



# *Inter-city Solidarity* *Newsletter*

World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity

August 10, 1998 / No.10

## **Mayors Conference Protests Against the Nuclear Tests by India and Pakistan**

**Continued Efforts to Raise the Public Consciousness towards the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons are vital**



Nuclear test site in Pokaran, India (May 11, 1998)

REUTERS PHOTO

Just when the "Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition" held in the cities of Mumbai and New Delhi was arousing public interest throughout India, on May 11 India conducted an underground nuclear test, its first in 24 years, and sent shock waves throughout the world. Heedless of the fierce censures that followed the test, it conducted a second underground nuclear test on May 13.

Then despite an outpouring of pleas for restraint from around the world, Pakistan counter-reacted with its own underground tests on May 28 and 30.

The World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity considers these to be reckless acts defying the international movement for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Under the joint signature of the mayors of the nine Executive Cities, protest letters were sent to the Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan. (See pages 2 and 3)

Understanding that these tests have infinitely raised the danger that nuclear weapons will be used in outbreaks of national border disputes, under the name of the president, the Mayors Conference requested the Indian and Pakistani member cities to work to raise public awareness for lasting peace and for the abolition of nuclear weapons. (See page 4)

The tests of the two countries only increase the danger of proliferation of nuclear weapons to neighboring countries and to countries suspected of possessing nuclear weapons. Moreover, given that the nuclear powers continually show little interest in disarmament, the direction the nuclear situation will take is beyond the powers of prediction. In order to change this situation, people in the world have to work together to pressure the nuclear power states to change their security policies. We ask the mayors of the member cities to play a leading role in raising their citizen's awareness towards eliminating nuclear weapons.



## The 1st letter of protest to India

### *Letter of Protest*

On May 11, for the first time in 24 years, your country conducted underground nuclear tests. Your action is regrettable in the extreme, especially in light of the major reaction to the "Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition" in Mumbai and New Delhi. On behalf of the 456 cities in 100 countries and regions that are members of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, we strongly protest.

Not only will your action provoke Pakistan and other neighboring countries, you may well have triggered the collapse of the NPT system and ignited a new round of competitive nuclear arms development.

We are extremely concerned that the United States and the other nuclear powers refuse to set clear timeframe for abolishing nuclear weapons and are neglecting their commitments to nuclear disarmament. However, we, the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, demand that you abandon your policy of using nuclear weapons to brandish power. Instead, we request that you conscientiously accept mounting international opinion and commit your country to non-violent, peaceful diplomacy without relying on military force.

May 12, 1998

His Excellency Atal Bihari Vajpayee  
Prime Minister of India



## The 2nd letter of protest to India

### *Letter of Protest*

Amid powerful worldwide condemnation of your previous nuclear tests, on May 13 you ignored international public opinion and again obstinately proceeded with additional tests. Your action was a violent challenge to the international community, and on behalf of the 456 cities in 100 countries and regions that belong to the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, we again protest in the strongest possible terms.

Your two rounds of testing are a clear provocation to Pakistan and other countries. You have thereby increased the danger of nuclear proliferation, caused your nation to lose respect in the international community, and taken a step toward international isolation.

We again assert that world peace can never be achieved as long as countries seek to guarantee national security through nuclear weapons.

The World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity hereby urges India to conscientiously accept international desire for nuclear abolition and abandon its policy of brandishing nuclear weapons to make a display of the nation's power.

May 14, 1998

His Excellency Atal Bihari Vajpayee  
Prime Minister of India



## The 1st letter of protest to Pakistan

### *Letter of Protest*

Appearing to compete with India, you conducted an underground nuclear test on May 28. Despite the fact that Pakistan was among the worldwide chorus of voices harshly condemning India's series of tests and calling for restraint in nuclear development, you ignored that world opinion and unilaterally conducted a nuclear test of your own. Your action constituted a violent challenge to the international community and, as such, is utterly unforgivable. On behalf of the 456 cities in 100 countries and regions that are members of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, we strongly protest.

We are gravely concerned that the strategy displayed by Pakistan and India of depending on nuclear deterrence is heightening tensions in Southwest Asia, spawning a new nuclear arms race, and threatening to destroy the NPT system.

We have repeatedly asserted that world peace can never be achieved as long as nations seek to ensure their own security through nuclear weapons.

We, the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, demand that Pakistan soberly accept that international public opinion overwhelmingly favors nuclear abolition, that you abandon your policy of brandishing nuclear weapons to make a display of your nation's power, and make genuine efforts to build a trusting relationship with India.

May 29, 1998

His Excellency Muhammad Nawaz Sharif  
Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan



## The 2nd letter of protest to Pakistan

### *Letter of Protest*

With voices around the world rising in protest against your nuclear tests, on May 30 you issued a violent challenge to international public opinion by ignoring those voices and obstinately conducting additional tests. On behalf of the 456 cities in 100 countries that are members of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, we strongly protest.

Your repeated testing has aggravated the relationship between Pakistan and India, and with tensions mounting daily you have infinitely heightened the risk of border clashes that could lead ultimately to the actual use of nuclear weapons. We are deeply concerned that the nuclear weapons competition between India and Pakistan will ripple out to neighboring nations and others suspected of having nuclear weapons, then escalate into an unstoppable nuclear arms race.

We urge you to learn from the lessons of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki fifty-three years ago and realize that if nuclear weapons are used again, humankind will be walking the path to its own extinction.

We, the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, demand that Pakistan accept and support international public opinion seeking nuclear abolition and immediately halt all nuclear testing. We further demand that you immediately abandon your effort to ensure national security through nuclear weaponry, and make sincere efforts to build the relationship of trust with India required for true stability and peace in Southern Asia.

May 30, 1998

His Excellency Muhammad Nawaz Sharif  
Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

## ◆ The letter to mayors of member cities in India and Pakistan ◆

June 2, 1998

The Honorable Mayors of the member cities in India and Pakistan

Dear Mayors,

Thank you for your on-going understanding and cooperation in the operation of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity.

On May 11 and 13, India ignored international opinion in favor of abolishing nuclear weapons and conducted a series of underground nuclear tests. In reaction, Pakistan turned its back on the international community's pleas for restraint and, on May 28 and 30, conducted its own series of underground nuclear tests. These actions have worsened tensions between the two countries and infinitely increased the risk of border clashes and, ultimately, the use of nuclear weapons.

We are gravely concerned that the nuclear arms competition between India and Pakistan will spill over to surrounding nations and others suspected of having nuclear weapons, igniting an unstoppable nuclear arms race.

In light of the above, we have sent official protests as attached to both countries, and we have requested that they instead work toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.

As you know, the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, based on their experiences fifty-three years ago, have continually insisted that nuclear weapons and humankind

cannot coexist indefinitely, and we have consistently opposed all nuclear testing by all nations.

Further, in 1982, we formed the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity and sounded a call internationally for cities to come together in solidarity across national borders to raise the consciousness of their citizens in support of nuclear weapons abolition.

In war, and especially in nuclear war, it is the cities and the people who live in them that suffer the greatest damage and pay the greatest sacrifice. We mayors are bound by duty to protect the peaceful lives of our residents and, hence, to do everything in our power to prevent war.

We ask that you, as a member of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, strive to raise the consciousness of your citizens with regard to world peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons, and, thereby, work to cause the government of your nation to abandon its policy of brandishing nuclear weapons as a show of strength and turn wholeheartedly to cultivating a relationship of trust between India and Pakistan.

I close with best wishes for your continued health and success.

Sincerely yours,

Takashi Hiraoka

Mayor of Hiroshima

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

### **Hiroshima's Mayor Requests the Ambassadors of India and Pakistan to Work toward Nuclear Abolition**

Hiroshima Mayor Takashi Hiraoka, President of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity met in Tokyo with the Indian Ambassador to Japan, His Excellency Siddharth Singh on June 18 and the Pakistani Ambassador to Japan, His Excellency Touqir Husain on June 25. The Mayor strongly urged the ambassadors to immediately strive for the renouncement of security policies dependent on nuclear weaponry, to respond to the international call for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and to work to that end.



Hiroshima Mayor Takashi Hiraoka meets with the Indian Ambassador to Japan on June 18, 1998 in Tokyo RCC PHOTO



## Mayors Conference Protested Against US Sub-critical Nuclear Testing

*On March 25, 1998, the United States conducted its third sub-critical nuclear test. The US government justifies the tests on the grounds that they do not cause nuclear explosions and are essential for confirming the safety and reliability of the nuclear stockpile. However, continuing such tests serves to entrench the possession of nuclear weapons by the nuclear powers and only heightens the distrust of the international community. The World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity on March 26 sent the following protest letter to President Clinton under the joint signature of the mayors of the Executive Cities.*

*On June 12, a letter of response as shown below was received from the US Department of State.*

March 26, 1998

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton  
The President of the United States of America

### Letter of Protest

Your country's willful execution of a third sub-critical nuclear test on March 26 violates the world's desire for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Representing the 443 cities from 100 countries and regions comprising the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity, we indignantly protest this act.

It has been reported that such tests are conducted to ensure the performance of nuclear weapons, but this series of sub-critical nuclear tests could lead to the development of new types of nuclear weapons and thus to a new nuclear arms race. We are deeply troubled that despite this danger, your country plans to conduct three more tests within the year.

It is imperative that your country sincerely respond to the growing international wave seeking nuclear abolition centered around Abolition 2000 and other movements of NGOs in various countries and immediately cease all sub-critical nuclear testing. At the same time, we strongly demand that you lead the nations of the world toward an early effectuation of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and toward beginning negotiations as soon as possible on the treaty to ban the production of weapons-grade fissionable material (Cut Off Treaty).

World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity

### *Response from the US Department of State*

Dear Mayor Hiraoka,

I am writing in response to your March 26 letter to President Clinton, which enclosed a letter from the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity.

The United States, as a signatory and strong supporter of the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), is committed to the elimination of nuclear weapons. Successive U.S. administrations have embraced the objective of nuclear disarmament as our ultimate goal.

Over the past five years alone, we have made substantial progress. The United States has withdrawn and is dismantling thousands of nuclear warheads that were deployed in Europe less than a decade ago. Under the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaties (START), the United States and Russia envisage removing 14,000 warheads from deployed arsenals; and Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin have agreed to negotiate START III reductions to 2,000 to 2,500 warheads once START II has been ratified by Russia.

The United States played a leading role in bringing the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) to fruition, and

President Clinton was the first head of state to sign the Treaty when it was opened for signature. He has transmitted it to the U.S. Senate for advice and consent to ratification, and asked the Senate to approve it this year. To date 149 states have signed the CTBT and 13 have ratified. The United States pursues policies and programs which are fully consistent with its obligations under international agreements, including the CTBT.

The United States has also worked hard to bring about negotiations on a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT). In a statement to the Conference on Disarmament (CD) this year, the President pledged the full support of the United States in taking the next steps in the nuclear disarmament process. He pointed out that an FMCT was one of the most important issues the CD could work on and that it would complement deep bilateral reductions in nuclear arms.

Sincerely,  
Robert C. Reis  
Director  
Office of Japanese Affairs



*City of Malakoff and other cities started the "French Association of Communes, Departments, and Regions for Peace" as a branch of the Mayors Conference in France. On May 14, 1998, the Association held its General Meeting in Paris. The following is a report of the Association's activities based on that General Meeting.*

**French Association of Communes,  
Departments and Regions for Peace off  
to a Smooth Start: General  
Meeting Report**

Hiroshima - Nagasaki  
Institute in France  
Mrs. Miho Cibot



Since the first Mayors Conference in 1985, I have accompanied France's new member cities to each Conference every four years. After each of these wonderful events, I notice that the media does not cover the various peace projects of any of the municipalities, not even the peace exchanges of the French cities. A typical example of this was when France resumed nuclear testing in 1995. Many municipalities adopted resolutions protesting the nuclear test, but the exact numbers are not known and the content of the resolutions was not conveyed to other cities and towns.

There are limits to how much our group, the Hiroshima - Nagasaki Institute in France, which seeks to create and disseminate materials on the atomic bombings, can do to mobilize municipalities to act.

The concept of recruiting local governments, prefectural and regional assemblies for membership in the French Association of Communes, Departments and Regions for Peace is becoming established among the member cities of the Mayors Conference. The concept took clearer shape when the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki visited France in September 1995 and the core municipalities gathered to discuss the concept. The French Association of Communes, Departments and Regions for Peace (AFCDRP) was officially launched in May 1997. The mayor of Malakoff, an Executive City of the Mayors Conference, became chairperson, and activities to increase the number of member cities were begun. As of the General Meeting held at the National Congress in Paris on May 14, 1998, the organization counted 13 municipalities and two prefectures as its members.

Hiroshima Mayor Hiraoka sent a message that was delivered at the General Meeting, and the following major

resolutions were adopted.

1. As PR for the FACDRP, a pamphlet describing the activities will be distributed to 2000 local governments and the media.
2. As a branch of the Mayors Conference, the Association supports the protest letters of the Mayors Conference against the nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan. The letters will be sent to the mass media and French translations will be mailed to the Association's member cities.
3. The peace activities of the Association's member cities will be reported regularly in a newsletter.
4. Seminars will be held under the theme "Ways to Create a Culture of Peace." We are studying the possibility of holding the first in Angers City, which owns Jean Lurçat's "Chant du Monde (Song of the World)"; it has been decided that Lurçat's work will be exhibited in Hiroshima.
5. We will cultivate local government workers who can make good use of UNESCO's "Peace Culture Program" and the "Local Government Employees National Center." Because government workers consciousness of peace issues is underdeveloped, and they sometimes lack the knowledge to implement concrete peace activities, we believe that training by experts will be useful in this regard. France, which is not wracked by wars or disputes, must still grapple with youth violence and crime, and the influence of the ultra-rightists is worrisome. We need regular efforts towards a "culture of peace" to counter the "culture of violence and hatred."

Besides the above resolutions, the representative from the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Institute made a proposal to introduce the Japanese activity of planting "second-generation atomic bombed persimmon trees from Nagasaki" in order to promote peace education for children.

The representative from Caen (not an Association member) to the General Meeting, introduced Mr. Gomis from its Sister City in Senegal. He presented the concept of an around-the-world bicycle race for peace. This is an response to the United Nations decision to make the year 2000 the "International Year for Peace Culture." The plan calls for the racers to start in Vancouver, pass through Caen in April 1999, and arrive in Hiroshima on August 6, 2000. Also, Malakoff, which has developed close

ties with Manchester city in U.K. through the Mayors Conference, has been invited to that city's 40th anniversary of "nuclear-free city" declaration in September of this year.

The French Association of Communes, Departments, and Regions for Peace, which was launched after a lengthy preparatory period, is getting off to a smooth start. I look forward to its future development.

### **Mayors Conference Becomes a Supporting Organization of Abolition 2000**

On April 24, 1998, the Secretariat of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity sent an official letter endorsing the "Abolition 2000 campaign" to the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, which houses the secretariat of the campaign.

Abolition 2000 is the global campaign of international NGOs which, aiming for the abolition of nuclear weapons, call for the conclusion of the Nuclear Weapon Convention banning the use, threat of use, development, manufacture, testing, stockpiling and transfer of nuclear weapons by the year 2000. The term "Abolition 2000" also signifies the network of NGOs which support its activities. As of July 22, 1095 groups in 76 countries have endorsed Abolition 2000; core NGOs include the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

This campaign launched at the 1995 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review and Extension Conference reflects dismay at the lack of commitment of the nuclear powers to honor their NPT disarmament obligation. More than 60 NGOs worked together at the United Nations in New York to draft a statement that would put nuclear abolition on the world's agenda.

The most notable achievement of the initiative to date is the launching of the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention. Spearheaded by the Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy and the International Network of Engineers and Scientists Against Proliferation (INESAP), it was drafted by lawyers, scientists and policy makers and introduced as an official UN document by Costa Rica.

With the objective of developing the movement on a global scale, the initiative is recently emphasizing the three following undertakings:

1. Expansion of the Abolition 2000 campaign: to solicit

supporting NGOs while aiming for 1000 sponsor signatories.

2. Nuclear abolition petition movement: to aim for 3 million signatures by 1999. (Signatories include Hiroshima Mayor Takashi Hiraoka, President and Nagasaki Mayor Ichio Itoh, Vice President.)

3. City resolutions supporting nuclear abolition: As of now, 197 cities in seven countries have made such resolutions. Twenty of these are member cities of the Mayors Conference.

The Secretariat received requests for assistance with promoting such city resolutions from Abolition 2000 and INESAP early this year. We hope that member cities will understand the purpose of Abolition 2000 and pass local government resolutions in support of it. For details, contact Abolition 2000, c/o Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, 1187 Coast Village Road, Suite 123, Santa Barbara, CA 93108 U.S.A.

Phone : 1-805-965-3443, Fax : 1-805-568-0466

### **Survey on the Activities of International NGOs Completed**

In recent years, the activities of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the international community have been attracting the attention of governments and the United Nations. As seen by the success of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, a loosely organized NGO, which induced governments to sign a treaty banning all anti-personnel land mines, NGOs can play very important role, not only in alleviating refugee and environmental problems, but also in promoting disarmament.

As symbolized by the nuclear tests of India and Pakistan, it will not be easy to change national security policies that depend on nuclear deterrence. Given this, to raise the international concern over the abolition of nuclear weapons, and to increase our influence in the international community, the Secretariat conducted a survey of organizations focused on disarmament in order to accumulate specialized knowledge and study collaborations with international NGOs which have outstanding dynamism and mobility.

Survey forms were sent to 186 organizations on January 26, 1998; to date, responses have been received from 76. These responses will be organized and analyzed to be used as references in our study of policies for collaboration with international NGOs.

### Twenty-one New Member Cities Join Mayors Conference

Since February 21, 1998, the following twenty-one cities have become members of the organization.

Concord, Marion, Parramatta, Salisbury, Shellharbour, Unley (Australia); Ieper (Belgium); Chalette sur Loing, Dieppe, Mitry Mory, Nanterre, Saint-Claude, Seine Saint-Denis, Trappes, Val-de-Marne, Vitry-sur-Seine (France); Grizzana Morandi (Italy); Nelson (New Zealand); Port Elizabeth (South Africa); Lincoln (U.K.), Springdale (USA) [City names are listed in alphabetical order of the countries to which they belong.]

Our membership as of July 7, 1998 including these twenty-one cities, stands at 460 cities in 100 countries and regions.

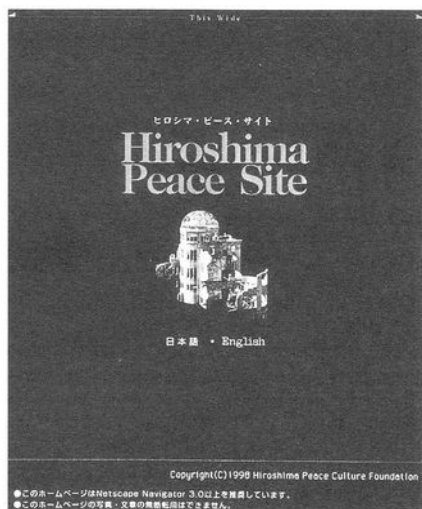
### "Hiroshima Peace Site" is On-line

On June 24, 1998, the peace-related information on Hiroshima City's Home Page was reconstructed as the "Hiroshima Peace Site." The content is organized into the three categories of "A-bomb Eyewitness Testimonies and the Reality of the A-bomb Disasters," "Warning: The Current Situation of Nuclear Weapons," and "The Will to Create Peace."

The World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity is listed under the third category. You can access it in both English and Japanese.

(Address: <http://www.city.hiroshima.jp/>)

The City of Hiroshima and the Secretariat of the Mayors Conference would like to create a wider information network by linking up with the websites of member cities. We invite all member cities with their own website to connect up with the "Hiroshima Peace Site". If you are interested, please tell the Secretariat the address of your website.



Front page of "Hiroshima Peace Site"

### Invitation to School-Twinning and School-Networking for Peace *Life-Link Foundation*

*Life-Link Foundation*, based in Uppsala, Sweden invites schools in the member cities to participate in the global School-Twinning and School-Networking program for peace.

This program is for 12 to 19 year-old students, and participating youths and schools will:

1. Participate in the global environmental campaign on Earth Day in April and the International Day of Environmental Actions and Service in October; tree planting, water quality monitoring etc.;
2. Communicate with partner schools in other countries about their peace activities;
3. Arrange or participate in the annual Hiroshima Day: "Lantern Ceremony" on August 6th including discussions about conflicts and conflict resolution skills.

*Life-Link* is a non-profitable foundation based on natural and social science, and has neither political nor religious connections. This program has had positive reactions at 350 schools in more than 50 countries. True global security and peace must involve youth and educational institutes.

Yours Sincerely,

Hans Levander

Specialist Internal Medicine

Chairperson of *Life-Link Foundation*

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