates on the elimination of nuclear weapons.

2. Moving from Nuclear Free Cities to Nuclear Free Zones

There are 4,600 cities in 25 countries throughout the world which have declared themselves nuclear free zones. If the cities in each of these regions join together, they could create larger, more effective nuclear free zones.

3. Teaching Children about Peace and Justice

We must nurture reverence for peace in children and teach them to respect human rights and justice, for the world will be theirs in the 21st century.

Peace is the single most important gift we could ever bestow on our children. Let us leave to the children of the 21st century a beautiful planet filled with love among all peoples.

Thank you