



Inter-city Solidarity Newsletter

World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity

November 15, 1996 No.6

The 4th World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity

To be held August 4 - August 9, 1997 in Hiroshima and Nagasaki

The 4th World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity will be held from August 4 - August 9, 1997 in Hiroshima and Nagasaki under the keynote theme "Peace, Justice and Freedom—Efforts Toward Global Harmony" (tentative).

At next year's conference, we are hoping for an expansive attendance ranging from Mayors Conference member cities to non-member cities. Our desire is to transcend national borders, have local governments, the ones who are closer to their citizenry, hold discussions concerning peace, and make an appeal to the world.

Our secretariat has sent out in November an advance program containing an outline of the conference, and will commence registration for participants in January 1997.

We await everyone's active participation.

Outlines of Past World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity Conferences

The 1st Mayors Conference August 1985

Purpose: Conveying the reality of the A-bombing 40 years ago ; Attending the Peace Memorial Ceremony commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the A-bombing ; Exchanging opinions between cities regarding efforts toward peace

Theme: Toward the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons
-Roles of cities in the nuclear age-

Cities Attending: Foreign 22 countries 67 cities 139 people
 Domestic 33 cities 66 people
 Total 23 countries 100 cities 205 people

The 2nd Mayors Conference August 1989

Purpose: Along with seeing first-hand the reality of A-bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki and discussing efforts toward the abolition of nuclear weapons, the purpose was to discuss other activities done by cities concerning the widespread issue of peace, to deepen the understanding among cities of their roles and the ideology of peace activities, and finally to strengthen solidarity among cities.

Theme: Toward the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons
-Roles of cities in the nuclear age-

Cities Attending: Foreign 26 countries 81 cities 172 people
 Domestic 38 cities 77 people
 Total 27 countries 119 cities 249 people

The 3rd Mayors Conference August 1993

Purpose: Along with discussing efforts toward the abolition of nuclear weapons while bringing conference participants into contact with the reality of the A-bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, investigating solutions through various activities of cities to a wide-range of causes that obstruct peace, deepening the role recognition and the activity ideology of cities, and strengthening inter-city solidarity.

Theme: The Role of Cities in Building Peace

-Toward the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons-

Cities Attending: Foreign 37 countries 81 cities 165 people
 Domestic 41 cities 99 people
 Total 38 countries 122 cities 264 people



Conference atmosphere of the previous Conference (Hiroshima, August 1993)

Demanding a "No Exceptions" Test Ban At the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva

From May 20 to 22, the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki visited Geneva, Switzerland, to place before the ambassadors of the main countries to the Conference on Disarmament (CD) negotiating the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) their demand that the treaty allow no exceptions. In addition, they obtained participation from the European members of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity and held a special Geneva Conference. While in Geneva, they also held talks with NGO-related officials and confirmed the importance of joint action toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.

With the CTBT negotiations underway, the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki visited the ambassadors to the CD of the five nuclear powers plus India, Pakistan, and the presiding nation, the Netherlands. They requested that the CTBT be designed to ban nuclear testing of any sort, making it a sure step toward nuclear disarmament. At the same time, looking toward next steps, they urged active pursuit of such effective nuclear disarmament measures as expanding nuclear free zones, early conclusion of a treaty to ban the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons (Cut-Off Treaty), and subsequently, a total ban on the use of nuclear weapons.

In response to these demands, the all ambassadors expressed their intention to conclude the CTBT by the end of June. However, the U.S. ambassador Stephen Ledogar asserted the need for continuing simulation tests to investigate



Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki making a request to the Chinese Ambassador (May 20, 1996)

such aspects as the safety of nuclear weapons. The Dutch ambassador and chairman Jaap Ramaker stated that unless a nuclear test ban is subject to international verification it is unrealistic.

Thus, the Mayors were unable to obtain full agreement for a "no exceptions" ban on nuclear testing.

Geneva Conference Appeal Adopted

The Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in addition to taking their demands to the ambassadors to the CD, held the Geneva Conference of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, obtaining participation from member cities Brighton(U.K.), Como(Italy), Geneva (Switzerland), Hannover(Germany), Malakoff(France), and Manchester(U.K.). They also held talks with the International Peace Bureau and other NGO-related officials headquartered in Geneva and confirmed the importance of joint action toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.



World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity
Geneva Conference (May 20, 1996)

The Geneva Conference of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity adopted the "Appeal toward the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons"(See page 3) which was distributed to the member cities of the Mayors Conference and to the heads of states of major countries.

In response to the appeal, we received the answer from India which has forcefully opposed the CTBT. (See page 3-4 for details)

We received declarations of support for the appeal from the following 11 cities: Ashkelon (Israel), Cochabamba (Bolivia), Hamburg (Germany), Hanoi (Vietnam), Kingston (Jamaica), Riga (Latvia), Vienna (Austria), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Haifa (Israel), Havana (Cuba), Mashhad (Iran).

We are very grateful for this support.

* The list is in the order that the letters were received.

Appeal toward the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

We are hereby resolved that:

Nuclear weapons, seen in the light of the experiences of Hiroshima and Nagasaki half a century ago, are hideously cruel tools of mass destruction, incompatible with human survival. Today, even after the end of the east-west Cold War, over 20,000 nuclear weapons remain on our planet, a fact that causes us grave concern.

Nuclear power nations must understand that the international community is demanding "a nuclear weapons-free world" and is eagerly anticipating progress toward verifiable commitments. Based on the agreement at the recent NPT conference, they are obligated to strive in good faith to eliminate their nuclear weapons. In particular, we demand that the current negotiations concerning the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) result in a treaty that allows no form of nuclear testing and amounts to a sure step toward nuclear disarmament. We further urge that the treaty be put in force promptly.

Finally, we request that this disarmament conference positively address such effective disarmament measures as the expansion of nuclear-free zones, the immediate signing of the treaty banning the production of weapons-grade nuclear materials (Cut-Off Treaty) and a comprehensive treaty banning all use of nuclear weapons.

May 20, 1996

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

Reply from the Minister of External Affairs, India

16 July, 1996

Hon'ble Mr. Hiraoka,

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter sent jointly with Hon'ble Mayor of Nagasaki addressed to the President of India regarding the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and your letter enclosing the "Appeal towards the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons".

We share your views regarding the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, whose extension has legitimised possession of nuclear weapons and their possible use. This has been argued by some of the States themselves before the International Court of Justice. Therefore, it becomes imperative to have a legally binding commitment to eliminate nuclear weapons within a specific time frame. When India first proposed the CTBT four decades ago, it was clearly visualised as only a first step towards complete nuclear disarmament.

With this aim, the Indian proposals in the CTBT negotiations were aimed at ensuring that the CTBT must be a truly comprehensive treaty which banned all nuclear testing without leaving any loopholes that would permit nuclear weapon States to continue refining and developing their nuclear arsenals at their test sites and their laboratories. These proposals also underscore the importance of placing the CTBT in a disarmament framework as part of a step-by-step process aimed at achieving complete elimination of all nuclear weapons within a specific time horizon.

We, therefore, share your hope that "the current negotiations concerning CTBT result in a treaty that allows no form of nuclear testing and amounts to a sure step towards nuclear disarmament". Unfortunately, the CTBT in its present form is neither a measure of genuine nuclear disarmament nor is it truly comprehensive.

India had co-sponsored the United Nations Resolution (50/70P) for elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework. Since 1982, India's resolution on the "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons" has been adopted every year with considerable support in the UN. Some nuclear weapon States continue to oppose this resolution.

India remains committed to the pursuit of global nuclear disarmament in a comprehensive and non-discriminatory manner. We will continue to support such an approach as it will enable us to move forward towards the objective of nuclear weapon free world and enhance global peace and security.

Yours sincerely,
I.K. GUJRAL

Hon'ble Mr. Takashi Hiraoka
Mayor of Hiroshima

After the CTBT Negotiations

The CTBT negotiations continued for two and a half years at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, but India strongly opposed the final draft drawn up by Chairman Ramaker of the Netherlands. As a result, the conference, convened on a principle of unanimous acceptance, terminated its effort to adopt the treaty. Australia and other countries spearheaded a transfer of venue to the United Nations General Assembly in New York, where they sought to adopt the treaty through a majority decision.

On September 10, 1996, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty banning any nuclear test accompanied by an explosion. The measure passed with 158 votes in favor, 3 opposed, and 5 abstentions.

A signing ceremony at the United Nations began on September 24, with United States and Russia among the five nuclear powers that signed the treaty. There is a prospect that many other countries throughout the world will sign the treaty in the future. However, even after the adoption of the treaty, India announced that it will not sign the treaty as long as India's ratification is necessary for the treaty to be put in force. Citing threat based on this as a reason, bordering Pakistan also expressed a policy of not signing the treaty. Hereafter, the participation of India and Pakistan as

conditions for the treaty to be put in force remains an issue in the international community. The five nuclear powers should express to the world their firm resolve to abolish their nuclear arsenals, and persuade India and Pakistan to participate in the treaty.

We look forward to the prompt signing, ratification, and implementation of the CTBT, and hope to see rapid progress toward such next steps as a treaty to ban the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons (Cut-Off Treaty). Thus encouraged, the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity will continue to intensify its efforts to promote nuclear disarmament. We hope we can count on your support and cooperation.

Notice from the United Nations

On September 19, 1996, the United Nations Internet homepage went on-line. From that point on, people could access United Nation's press releases, literature, and so on.

The address is: <http://www.un.org>

Go ahead and visit this website!

International Court of Justice Hands Down Advisory Opinion

Use of Nuclear Weapons Generally Violates International Law

On July 8, 1996, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, Netherlands, handed down an advisory opinion (a brief summary of which is printed below) stating that the threat or use of nuclear weapons would be contrary to the rules of international law.

The ICJ proceedings were carried out as a result of a resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 1994 and a resolution adopted by the World Health Organization (WHO) in November 1993. During the proceedings, in November 1995, the Mayor of Hiroshima, Takashi Hiraoka, and the Mayor of Nagasaki, Ichio Itoh, made oral statements before the Court together with a representative from the Japanese government. The two Mayors made appeals regarding the inhumanity of nuclear weapons, as evidenced by the reality of A-bombed cities, concluding with the statement that "nuclear weapons are clearly in violation of international law." The Japanese government representative's statement, in comparison to those of the two mayors, was ambiguous toward nuclear weapons from start to finish.

After finishing these proceedings, in response to a request based on a UN General Assembly resolution, the ICJ issued the following advisory opinion on July 8: "The use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, and in particular the principles and rules of humanitarian law." However, they added the evasive opinion that "the Court cannot conclude definitively whether the threat or use of nuclear weapons would be lawful or unlawful in an extreme circumstance of self-defense, in which the very survival of a State would be at stake."

The Court turned down the request by the WHO with the following dismissal, "the request for an advisory opinion submitted by the WHO...does not relate to a question which arises 'within the scope of [the] activities' of that organization."

In drawing up the advisory opinion, in response to the UN General Assembly resolution, the judges were split evenly at seven votes to seven. As is the rule in such cases, the president of the Court handed down the final decision.

The ICJ's decision fell short of the clear-cut statement—that the use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances would be a violation of international law—sought by the A-bombed cities. It is still of great significance, however, that for the first time in the international legal institution we gained a clear statement that "nuclear weapons are weapons which violate international law." In addition, it is worthy of high appraisal that the latter part of the advisory opinion expresses that "there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective control" for all nation states.

The fact that the advisory opinion took the less resolute attitude of entrusting the use of nuclear weapons under certain conditions to the political decision-making process of the nuclear powers is disappointing, but it is difficult to imagine a situation in this day and age where "the very survival of a State would be at stake." Therefore, it seems we can consider the hands of the States to be virtually tied in terms of using nuclear weapons. It is also noteworthy that some of the judges expressed the personal opinion that as long as nuclear

weapons exist, they should be under the supervision of international society.

Behind the realization of the ICJ proceedings were the efforts of two associations which were recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize, the International Peace Bureau (IPB) and the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), on the initiative of the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA). Considering that the advisory opinion was brought forth with numerous NGOs (non-governmental organizations) supporting these three organizations, it may be said that the role played by NGOs, namely that of the citizens of every country, in moving toward the conclusion of treaty abolishing nuclear weapons is becoming increasingly larger and significant.

Advisory Opinion in Response to Request by UN General Assembly (summary)

I. The Court decides to comply with the request for an advisory opinion. (by thirteen votes to one)

II. There is in neither customary nor conventional international law any specific authorization of the threat or use of nuclear weapons. (unanimously)

III. There is in neither customary nor conventional international law any comprehensive and universal prohibition of the threat or use of nuclear weapons as such. (by eleven votes to three)

IV. A threat or use of force by means of nuclear weapons that is contrary to Article 2, paragraph 4, of the United Nations Charter and that fails to meet all the requirements of Article 51 providing a nation's individual or collective right of self-defense is unlawful. (unanimously)

V. A threat or use of nuclear weapons should also be compatible with the requirements of the international law applicable in armed conflict particularly those of the principles and rules of international humanitarian law, as well as with specific obligations under treaties and other undertakings which expressly deal with nuclear weapons. (unanimously)

VI. It follows from the above-mentioned requirements that the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, and in particular the principles and rules of humanitarian law. However, in view of the current state of international law, and of the elements of fact at its disposal, the Court cannot conclude definitively whether the threat or use of nuclear weapons would be lawful or unlawful in an extreme circumstance of self-defense, in which the very survival of a State would be at stake. (by seven votes to seven, by the president's casting vote)

VII. There exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. (unanimously)

Three Steps Toward Zero Nuclear Weapons

At the NGO UN Conference on Disarmament

Representatives of NGOs from around the world gathered on April 24 and 25 at the UN Headquarters in New York for a conference entitled: "1996: Disarmament at a Critical Juncture." A delegation of six attended on behalf of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, including Minoru Ohmura, Chairman of the Board of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation and Hidehiko Yoko-o, Treasurer of Nagasaki City.



The panel discussion on the 2nd day of the conference.

The general session on the 24th was followed in the morning of the 25th by a service marking the 10-year anniversary of the nuclear power accident at Chernobyl. A documentary film about the accident was presented, and British Nobel Peace Prize laureate Joseph Rotblat gave a lecture entitled "A Nuclear-Weapon-Free World Leading to a War-Free World," both of which were profoundly moving to those filling the auditorium.

In the afternoon that day, a discussion was held focusing on the theme "Nuclear Disarmament: Moving Toward Zero." Mr. Ohmura and Mr. Yoko-o made opening remarks.

The conference also heard from Dr. Ronald S. McCoy, who remains active with IPPNW (International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War) and is working to refine nuclear abolition concepts as a member of the Canberra Commission. Experts in the fields of environmental protection and international law described a variety of efforts aiming at a world without nuclear weapons.

Unfortunately, time ran out long before the discussion was complete, but the experience was meaningful as a forum for passionate exchange of opinion at an international level.

Summary of Mr. Ohmura's Speech

Keep Expanding Global-Level Nuclear-Free Zones

We have now reached a time when we must rethink the question, "What meaning do Hiroshima and Nagasaki have in human history?" The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is being negotiated within the framework of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), yet certain nations are willfully continuing their nuclear testing. Our goal is not a comprehensive test ban. We seek a total ban.

Last year a conflict arose between Japan and the U.S. regarding an atomic bomb materials exhibition, and an exhibit focusing on the history of the Pacific War was canceled. This problem was caused by the perception gap between the Japanese, who tend to close their eyes to certain events of history, and the Americans, who fail to confront the catastrophe caused by nuclear weapons and grasp their implications for the future. I believe bringing these two countries closer together in a way that transcends cultural differences is going to be one of our most important issues for the future.

In keeping with the theme of this conference, "Nuclear Disarmament: Moving Toward Zero", I would like to offer three proposals.

The first is to continue to promote the creation of nuclear-free zones on a global level. At present, the four large regional nuclear-free areas are the Antarctic, Latin America (by the Treaty of Tlatelolco), the South Pacific (by the Treaty of Rarotonga), and Southeast Asia. This April, Africa signed the Pelindaba Treaty to become the 5th nuclear-free zone. Fifty-four African countries declared a total ban on developing, manufacturing, deploying, compiling, and abandoning nuclear waste in the region. I highly commend such anti-nuclear actions. I propose that the various NGO bodies work together to persuade the governments of as many countries as possible to establish nuclear-free zones.

Second, we strongly urge the signing of an international treaty banning completely any use of nuclear weapons. Within an international society increasingly interwoven with mutually dependent relationships in economics, technology, and other fields, using nuclear weapons to threaten hostile countries is a foolish strategy counter to the flow of human history. Most critical now is for the international community to proceed steadily with the requisite confidence-building measures and the use of advanced technology to share information.

Our third proposal derives from our desire to help people understand the facts about the atomic bombing, especially the horror of radiation damage. To that end, we are prepared to hold "Hiroshima Nagasaki A-bomb Exhibits" in cities around the world. I hope that, by all means, you will contact us and indicate your desire to hold an exhibit.

These three proposals represent the "hope for the future" that the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have discovered in the process of arising from the plain of death. At the same time, they are concrete manifestations of our determination that the tragedy of nuclear weapons never again blight the face of the earth.

The Third United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues in Hiroshima

Agrees on the Prompt Conclusion of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

In the four days from July 17 (Wed.) to July 20 (Sat.), 1996, the Third United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues in Hiroshima was held at the International Conference Center, Hiroshima. (Sponsored by: United Nations Centre for Disarmament Affairs, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific / Cooperation from: Hiroshima Prefecture, Hiroshima City, and Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation / Supported by: Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs). Previous UN sponsored disarmament conferences were held in Hiroshima in 1992 and 1994. Sixty-two high-ranking government officials, scholars and so forth from Japan and overseas attended this conference, vigorously debating the theme of "Common Efforts toward a Safer and Nuclear-Weapon-Free World."

During this period, world attention has been increasingly focused on nuclear issues with the negotiations on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) underway at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament and the advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on July 8, immediately before the conference, stating, "the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law." It was particularly significant that a disarmament conference was being held at this juncture in the A-bombed city of Hiroshima.

During the opening ceremony on the 17th, United Nations Centre for Disarmament Affairs Director Prvoslav Davinic gave the sponsor's greeting address. Next, Hiroshima Mayor Takashi Hiraoka gave the opening remarks. He noted the regrettable fact that the advisory opinion handed down by the ICJ left room for the use of nuclear weapons by recognizing their use in self-defense. At the same time, he appealed the spirit of Hiroshima—the wish for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the realization of lasting world peace. The Mayor also expressed his intention to hold A-bomb exhibits throughout the world and made proposals including the early entry into force of the CTBT, the prevention of nuclear weapons proliferation through conclusion of the so-called Cut-Off Treaty, the banning production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons. Next, Mayor Itoh of Nagasaki, as Mayor Hiraoka did, expressed his profound regret at the fact that the advisory opinion of the ICJ was one that left room for the legal use of nuclear weapons. Further, he made clear his firm resolve to continue striving for a world free of nuclear weapons.

Afterward, a plenary session was held and the participants launched into heated discussions on the first day of the conference, with the British Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament, Michael Weston, emphasizing the importance of the conclusion of the CTBT in accelerating nuclear disarmament, and the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations, Nugroho Wisnumurti, noting that a dramatic reduction of nuclear stockpiles would instill a sense of security in the international community.

On the 18th, a plenary session with the theme of "Conventional weapons: Emerging issues" was held in the morning followed by working group sessions in the afternoon with two groups under the themes of "Future measures of nuclear disarmament" and "Maintenance of security and disarmament efforts in Asia and the Pacific."



Plenary II (July 17, 1996)

On the 19th, after continuations of the working group sessions, the participants viewed the A-bomb documentary film "Hiroshima: A Mother's Prayer" and listened to the testimony of Miyoko Watanabe, an A-bomb survivor. Next, a "Dialogue with Hiroshima Citizens" was held, sponsored by the Hiroshima Prefecture, Hiroshima City, and Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation. Nine representatives had a discussion with five representatives of the conference participants on the same stage with the theme, "Common Efforts toward a Safer and Nuclear-Weapon-Free World." Approximately 300 citizens of Hiroshima Prefecture and the City listened earnestly to the debate.

On the 20th, the last day of the conference, after reports on the debate proceedings from the working groups, UN Centre for Disarmament Affairs Director Prvoslav Davinic summarized the result of conference as follows: (1) the easing of cold war tensions has widely opened prospects in the nuclear field and (2) the central theme of this conference was the CTBT. And he noted, "we must agree on the CTBT for now" and concluded the four-day conference with closing greetings.

The UN Disarmament Symposium in Nagasaki

After the 3rd UN Conference on Disarmament Issues in Hiroshima, Mr. Tsutomu Ishiguri, Director of the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, and four other disarmament experts were invited to Nagasaki to participate in a disarmament symposium held on July 22 in the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum Hall. The title of the symposium was "Today's Disarmament Efforts toward a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World."

Before the symposium, A-bomb survivor Masatoshi Tsunenari made a powerful appeal saying, "We do not need nuclear weapons on this earth. Human beings cannot coexist with these weapons. Hiroshima and Nagasaki are proof of that."

The symposium included three panelists from Nagasaki, and with Mr. Tsutomu Ishiguri as coordinator, the panel discussed such issues as bringing us closer nuclear abolition, developing ways to start that process, resolving the CTBT problem, interpreting the ICJ advisory opinion, and pursuing disarmament as an NGO.

The panel also took questions from the audience. Through presentations and dialogue, the event gave people an opportunity to hear first hand and more fully understand the present situation in the field of nuclear disarmament.

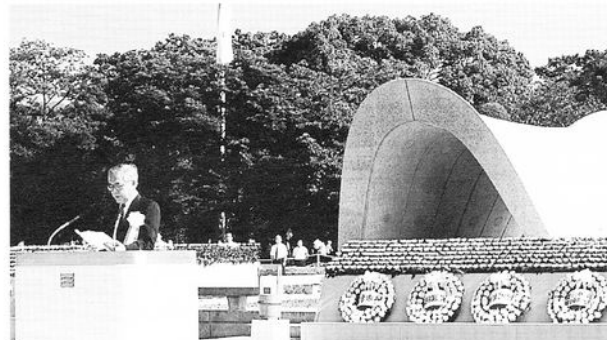
Hiroshima and Nagasaki Peace Declarations

Peace Memorial Ceremonies were held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, respectively. In light of global progress toward nuclear disarmament exemplified by approaching the conclusion of CTBT negotiations and the advisory opinion from the ICJ against the use of nuclear weapons, the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki renewed their vows to work ceaselessly for peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons.

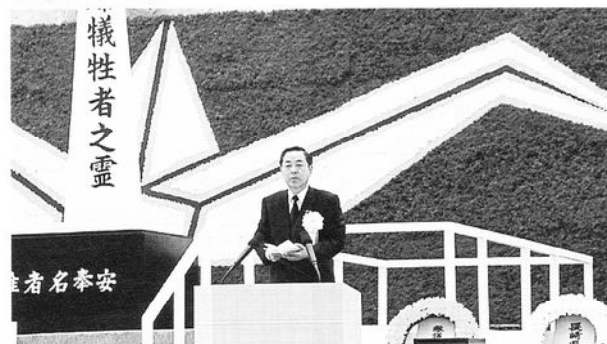
The secretariat, dated August 9, distributed copies of the declarations to the member cities of the Mayors Conference. In response, we received letters of support and agreement with the gist of the declarations from the following 13 cities: Muntinlupa (Philippines), Riga (Latvia), Dublin (Ireland), Faāa (French Polynesia), Lisbon (Portugal), Darebin (Australia), New Castle (Australia), Brisbane (Australia), Christchurch (New Zealand), Vancouver (Canada), Milano (Italy), Cochabamba (Bolivia), and Gdansk (Poland).

We are very grateful for this support.

* Listed in the order the letters were received.



Hiroshima Mayor Hiraoka announces the Peace Declaration
(August 6, 1996)



Nagasaki Mayor Itoh announces the Peace Declaration
(August 9, 1996)

PEACE DECLARATION OF HIROSHIMA

No matter how many months and years may pass, the memory of Hiroshima lives on in our hearts.

Now more than half a century since that cataclysm, the world still faces the threat of nuclear weapons. Yet we refuse to abandon hope and will continue to argue that humanity cannot co-exist with nuclear weapons.

Even though the East-West conflict has ended, the nuclear powers continue to maintain their arsenals, and the dependence on military force that distrust and suspicion prompt does nothing to guarantee our security. Peace is shattered when disputes, poverty, discrimination, and other ills are exacerbated by military force. Nuclear weapons symbolize all the violence that obstructs peace.

Albeit only in general terms, the International Court of Justice has declared the use of nuclear weapons illegal. Gradually, inexorably, public opinion favoring the elimination of nuclear weapons is spreading worldwide. We hope that this rising tide will compel agreement on a new Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty prohibiting all nuclear explosions, of which there have been more than 2,000, and leading to a total ban on nuclear tests. At the same time, however, given the uncertain prospects for the elimination of nuclear weapons, we are deeply concerned that the nuclear powers are consolidating their arsenals.

As the next step, we thus intend to join in solidarity with the entire international community for a universal convention prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons and to work here at home for legislation formalizing Japan's non-nuclear status.

Another urgent imperative in the quest for peace is that of continuing to explain the realities of history's first atomic bombing and to see that these are conveyed across national and generational differences. The experiences, both the lives and the deaths, following the bombing of Hiroshima must be refined so they touch every heart and this culture of peace becomes part of humanity's shared legacy.

It is also essential that the extensive documentation on the bombing be archived. I hope that younger generations, far-removed as they are from the wartime realities and the bombing's horrors, will be inspired by the insights and impressions that they draw from the *hibakusha* testimonies and other documentation.

At the same time, I want to find policies for supporting the aging *hibakusha* in Japan and elsewhere commensurate with their real needs.

Marking the 51st anniversary of the bombing, we here today both pay our sincere respects to the souls of those *hibakusha* who died and renew our vow to work untiringly for the elimination of all nuclear weapons and for peace. Fully cognizant of Japanese history and in the spirit of the Constitution, I also pledge to work with the people of Hiroshima to make Hiroshima a creative, hopeful city of peace.

Takashi Hiraoka
Mayor of Hiroshima
August 6, 1996

PEACE DECLARATION OF NAGASAKI

We will never forget. The atomic bomb, which exploded over this area, generated ferocious heat rays and blast and released deadly radiation, instantly killing and injuring defenseless citizens and reducing the city to a field of rubble and ashes. The people who managed to survive were forced into an inhuman life of solitude and anxiety, and they continue to this day to suffer from fear of death and the late effects of exposure to radiation. Fifty-one years have passed since the atomic bombing, but no matter how many years pass we must continue to inform the people of the world about what happened that day in Nagasaki.

1. Let us reflect upon the past and convey Nagasaki's aspiration to the world

Looking at history, we see that the wars repeatedly perpetrated by humanity have done nothing to foster happiness or world peace. Nuclear weapons, in particular, threaten the human race with extinction. It is imperative that the people of the world recognize this fact.

We must face up to the reality of Japan's history of invasion and aggression in the Asia-Pacific region during past wars and, with a feeling of reflection and apology, join hands with the people of the world and strive to eliminate all further victims of war and nuclear destruction.

2. Now is the time to ban nuclear tests and to realize a world without nuclear weapons

The negotiations for a comprehensive test ban treaty at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament are now in their final stage. But although the proposed treaty provides for a ban on tests involving nuclear explosions, it does not prohibit tests by methods such as computer simulation. It thus allows for the continued development of nuclear weapons. We must continue to appeal for a ban on all types of testing that lead to the development of nuclear weapons.

The first resolution of the United Nations, unanimously adopted by the General Assembly in 1946, called for the elimination of nuclear weapons from national arsenals, and in 1961 the General Assembly adopted a declaration proclaiming the use of nuclear weapons to be a "crime against mankind and civilization." I ask the United Nations to return to these historic starting points and to exert its leadership in the international community.

I asserted at the International Court of Justice last November that the use of nuclear weapons is a violation of international law. While avoiding judgement with regard to self-defense, the court stated in its advisory opinions of July 8, 1996 that the threat or use of nuclear weapons is "contrary to the rules of international law" and that "there exists in the international community an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament." It is imperative that we embrace these statements positively and make strides for the conclusion of a treaty to abolish nuclear weapons.

In April this year, a non-nuclear zone treaty was concluded in Africa following similar treaties in South and Central America, the South Pacific and Southeast Asia. We must learn from this peaceful method by which the international community joins to eliminate nuclear weapons, and we must urgently work to establish a non-nuclear zone in Northeast Asia. I ask the Japanese government to promote the enforcement of a ban on the production of nuclear materials for use in weapons and the establishment of an international system of management to handle the nuclear materials obtained in the dismantling of nuclear weapons, in that way playing a leading role in the organization of an anti-nuclear network among the non-nuclear states.

3. To the guardians of peace in the 21st century

I ask the young generations of Japan to realize that the abundance and peace that we enjoy today are founded on the efforts and sacrifices of many people, to understand the fact that numerous problems are impeding world peace such as starvation, poverty, refugees, repression of human rights and destruction of the global environment, to think about what they can do for peace and to take positive action.

In April this year, Nagasaki City inaugurated the new Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing. We are now refurbishing the Peace Park area in order to make it a venue for "Nagasaki peace studies," and we are striving to cultivate guardians of peace in the 21st century.

I ask all citizens to inform younger generations about the horror of the atomic bombings, the misery of war, the importance of peace and the sanctity of life.

4. Let us oppose nuclear deterrence and expand the circle of peace

The road ahead of us is obstructed by "nuclear deterrence," that is, the policy of intimidating other countries and protecting only one's own country through the possession of nuclear weapons. But Nagasaki has appealed for over half a century for a world free of nuclear weapons, and our message is showing increasing influence.

Nagasaki City will continue to convey the aspiration for peace by every available means. The time has surely come for us to join hands and to expand the circle of peace from Nagasaki to the world.

It is the responsibility of Japan, as the first country exposed to a nuclear attack, to make efforts for the establishment of world peace. I call on the Japanese government to hold its own atomic bomb exhibitions as a way to communicate the fact that nuclear weapons are incompatible with humanity. It must also take still further measures for the assistance of the atomic bomb survivors, who are now advancing into old age, and fulfill its responsibilities in a similar manner to the non-Japanese atomic bomb survivors.

With the vexation of the victims in my heart on this 51st anniversary of the atomic bombing, I offer prayers for the repose of the souls of the atomic bomb victims and I declare in the name of the citizens of Nagasaki to the people of Japan and the world our renewed determination to strive for the abolition of nuclear weapons and for the realization of lasting world peace.

Ichio Itoh
Mayor of Nagasaki
August 9, 1996

Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Photo Posters Available

At the request of cities intending to hold exhibitions, we are donating Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Photo Posters. We can make the posters available in the following languages:

• English • German • Chinese • French • Italian • Russian • Spanish

Any city interested in an exhibit of Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Photo Posters should feel free to contact this office using the enclosed application form.

(20 pieces per set)



The New Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum Opens

On April 1 this year, the Nagasaki International Culture Hall, renovated as one of the city's projects commemorating the 50th anniversary of the dropping of the A-bomb, has reopened with a new name: The Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum. This facility is symbolic of the international peace city Nagasaki and its profound desire for lasting world peace.

The new museum provides 2.2 times the exhibit space of the previous building. The exhibition itself, in addition to describing the cruel aftermath of the bombing, tells the story of the events leading up to the dropping of the bomb, Nagasaki's recovery from the bombing, the history of nuclear arms development, and the emerging desire for peace.

The circumstances in Nagasaki immediately after the bombing are depicted with the help of large-scale A-bomb artifacts, photo panels, video, film, and models. The result is easy for anyone to understand.

Along with the permanent exhibition, the new facility offers a video room for showings of films documenting the A-bomb and the situation regarding nuclear testing around the world, plus a Q&A corner about the A-bomb and peace, a search system for peace declarations and peace charters, a peace studies hall, and a smaller study room.

[Museum Information]

Hours: open daily 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM

Museum holidays: December 29 to 31

Admission fees: Adults ¥200, Groups (over 30 members) ¥160, Elementary, junior high, senior high school students ¥100, Groups (over 30) ¥80



The side wall of Urakami Cathedral after the atomic bombing (replica, permanent exhibition)

[For more information]

Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum

7-8 Hirano-machi, Nagasaki 852 JAPAN

TEL : 81-958-44-1231 FAX : 81-958-46-5170

Assistance for Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Exhibitions

To help more people around the world learn the facts about A-bomb damage and to arouse international public opinion in favor of nuclear weapons abolition, the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have for some time been donating Hiroshima-



Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Exhibition in Colombia, Missouri, U.S.

Nagasaki A-bomb Photo Posters. In addition, they stand ready to cooperate with larger-scale A-bomb exhibitions by providing photo panels, A-bomb artifacts, and A-bomb eyewitness testimony.

Last year, an exhibition was held at American University (Washington D.C., U.S.). This year the Veterans for Peace in Missouri and Stephen University sponsored an exhibition in Columbia, Missouri, U.S. from August 20 to September 1. We were involved with that exhibition, which generated a major reaction in the area.

Any city interested in sponsoring an Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Exhibit should feel free to contact us to discuss the possibilities.

Contact: (Mr.) Yuji Kataoka

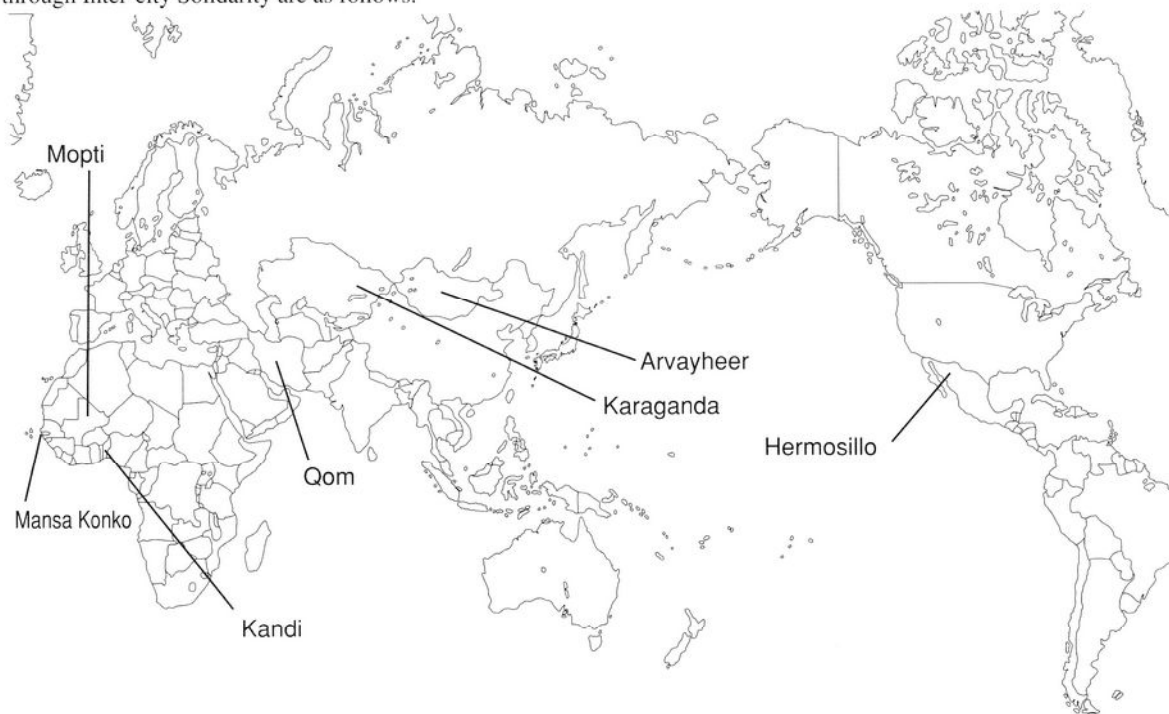
Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation

1-2 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima 730 Japan

TEL : 81-82-241-2352 FAX : 81-82-242-7452

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

From November 1995 to October 1996, 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

No.	City Name	Country Name	Membership
1	Mopti	Mali	December 19, 1995
2	Kandi	Benin	January 8, 1996
3	Qom	Iran	May 17, 1996
4	Hermosillo	Mexico	June 24, 1996
5	Mansa Konko	Gambia	August 29, 1996
6	Arvayheer	Mongolia	September 20, 1996
7	Karaganda	Kazakhstan	October 25, 1996

Total Number of Member Cities : 98 countries and regions, 416 cities (as of October 25, 1996)

From the Secretariat:

This year has seen major movement with regard to nuclear issues such as the advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding the use of nuclear weapons and the adoption in the UN General Assembly of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

We want to work with your city in any way possible to ensure that the momentum builds and these events amount to steady first steps toward the abolition of nuclear weapons. We look forward to your continuing generous support and cooperation.

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

1-2 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima, Japan 730

Tel : 81-82-241-2352 Fax: 81-82-242-7452

E-mail : mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

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