

February 18, 2005

His Excellency Vladimir V. Putin  
President  
Russian Federation

**Request for leadership and positive action for the total elimination of nuclear weapons in the Review  
Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**

The Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the most crucial conference for the elimination of nuclear weapons, will be held at UN Headquarters in New York from May 2 to 27 this year.

Since 1982, Hiroshima and Nagasaki have jointly chaired the Mayors for Peace, an organization that seeks to galvanize international will to work for a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons. Our rapidly growing membership, now 714 cities in 110 nations and regions, demonstrates the growing international consensus that nuclear weapons must be abolished.

A gleam of hope appeared in the “unequivocal undertaking” by the nuclear weapon states to “accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals,” adopted by the 2000 NPT Review Conference. However, the current situation regarding nuclear disarmament constitutes a crisis.

The world is facing the real danger of new proliferation and a third use of nuclear weapons, mainly due to the nuclear policies of the United States and North Korea. However, Russia, which should be abiding by its obligations as a nuclear-weapon state under the NPT, continues to conduct sub-critical nuclear tests, is considering developing so-called mini nukes, and has declared its intention to rely more, not less, on nuclear weapons.

Such actions and attitudes are inhibiting the efforts of other nuclear weapons states to abolish their nuclear arsenals, and are encouraging the creation of new nuclear weapons states, including India and Pakistan. North Korea has announced its withdrawal from the NPT and determination to arm itself with nuclear weapons. The NPT regime, the central agreement for the abolition of nuclear weapons, is on the verge of collapse.

To cope with this situation, we request that Russia fully support the Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons initiated by the Mayors for Peace and play an active, leading role at the NPT Review Conference pressing for adoption of an action program that calls for conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention by 2010 and the total elimination of nuclear weapons by 2020.

We sincerely hope that Russia will stop all nuclear testing, including sub-critical tests, take the initiative in abolishing your own nuclear weapons, begin negotiating the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty as early as possible and press for early entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. We urge you to do your best to accomplish a peaceful 21<sup>st</sup> century free from the threat of nuclear weapons.

We close with best wishes for the prosperity of Russia and for the happiness of your citizens.

Sincerely,

The Conference of Mayors for Peace

Tadatoshi Akiba	President	Mayor of Hiroshima
Ichcho Itoh	Vice President	Mayor of Nagasaki
Stefano Bruni	Vice President	Mayor of Como
Herbert Schmalstieg	Vice President	Mayor of Hannover
Catherine Margate	Vice President	Mayor of Malakoff
Tom O’Callaghan	Vice President	Mayor of Manchester
Jaime R. Fresnedi	Vice President	Mayor of Muntinlupa
Eugeny P. Ishchenko	Vice President	Mayor of Volgograd