



Inter-city Solidarity *Newsletter*

World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity

November 10, 1995 No.5

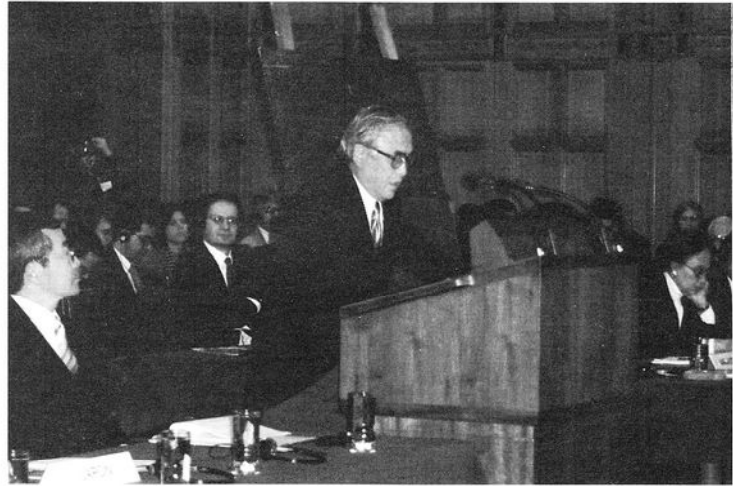
Nuclear Weapons Violate International Law

*Hiroshima and Nagasaki Mayors Give Oral Presentation at International Court of Justice
ICJ President: "Thank you for your moving testimonies."*

The International Court of Justice (The Hague, Netherlands) was requested to make an advisory opinion based on a resolution adopted at the May 1993 general session of the World Health Organization (annual WHO conference) and one adopted at the December 1994 United Nations General Assembly. From October 30 to November 15, 1995, the International Court of Justice heard oral statements from various countries regarding the illegality of the use and threat of the use of nuclear weapons.

The mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki gave their presentations on November 7, following a presentation by the Japanese government. They declared that "the use of nuclear weapons is in clear violation of international law."

Hiroshima Mayor Hiraoka emphasized that "the damage caused by nuclear weapons is more cruel and inhumane than that of any weapons prohibited by international law." He also declared that the development, possession, and testing of nuclear weapons "is a powerful threat to non-nuclear nations and violates



Takashi Hiraoka, Mayor of Hiroshima testifying at the International Court of Justice (photo courtesy of Asahi Newspaper Co.,Ltd)

international law."

Nagasaki Mayor Itoh began by saying, "We citizens of Nagasaki were the last to be bombed. So we hope for a just decision to ensure that there are no more victims of nuclear weapons." As he showed photographs of the blackened corpses of young boys who had been burned and died in the vicinity of the hypocenter, the mayor said, "What crime were these children guilty of? The leaders of the nuclear powers should take a look at these photographs. I want them to feel the wordless cries of these children."

As the mayors were giving their presentations, weeping was heard from the audience, and one woman involuntarily cradled her head in both hands. The president of the Court, Algerian-born Mohammed Bedjaoui, said, "Thank you for your moving testimonies."

A copy of the mayors' statements in their entirety is attached.



The International Court of Justice (The Hague, Netherlands)

Calls for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons Start With City Solidarity - *The 4th Executive Conference of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity* -

The 4th Executive Conference of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity was held on October 16 and October 17, 1995, in the city of Volgograd in the Russian Federation, for the purpose of fostering discussion about the operation of the Mayors Conference organization.

Attending the conference were Hiroshima Mayor Takashi Hiraoka, President of the Mayors Conference organization, Nagasaki Mayor Iccho Itoh, Vice President of the conference, and other Vice Presidents: Mr. Yuri Chekhov, Mayor of Volgograd; Ms. Valentina Lapina, Deputy Mayor of Volgograd; and Mr. Bernd Grimpe, the 2nd Director of the Lord Mayor's Office of Hannover. From the organization's secretariat seven Hiroshima and Nagasaki staff members, headed by Minoru Ohmura, Director of the Board of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, also visited Volgograd.

In the morning of October 15 (Sun), the delegation from Japan arrived in the city of Volgograd, and in the afternoon, Mayor Hiraoka and Mayor Itoh paid a visit to Mamayev Hill, the battleground of Stalingrad where the Russian Army and the German Army engaged in vicious battle near the end of World War II. There, they dedicated flowers to the souls of the war dead.

The conference convened the next morning, October 16 (Mon), starting at 9:00 a.m., at the Volgograd City Business Center. At the beginning of the conference, Mayor Hiraoka touched upon the issue of nuclear weapons tests carried out by China and France after the decision to extend the NPT Treaty. "Altering the policies of those countries in possession of nuclear weapons requires employing the power of international public opinion. And the role of this conference, with its aim to further arouse public opinion toward the abolition of nuclear weapons by achieving solidarity among cities and transcending national borders, is becoming ever more crucial," he said.

Mr. Yuri Chekhov, the Mayor of Volgograd, which was the executive host city of the conference, also delivered greetings. He stressed that, "We must not be apathetic in the face of the nuclear testing conducted by France and China, as it threatens the global environment and the coexistence of all humankind."

The first day of the conference, under the chairmanship of Mayor Hiraoka, saw reports from each city about their efforts toward the realization of peace, and a lively exchange of opinions concerning conference matters, including the further addition of executive cities, which cities would be candidates for future membership in the organization, the holding of regional block conferences, and the holding of atomic bombing exhibitions in member cities.

In the afternoon, the participants toured the Defense of Stalingrad Museum, where materials on the battle of Stalingrad are displayed. Later, they paid a courtesy visit to the Administrative Head of the Shabunin Volgograd Province, in the Volgograd Provincial government. In addition, in the evening a dinner reception sponsored by the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was held. The dinner took place in the Volgograd City Guest House, and provided the participants the opportunity to get to know each other better.

The conference on October 17 (Tue) was presided over by Iccho Itoh, the Mayor of Nagasaki. That day, deliberation took place on more specific activities than those touched upon the first day. Discussions centered around a protest of nuclear weapons testing and an appeal to the International Court of Justice. Also discussed were the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), how to respond to the 4th U.N. Special Session on Disarmament, and the holding of the 4th World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity. Over the two days of talks, several matters were adopted: a comprehensive conference resolution, a resolution emphasizing that the use of nuclear weapons violates international law, and an urgent appeal calling for the immediate halt to nuclear weapons testing. With the passage of these resolutions, the conference came to a close. In the evening of the same day, a dinner reception sponsored by the mayor of Volgograd was held. At the dinner, the participants bade each other farewell, pledging that they would meet again at the 4th Mayors Conference two years hence.

In the early hours of the next morning, Mayor Hiraoka and Mayor Itoh headed for France with the urgent appeal for the halt of nuclear weapons testing adopted at the conference in order to lodge a protest with the French Foreign Ministry against that country's nuclear tests.



Conference atmosphere

Asia and Pacific Regional Conference of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity

57 cities representing 13 countries in the Asia and Pacific Region participate

The Asia and Pacific Regional Conference of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity was held in Hiroshima from June 27 to June 30, 1995. This conference was the first regional block conference held by the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, as a special event to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing under the theme "Peace in the Asia and Pacific Regions and the Roles of Cities - Toward the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons."

At the opening ceremony, the opening address was delivered by the vice president of the Mayors Conference organization, Nagasaki Mayor Ichio Itoh, and the keynote report was delivered by the president of the organization, Hiroshima Mayor Takashi Hiraoka. Both mayors expressed their feelings of deep regret about Japanese colonial rule and the atrocities committed by the Japanese military during World War II to related nations in the Asia and Pacific region.

Plenary Session I, was held after the opening ceremony, and provided an overview of atomic bombing damage, including an explanation of the medical and social effects, followed by a documentary film explaining the atomic bombing damage and testimonies of the atomic bombing experience by hibakusha.

Plenary Session II prompted impassioned discussion regarding conditions for peace. With regard to the realization of peaceful lives for citizens, two main themes were discussed at the two sessions: "Development and the Environment" and "Education and the Advancement of Women."

At Plenary Session III, items discussed in the previous sessions were reported on, and a discussion was held on the theme "What Can be Achieved by Exchange Among Cities Coordinators."

In addition, a resolution demanding the abolition of nuclear weapons and a ban on nuclear weapons testing was nearly unanimously adopted. The resolution expressed regret about the nuclear testing conducted by China and France's

decision to resume nuclear testing immediately after the NPT review and extension conference.

The president of the World Conference of Mayors for World Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, Hiroshima Mayor Hiraoka, concluded the conference with a summary report of the issues discussed at the conference.

During the conference the participants toured the Peace Memorial Museum and dedicated flowers at the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims.

The participants from foreign countries were invited to a citizen exchange party by the citizens of Hiroshima where they viewed an animation film about peace, were taught to fold paper cranes, and enjoyed traditional local performing arts.



Opening ceremony



Participants touring the Peace Memorial Museum

Resolution to seek the halting of nuclear testing and the abolition of nuclear weapons

At the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review and Extension Conference held last month, the five nuclear powers discussed signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) by the end of 1996 and agreed to voluntarily refrain from testing until the CTBT treaty goes into effect. Despite this progress, immediately after this decision, China conducted a nuclear test and France announced its decision to resume nuclear weapons testing, extremely regrettable actions as they harm the efforts toward nuclear disarmament that should be taken up by the nuclear powers themselves. We therefore resolve that it is incumbent upon the nuclear powers to understand the international current toward disarmament and to halt nuclear tests and promote positive efforts toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.

June 30, 1995

Asia and Pacific Regional Conference of
World Conference of Mayors for
Peace through Inter-city Solidarity

[Outline of the Conference]



Hiroshima Mayor and President of World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity Takashi Hiraoka makes a keynote report during the Opening Ceremony



Nagasaki Mayor and Vice President of World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity Iccho Itoh delivers an address during the Opening Ceremony

1. Themes

(1) Keynote theme

Peace in the Asia and Pacific Region and the Role of Cities - Toward the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons.

(2) Category themes

Plenary Session I A-bombing Damage Explanation

Plenary Session II Conditions for Peace

Session I Toward Peaceful Lives for Citizens

- Development and the Environment

Session II Toward Peaceful Lives for Citizens

- Education and the Advancement of Women

Plenary Session III What Can be Achieved by Exchange Among Cities

2. Period

Four days: June 27 (Tue.) ~ June 30 (Fri.), 1995

3. Location

Hiroshima (International Conference Center Hiroshima)

4. Conference schedule

Day 1 (June 27)

Registration and reception.

Day 2 (June 28)

Tour Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, Visit Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims, Opening Ceremony, Plenary Session I, Plenary Session II

Day 3 (June 29)

Session I, Session II

Day 4 (June 30)

Plenary Session III, Conference Summary

5. Participating cities

Countries	Cities
Bangladesh	Khulna
Cambodia	Phnom Penh
China	Chongqing
India	Bombay
Indonesia	Jakarta(East), Palembang, Pangkal Pinang, Semarang, Surabaya
Korea	Taegu
Malaysia	Kuching North
Nepal	Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Nepalganj
Philippines	Muntinlupa
Srilanka	Bandarawela, Nuwara Eliya
Marshall Islands	Bikini Atoll
Micronesia	Kolonia, Sokehs
Japan	Sapporo, Yamagata, Koriyama, Chiba, Tokyo, Chiyoda, Shinjuku, Ota, Nakano, Katsushika, Mitaka, Machida, Kanagawa Yokohama, Fujisawa, Sagamihara, Ojiya, Nagano, Nagoya, Kyoto, Osaka (prefecture), Osaka (city), Toyonaka, Kakogawa, Okayama, Kurashiki, Hiroshima (prefecture), Hiroshima (city), Kure, Fukuyama, Hatsukaichi, Fuchicho, Fukuoka, Kitakyushu, Nagasaki (prefecture), Nagasaki (city), Naha, Okinawa

Total: 13 countries and 57 cities



Conference atmosphere



Conference participants folding paper cranes together with Hiroshima citizens

American University in Washington D.C. holds atomic-bombing exhibition



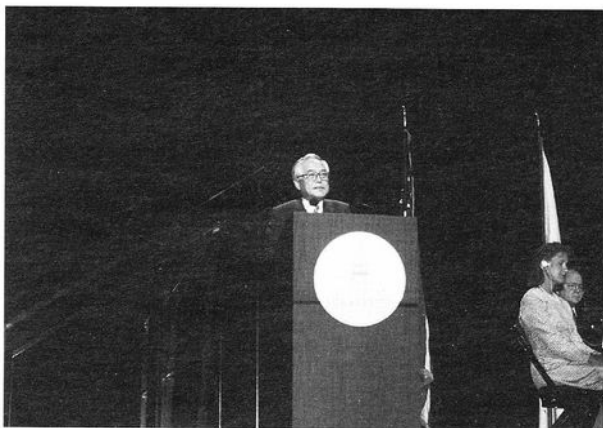
Atomic-bombing exhibition

From July 8 to 27, 1995, an atomic-bombing exhibition of atomic bombing materials and photographs under the theme "Constructing a Peaceful World: Beyond Hiroshima and Nagasaki" was held at the American University in Washington D.C., with the cooperation of the

cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Twenty five pieces of atomic bombing materials and 50 panels from Hiroshima and Nagasaki were displayed. Graphic atomic bombing materials, such as a charred lunch box intended for the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum exhibition, were displayed.

Hiroshima Mayor Hiraoka visited the university and delivered a keynote speech at the forum titled "Hiroshima of Hope - Toward a World Free of Nuclear Weapons," in which both university students and citizens participated. In the speech, Mayor Hiraoka stressed the fact that he did not come to Washington to criticize the United States or demand an apology. He insisted that by learning from past history, the future can be understood. He closed by stating that the city of Hiroshima continues to ring a warning bell regarding the danger of nuclear weapons, and hopes to serve as a symbol of hope for people throughout the world who suffer from such difficulties as starvation and human rights oppression.



Hiroshima mayor, Takashi Hiraoka, delivering keynote speech

Iccho Itoh takes office as mayor of Nagasaki

For 16 years Hitoshi Motoshima was involved in peace administration as the mayor of Nagasaki. On May 2, 1995, Iccho Itoh was inaugurated as the new mayor of Nagasaki.

Inaugural Greetings



Iccho Itoh, Mayor of Nagasaki · Vice President, World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity

I was sworn into office as the mayor of Nagasaki on May 2, 1995.

I would like to express my deep respect for the untiring efforts of all the Mayors Conference member cities for the realization of a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons.

Looking at the world today in terms of nuclear weapons, certain progress in the movement toward nuclear disarmament is evident, as witnessed by the signing of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty II (START II) by the U.S. and Russia following the collapse of the cold war structure and the adoption of a statement at the review and extension conference of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty in May

of this year demanding the signing of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) by 1996. However, the nuclear powers still adhere to the nuclear deterrence theory by possessing nuclear weapons, and regrettably, five nuclear weapons tests were forcibly conducted this year despite opposition from the international community.

Based on these realities, we must reaffirm the importance of solidarity among cities and our responsibility as mayors to protect the safety of our citizens. We also must continue our efforts to evoke international opinion toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The city of Nagasaki regards the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing as the first year of the abolition of nuclear weapons during which new activities toward the abolition of these weapons will develop.

As mayor, while strengthening the bonds of exchange and friendship with all of you, I hope to expand the Mayors Conference organization, as well as enlarge the circle of solidarity among cities toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The Peace Declaration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 50 years after the atomic bombings

This year of 1995, 50 years after atomic bombing of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a Peace Memorial Ceremony was held in Hiroshima on August 6 and in Nagasaki on August 9.

As the year of 1995 marks the 50th year since the atomic bombings, the ceremonies were especially significant. More than 90 news agencies covered the events, which were

reported on television and in newspapers both in Japan and abroad and also sent throughout the world over the Internet, the global computer communication network.

On both days, a peace declaration, conveying the wish to live peaceful lives with all the world's people, rang throughout the world.

HIROSHIMA PEACE DECLARATION

It is now half a century to the day since Hiroshima was devastated by the atomic bomb. Along with recalling that fateful day and praying for the souls of the many who died, and being acutely aware of the difficulties the aging *hibakusha* face, I cannot but repeat in the strongest possible terms that the development and possession of nuclear weapons constitutes a crime against humanity.

Throughout this half-century, we have told all the world of the human devastation that the atomic bombs wrought, particularly the unprecedented damage of radiation, in a consistent appeal that nuclear weapons be abolished. Yet distrust among nations is deep-rooted and there are vast stockpiles of nuclear weapons around the globe, creating a formidable barrier to the attainment of our ideal. It is profoundly saddening that some people see the possession of nuclear weapons as symbolic of a nation's strength.

Nuclear weapons are clearly inhumane weapons in obvious violation of international law. So long as such weapons exist, it is inevitable that the horror of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be repeated-somewhere, sometime-in an unforgivable affront to humanity itself.

If humanity is to maintain hope for the future, we must act now with courage and decisiveness to achieve a nuclear-free world. As a first step, we call for an immediate and comprehensive nuclear test ban and the establishment of a new nuclear-free zone in the Asia-Pacific. In keeping with the Constitution's pacifist ideals and proclaiming its three non-nuclear principles (of non-possession, non-manufacture, and non-introduction), the government of Japan should take the lead in working for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Likewise, we also call upon the government to be more supportive of all *hibakusha*-these witnesses to the nuclear era-in Japan and elsewhere.

The possession of nuclear weapons is no guarantee

of national security. Rather, the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the transfer of nuclear weapons technology, and the leakage of nuclear materials are all threats to the survival of the human race. Like the suppression of human rights, impoverishment and starvation, regional conflict, and the destruction of the global environment, these are all major threats to world peace.

This is an era in which we must think of global security. It is a time to foster human solidarity transcending national borders, to pool our wisdom, and to work together to establish world peace.

At this 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, it is important to look at the stark reality of war in terms of both aggrieved and aggriever so as to develop a common understanding of history. The suffering of all the war's victims indelibly etched in our hearts, we want to apologize for the unbearable suffering that Japanese colonial domination and war inflicted on so many people.

Memory is where past and future meet. Respectfully learning the lessons of the past, we want to impress the misery of war and the atomic bombing on the generations of younger people who will be tomorrow's leaders. Similarly, we also need to emphasize the human aspects of education as the basis for peace. Only when life and human rights are accorded the highest priority can young people enjoy lives of boundless hope.

At this Peace Memorial Ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing, I am resolved to spare no effort in achieving the abolition of nuclear weapons and the attainment of world peace.

Takashi Hiraoka
Mayor of Hiroshima
August 6, 1995

NAGASAKI PEACE DECLARATION

The atomic bomb that exploded in the sky over this spot at 11:02 a.m., August 9, 1945 generated a ferocious flash of heat, blast wind and deadly radiation and instantly reduced the city to a wasteland.

Blackened corpses lay scattered in heaps, and people wandered about begging for water and searching for loved

ones. Some managed to survive, but they suffered mental and physical injuries that would remain for the rest of their lives. A total of 74,000 people died and 75,000 were injured in this catastrophe reminiscent of the end of the world.

1. Let the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombings be the first

year in the era of nuclear disarmament

Five decades have passed since the atomic bombing. The survivors are advancing into old age, and their experiences are fading into the mist of memory. Since about 70% of the current Nagasaki city population was born after World War II, the problem of how to impress younger generations with the misery of war, the horror of the atomic bombings and the importance of peace is a matter of pressing concern.

The atomic bomb exhibition planned by the Smithsonian Institution was canceled in January this year, revealing the wide gap between American and Japanese perceptions of the atomic bombings. Has the message of Nagasaki reached the ears of the world?

The question of the abolition of nuclear weapons was raised at the U.N. Conference on Disarmament Issues in Nagasaki this past June, but there is still a high wall standing between the aspiration of the citizens of Nagasaki and the insistence of the nuclear states on the concept of nuclear deterrence or security through the possession of nuclear weapons.

Let us continue to transmit the message of Nagasaki to the world, in that way gradually reducing the height of this wall and making the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombings the first year in the era of nuclear disarmament.

2. Let us make the suspension of nuclear tests a milestone on the road of human survival

The indefinite extension of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) was decided at the conference held this past May to review the treaty. This decision is unacceptable because it perpetuates the right of five countries to possess nuclear weapons. Moreover, soon after the nuclear states agreed at the above conference to suspend nuclear tests and to try to end negotiations on a nuclear test ban treaty by next year, the People's Republic of China conducted a test, France announced its decision to resume tests and the United States revealed that it was considering a similar decision. It is clear that the nuclear states striving to perfect the technology of nuclear testing through simulation and that there has been no decline in their commitment to the development of nuclear weapons.

The citizens of Nagasaki demand that the nuclear states immediately conclude a nuclear test ban treaty and begin concrete negotiations on the establishment of a time schedule for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

To protect the earth's environment and to ensure the survival of the human race, it is also imperative that the United Nations make efforts to cut off the manufacture of weapons-related nuclear materials, to abolish biological and chemical weapons and to achieve reductions in conventional weapons. Japan should play a leading role in these efforts by the United Nations.

3. Let us forge a life of coexistence with the countries of Asia on the basis of the lessons of history

This year is also the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. We must conduct a rigorous reflection on Japan's history of invasion and aggression in Asia. Without this reflection and apologies to the countries of Asia, our appeals for the abolition of nuclear weapons will not reach the hearts of the world's people.

I ask the Japanese government to strive for the establishment of world peace while standing on the lessons of the past and upholding a view of history that is consistent with that embraced by the other people of Asia.

As the only country in the world to experience atomic bombings, Japan must clearly declare in the International Court of Justice that the use of nuclear weapons is a breach of international law. It must also enact the three-fold non-nuclear principle as law and strive for the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the Asia-Pacific region. Furthermore, I ask the Japanese government to improve measures for the relief of atomic bomb survivors in view of the survivors' circumstances and also to extend a helping hand to non-Japanese survivors.

4. Let us study the reality of the atomic bombings and forge a peaceful future

Japan has seen a period of peace continue during the postwar decades and tremendous economic development ensue from the tireless efforts of its citizens. In many other countries, however, children are leading anything but a peaceful life, unable to receive adequate nourishment or education due to wars and local conflicts and not even certain whether or not they will be alive tomorrow.

The postwar generation, of which I am a member, has no experience of war or the atomic bombings. We must listen to the words of the atomic bomb survivors, study about the historical events leading to World War II, the horror of war and the reality of the atomic bombings, and recognize the fact that the human race cannot coexist with nuclear weapons. Ladies and gentlemen, I ask you to join me in rising above the barriers of age and nationality and in forging a peaceful future for all humankind.

5. Let us take the first step on a new endeavor

The atomic bomb survivors greet this 50th anniversary after overcoming the grief of losing family and friends and the long struggle with the anguish of late atomic bomb effects. They cannot wait another 50 years. Their highest hope is to see the abolition of nuclear weapons within their own lifetime. It is a steep climb to this goal, but one from which we must never relent.

While transmitting information to the world about the atomic bombing and the aspiration for peace through media such as photographs, films and computer networks, Nagasaki will make efforts to host the "Nuclear Disarmament Seminar" advocated by the Japanese government and to serve once again as a venue for the "U.N. Conference on Disarmament Issues."

I offer my prayers for the repose of the souls of the atomic bomb victims and all the victims of war, and I declare to the people of Japan and the world Nagasaki's determination to take a strong new step for the abolition of nuclear weapons and for the realization of lasting world peace.

Ichio Itoh
Mayor of Nagasaki
August 9, 1995

Nagasaki U.N. Conference on Disarmament Issues and Disarmament Symposium

Nagasaki U.N. Conference on Disarmament Issues held in Nagasaki

In 1995, the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and the 50th year since the atomic bombings, the Nagasaki U.N. Conference on Disarmament Issues was held in the city of Nagasaki from June 12 to June 16. Ninety disarmament ambassadors, disarmament specialists and NGO representatives from 36 countries, including the five nuclear powers, participated in the conference.

The disarmament conference was held just after the decision for an unlimited extension of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) was made at the NPT review and extension conference held at U.N. Headquarters in New York City. The path toward the abolition of nuclear weapons therefore became a focal point of the conference.

After Nagasaki Mayor Ieicho Itoh touched upon the tragedy of the atomic bombings in his welcome address at the opening ceremony, he stated that "I want the people of the world to know, not our feelings of hatred and bitterness, but our feelings of how we never want the tragedy that befell us repeated in any country in the world." Furthermore, he emphasized that he would redouble his efforts to make the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombings the first year of the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Hiroshima Mayor Takashi Hiraoka, who also attended the disarmament conference, declared in his opening greetings that he would propose that the promotion of the abolition of nuclear weapons be included in the special declaration adopted at the 50th U.N. anniversary special session at the U.N. Headquarters in October. He also expressed that he was prepared to invite U.N. disarmament organizations to Hiroshima.



Conference atmosphere

The disarmament conference was comprised of four plenary sessions and two working groups, in which impassioned debate took place. On June 16, Prvoslav Davinic, the Director of the U.N. Centre for Disarmament Affairs, closed the conference with a concluding report in which he stated, "The prospects for the abolition of nuclear weapons is bright, but the road is treacherous. The efforts of the citizens of the city of Nagasaki are sure to be rewarded."

U.N. and Disarmament Symposium held in Hiroshima

On June 18, from among the participants of the



Scene of symposium

Nagasaki U.N. Disarmament Conference eight representatives from eight countries, including Tsutomu Ishiguri, Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, were invited to Hiroshima, where the U.N. and Disarmament Symposium was held under the theme "The Promotion of Nuclear Disarmament and the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons."

At the symposium, Ben Sanders, Executive Chairman of the Programme for Promoting Nuclear Non-Proliferation (Holland), pointed out the achievements and problem areas of the NPT review and extension conference. Mr. Rakesh Sood, Director for Disarmament of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, mentioned that the NPT was an unequal agreement, but that India would be glad to participate if changes were made to clarify the period of time within which nuclear weapons would be abolished.

Protests against testing by France and China

Reply from French President Jacques Chirac

The World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity lodged letters of protest in the name of Executive Mayors four times (as of October 9, 1995) against the nuclear weapons tests conducted by France and China. In addition to the letters of protest, the Conference sent letters to the governments of the nuclear powers calling for an immediate halt to nuclear weapons testing and positive efforts toward the abolition of nuclear weapons. Moreover, the organization proposed to member cities that they also carry out protest activities against relevant countries.

In response to the letters of protest, written replies arrived from French President Jacques Chirac and Sergey V. Lavrov, the Russian permanent representative to the United Nations. Also arriving were many letters expressing support for the actions of the Mayors Conference.

Excerpts from the protest letters sent by the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity and their replies are duplicated below.

Letter of Protest against H.E. Mr. Jacques Chirac President of the French Republic

H.E. Mr. Jacques Chirac
President of the French Republic

July 28, 1995

At the recent review and extension conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the five nuclear powers agreed to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) by the end of 1996, as well as to voluntary restraints on nuclear weapons testing until that treaty comes into effect. Despite this, your country has decided to resume plans for nuclear weapons testing, a renunciation of the efforts that the nuclear powers must take toward nuclear disarmament. Your resumption of nuclear weapons is a severe challenge to the peaceful lives of the people of the world. The World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, an organization composed of 405 mayors of cities representing 98 countries and regions of the world, strongly protests your decision. Global security in the Nuclear Age must be worked toward from the point of view of the entire planet, not from the point of view of individual nations. We strongly request that you understand the international tide toward nuclear disarmament and proceed with positive efforts toward the abolition of nuclear weapons without choosing the thought

process of nuclear deterrence, which can only lead to the annihilation of the human race.

September 9, 1995

H.E. Jacques Chirac
President of the French Republic

Despite protests from throughout the world against your decision to resume nuclear weapons testing, you have carried out a nuclear weapons test, which is a renunciation of the efforts that the nuclear powers must take toward nuclear disarmament and an act of violence that ignores the wishes of the world's people for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Your nuclear weapons testing is a crime committed against this Earth, and the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, an organization composed of 405 mayors of cities representing 98 countries and regions of the world, strongly protests this act. I believe that the change in your country's policy regarding nuclear weapons testing, which took place when you took office as the president of your country, not only calls into question your political judgment, it also destroys trust in your country. I therefore implore you to discard the thought process of nuclear deterrence, which will certainly lead to the annihilation of the human race, and move forward with positive steps toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.

October 9, 1995

H.E. Jacques Chirac
President of the French Republic

Despite protests from throughout the world, starting with Tahiti, against your decision to resume nuclear weapons testing, your country has carried out a nuclear weapons test, ignoring the voices of the world's people. Despite the despair and mistrust toward France that this testing engenders, France has once again carried out an act of betrayal against humanity. The World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, an organization composed of 407 mayors of cities representing 98 countries and regions of the world, strongly protests this act. We want you to recognize that world security and environmental protection are the right and obligation of all people, not issues to be controlled by one group. I therefore demand that you declare to the world your decision to permanently halt nuclear testing and proceed with positive efforts toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.

*Letter of Protest against H.E. Jiang Zemin
President People's Republic of China*

August 24, 1995

H.E. Jiang Zemin
President
People's Republic of China

At the recent extension and review conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the five nuclear powers agreed to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) by the end of 1996, as well as to voluntary restraints on nuclear weapons testing until that treaty comes into effect. Despite the fact that France has been strongly criticized around the world for its decision to resume nuclear weapons testing, your country has carried out two nuclear tests this year. These acts are a renunciation of the efforts that the nuclear powers must make toward nuclear disarmament, and a denial of the world trend toward the abolition of nuclear weapons. Your country's nuclear tests are an act of betrayal of all the world's people who seek peace. The World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, an organization composed of 405 mayors of cities representing 98 countries and regions of the world, strongly protests your action. Global security in the Nuclear Age must be achieved by working from the point of view of the entire planet, not merely from the point of view of individual nations. We strongly request that you understand the international tide toward nuclear disarmament and proceed with positive efforts toward the abolition of nuclear weapons and discard the thought process of nuclear deterrence, which can only lead to the annihilation of the human race.

*Reply from French President
Jacques Chirac*

August 23, 1995

Mr. Takashi Hiraoka
Mayor
Hiroshima City

Dear Mayor Hiraoka:

Thank you for your letter of July 28 regarding the question of nuclear tests. I read it with great interest.

As I have explained since June 13 this year, the completion by France of a limited series of nuclear tests, under conditions of total harmlessness, which the international missions will be able to verify on site, will allow my country to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in 1996.

The solemn commitment of France to concluding this treaty is an expression of our will to contribute concretely

to disarmament and the fight against the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The important initiative announced by the permanent Representative of France to the Conference for Disarmament in Geneva on August 10 this year, which aims at banning all nuclear tests whatever the level as part of the future treaty, is within the scope of this perspective.

Finally, I would like for you to know of all the emotion I felt with regard to the dignity and reverence of the ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the tragedy which struck your city.

I close with sincere regards to you, Mr. Mayor.

Sincerely,

(signature)

Jacques Chirac
THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

*Reply from Permanent Representative of the Russian
Federation to the United Nations Ambassador S.LAVROV*

Dear Mr. Hiraoka,

Thank you very much for your letter expressing concern over the latest situation in the field nuclear testing and, in particular, over France's decision to its nuclear tests.

As you know, the Russian Federation strictly observes its national moratorium on nuclear tests and strongly adheres to the rapid conclusion of an international treaty on the comprehensive nuclear test ban. Such a treaty will be a very important step in nuclear disarmament, particularly in the stopping of qualitative upgrading of nuclear weapons. During the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT) the nuclear powers agreed restraint. We strongly believe that "utmost restraint" in this matter should be the same for all. In this context Russia cannot stay indifferent towards the aforementioned decision of France and continuation by China of a series of its nuclear tests.

Please accept my best wishes in your endeavours for world peace.

Sincerely,

Permanent Representative of the Russian
Federation to the United Nations
S.LAVROV
Ambassador
New York, September 26, 1995

Reply from Manly Council, Australia

Dear Mayor Hiraoka

I refer to your letter of 28th July concerning the proposals by France to implement plans for testing of nuclear weapons at Moruroa Atoll in September 1995.

Australia has protested quite vigorously to the French Government expressing its total opposition to this proposal. As well as being concerned for the future of our planet is within a geographical area of concern and therefore the proposal is therefore of even greater importance in the southern hemisphere.

This Council has already expressed its total opposition to the French by various letters to interested parties. I certainly support the contents of your letter of protest to Mr Chirac and our letter was along similar lines.

Thank you for your letter and I assure you of our support in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Manly Council, Australia
Brian Hamer
Mayor
August 24, 1995

Reply from Vienna, Austria

Dear Mayor Hiraoka,

Thank you very much for your letter of 28 July 1995.

With all my heart I share your deep-felt concern about the nuclear threat to a peaceful world and beautiful planet.

Together with the Austrian Federal Government many organisations in our country are committed to the halting of nuclear weapons testing, and I myself may be counted among the ardent proponents of putting a stop to the nuclear threat.

I may assure you that I will spare no efforts to strengthen public opinion in favour of nuclear disarmament.

Desirous of working towards a shared future of peace and humanity I am sending my best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Vienna, Austria
Dr. Michael Häupl
Mayor
18th September, 1995

Reply from Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Mayor Hiraoka:

In response to your letter of August 24, 1995, I am enclosing a copy of a letter of protest that I wrote to French President Jacques Chirac requesting that France reconsider its decision to resume atomic testing in the South Pacific.

The people of the City and County of Honolulu have retained a sister city relationship with the people of Hiroshima for over thirty years because of our mutual concern for world peace. May that shared concern remain the basis of our friendship for years to come.

Sincerely,

Honolulu, Hawaii
JEREMY HARRIS
Mayor
September 18, 1995

Reply from Muntinlupa, Philippines

Dear Mayor Hiraoka,

Mabuhay :

This refers to your letter dated 24 August 1995 expressing your desire for the immediate halting of nuclear weapons testing and the abolition of nuclear weapons.

I would like to inform you that I have approved a resolution of the City Council of Muntinlupa condemning the maintenance of nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons testing.

Attached is a copy of the resolution in the English version for your reference and information.

Also, we have sent different letters-requests to the governments, ambassadors to Japan, and permanent representatives to the U.N. of the five nuclear powers, including the People's Republic of China.

Copies of the letters are hereto attached for your reference and information.

Rest assured that we are one with you in the promotion of world peace and solidarity.

Wishing you all the best.

Very truly yours,

Muntinlupa, Philippines
Atty. IGNACIO R. BUNYE
Mayor
September 19, 1995

Opposition to Unlimited Extension of NPT

To oppose the adoption of the unlimited extension of the NPT at the review and extension conference, Minoru Ohmura, Director of the Board of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, Tatsuya Ito, Director of the Nagasaki International Culture Hall, and one other person visited the U.N. Headquarters in New York City on April 14, 1995, as representatives of the Secretariat of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity.

The group met with Jayantha Dhanapala, Chairman of the NPT extension and review conference, at the U.N. Headquarters, and delivered documents co-signed by the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In their statements the mayors strongly demanded that the treaty be extended only after clarifying a deadline for the abolition of nuclear weapons: "As atomic bombed cities, we must not approve the unlimited extension of the NPT, which is a guarantee from the international community of the permanent right of the nuclear powers to possess nuclear weapons."

The group brought 1,000 leaflets from Hiroshima proclaiming opposition to the unlimited extension of the NPT, and distributed them at the U.N. Headquarters, among other locations.



Minoru Ohmura (third from right) hands declarations to Chairman Dhanapala (third from left)

Attendance at U.N. Department of Public Information NGO Annual Conference

Members of the Secretariat of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity attended the 48th U.N. Department of Public Information NGO Annual Conference held at the U.N. Headquarters from September 18 to September 20. Attending the conference from this organization were Norio Kondo, Director of the General Affairs Division of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, Masahiro Yamaguchi, Chief of the General Affairs Section of the Nagasaki International Culture Hall, Yukiyoishi Shirota, Chief of the Artifacts Section of the same Culture Hall, and one other person. Also participating were approximately NGO representatives. Debate was held under the theme "The United Nations at the Turn of the Century-Global Issues, Global Actors, and Global Responsibility."

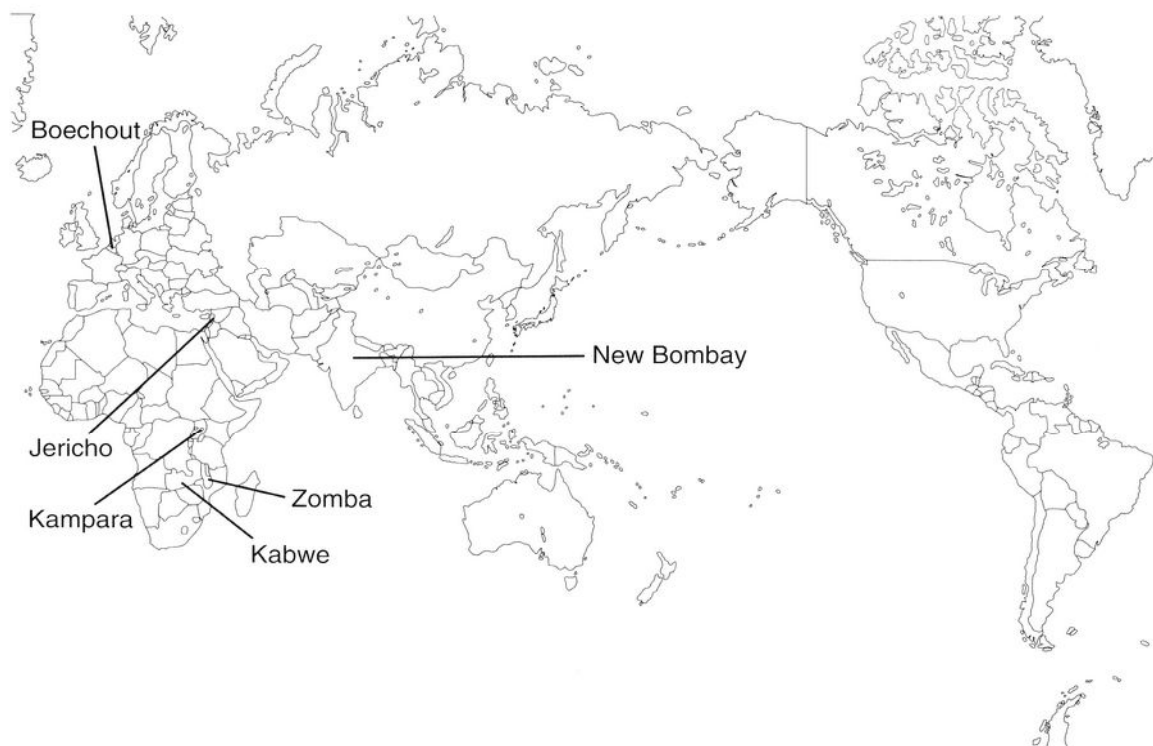
Over the course of the conference, the Secretariat of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity deepened its relationship with each NGO representative, as well as carried out discussions with Vernon Nichols, the President of the U.N. NGO Committee on Disarmament, and with Tsutomu Ishiguri, Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific.



Conference atmosphere

New Member Cities of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity

From March to October, 1995, cities supporting the "Program to Promote the Solidarity of Cities Toward the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons" and those that had become members of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity are as follows.



New Member Cities

Country Name	City Name	Membership
New Bombay	INDIA	3. 08. 95
Kampara	UGANDA	7. 10. 95
Jericho	PLO	9. 08. 95
Zomba	MALAWI	9. 26. 95
Kabwe	ZAMBIA	10. 11. 95
Boechout	BELGIUM	10. 11. 95

(The state of Ohio withdrew on 26. December, 1995)

Member Cities by Region

Region	Number of Member Countries	Number of Member Cities
Asia	27	92
Oceania	6	26
Africa	20	26
Europe	29	201
North America	10	55
South America	6	9
Total	98	409

From the Secretariat

This issue of our newsletter was filled with interesting articles, starting with the presentations made by the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the International Court of Justice, and about protests against the nuclear tests conducted by France and China.

We want to encourage you, the reader, to submit to the Secretariat your honest opinions about this newsletter, and photographs or printed matter concerning your city's peace activities.

World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity Secretariat

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HIROSOM J

■ This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.