



HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI ATOMIC BOMBINGS 67th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION

**Lincoln Square, Manchester City Centre
Thursday 9th August 2012, 10.30am – 11.30am**

Order of Service & Photographs from Service

Welcome to today's commemorative event for the 67th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings. The event this morning has been organised by Manchester City Council's Nuclear Policy Unit – a Unit that supports the UK and Republic of Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities and the UK section of the World Mayors for Peace. Manchester is a Vice President of the Mayors for Peace, which has 5312 members and campaigns for a nuclear weapons free world.

Today's event allows for reflection, contemplation and challenge on the events of 67 years ago, and to also consider the effects on innocent civilian populations of modern warfare. It reflects similar events being held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and in Mayors for Peace member cities across the world. We hope you find the event interesting and thought-provoking.

Assemble at 10.30am

10.30am - Why are we here today?

**Read by Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary and UK Mayors for
Peace Secretary**

Remembering Hiroshima & Nagasaki

At 1:45 a.m. on August 6th, 1945, a US B-29 bomber, named 'Enola Gay', took off from Tinian Island in the Mariana Islands. It carried the world's second atomic bomb, the first having been detonated three weeks earlier at a US test site in Alamogordo, New Mexico. The 'Enola Gay' carried one atomic bomb, with an enriched uranium core. The bomb had been named "Little Boy." It had an explosive force of some 12,500 tons of TNT. At 8:15 a.m. that morning, as the citizens of Hiroshima were beginning their day, the Enola Gay released its cargo, which fell for 43 seconds before detonating at 580 meters above Shima Hospital near the centre of the city. Here is a description from a pamphlet published by the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum of what happened immediately following the explosion:

“The temperature of the air at the point of explosion reached several million degrees Celsius (the maximum temperature of conventional bombs is approximately 5,000 degrees Celsius). Several millionths of a second after the explosion a fireball appeared, radiating white heat. After 1/10,000th of a second, the fireball reached a diameter of approximately 28 meters with a temperature of close to 300,000 degrees Celsius. At the instant of the explosion, intense heat rays and radiation were released in all directions, and a blast erupted with incredible pressure on the surrounding air.”

As a result of the blast, heat and ensuing fires, the city of Hiroshima was levelled and some 90,000 people in it perished on that day. The world’s second test of a nuclear weapon demonstrated conclusively the awesome power of nuclear weapons for killing and maiming. Schools were destroyed and their students and teachers slaughtered. Hospitals with their patients and medical staffs were obliterated. The bombing of Hiroshima was an act of massive destruction of a civilian population, the destruction of an entire city with a single bomb. Harry Truman, President of the United States, upon being notified, said, “This is the greatest thing in history.”

Three days after destroying Hiroshima, (and on this day 67 years ago) after failing to find an opening in the clouds over its primary target of the city of Kokura, a US B-29 bomber, named ‘Bockscar’, attacked the Japanese city of Nagasaki with the world’s third atomic weapon. This bomb had a plutonium core and an explosive force of some 22,000 tons of TNT. It had been named “Fat Man.” The attack took place at 11:02 a.m. It resulted in the immediate deaths of some 40,000 people.

In his first speech to the US public about the bombing of Hiroshima, which he delivered on August 9, 1945, the day the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, Harry Truman reported: “The world will note that the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, a military base. That was because we wished in this first attack to avoid, insofar as possible, the killing of civilians.” While Hiroshima did have a military base in the city, it was not the base that was targeted, but the centre of the city. The vast majority of the victims in Hiroshima were ordinary civilians, including large numbers of women and children. Truman continued, “But that attack is only a warning of things to come.” Truman went on to refer to the “awful responsibility which has come to us,” and to “thank God that it has come to us, instead of to our enemies.” He prayed that God “may guide us to use it in His ways and for His purpose.”

By the end of 1945, some 145,000 people had died in Hiroshima, and some 75,000 people had died in Nagasaki. Tens of thousands more suffered serious injuries. Deaths among survivors of the bombings have continued over the years due primarily to the effects of radiation poisoning.

And that is why we are here today...

10.40am – The Hiroshima and Nagasaki 2012 Peace Declarations

**Read by Councillor Mark Hackett, Manchester's Mayors for
Peace representative and Jacqui Burke, Organiser of 2012
Manchester Peace Festival**

Each year, on August 6th for Hiroshima Day, and August 9th for Nagasaki Day, the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki read a Peace Declaration at a service of commemoration similar to the one we are having today. Such services are taking place across the world. As a Vice President of Mayors for Peace, Manchester is proud to give its solidarity to the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the common aim for a nuclear weapons free world.

Mayors for Peace have 5,312 member cities of the Mayors for Peace from 153 countries – making it the largest local government body in the world representing around a billion people. The official Hiroshima and Nagasaki Peace Declarations will now be read out by Manchester City Council's Mayors for Peace representative, Councillor Mark Hackett and Jacqui Burke of Greater Manchester & District Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the organiser of the 2012 Manchester Peace Festival, which takes place in September.

**The 2012 Hiroshima Peace Declaration. given by Mayor Kasumi
Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima –**

See separate sheet.

**The 2012 Nagasaki Peace Declaration given by Mayor Tomihisa
Taue, Mayor of Nagasaki –**

See separate sheet.

10.59am Laying of wreath by the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Elaine Boyes

The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Elaine Boyes, will lay a white flowered wreath of remembrance on behalf of the citizens of Manchester for the victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. The wreath is also a reminder, as is the Mayors for Peace organisation, of all innocent civilians killed in acts of violence over the past 67 years, including all the recent victims of current conflicts in Syria, Afghanistan and Sudan.

**11.00am Two minutes silence for all those killed in the
Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs in 1945 and all civilian
victims of warfare over the past 65 years.**

On the beginning of the chimes of Manchester Town Hall, a two minutes silence will take place. 11.02am is the exact time, 67 years ago, of the Nagasaki atomic bomb blast. Two minutes silence is given to reflect on all those who died in the 1945 bomb blasts, all those killed in the Second World War on **all** sides, and the over 60 million civilian non-combatants who have been killed in the many conflicts since 1945.

11.05am 'Living up to our words', the Good Faith Challenge speech by Tadatoshi Akiba, the previous Mayor of Hiroshima

Read by the Lord Mayor of Manchester

In a recent speech the Mayor of Hiroshima superbly summed up the 'Good Faith' challenge given recently by children to adults to strive for a peaceful world. The Lord Mayor reads the conclusion of this speech, which links in so well with the ethos of today's event.

"Eliminating nuclear weapons will be far easier than eliminating poverty, racism, social injustice or war. It is far easier than stopping global warming or pollution. Nuclear weapons are so obviously wrong; they are supported only by a tiny minority. The rest of us want them gone.

Nothing is more important in these next few years than preventing the spread and use of nuclear weapons.

At the same time, all of us are challenged by the future generations. For example, at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, a twelve year old Canadian named Severn Suzuki challenged all of us to live up to our words for the children of the future.

Let me quote:

At school, even in nursery, you teach us to behave in the world.

You teach us:
not to fight with others,
to work things out,
to respect others,
to clean up our mess,
not to hurt other creatures
to share - not be greedy.

Then why do you go out and do the things you tell us not to do?

Do not forget why you're here today, who you're doing this for - we are your own children.

You are deciding what kind of world we will grow up in.

Then she concluded by saying, "I challenge you, please make your actions reflect your words".

I would like to propose that we take up her challenge and make it our Good Faith Challenge from now on. Working together, I do believe we can bequeath to our children a nuclear-weapon-free world by 2020".

11.10am Hiroshima and Nagasaki poems

James Kirkup is a renowned English poet who was inspired to understand Japanese art and literature as a consequence of the atomic bombings. He went on to teach in Japan in the 1950s and wrote a famous book of poems called 'No More Hiroshimas' in 1960. Here are three of those poems, with thanks to the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation. They are read out by members of the Organising Committee of September's Manchester Peace and Justice Festival and Manchester Society of Friends (Quakers).

Umeboshi – Read by Lydia Meryll, Manchester Peace Festival

An old woman of ninety remembers the explosion of the A-bomb at Hiroshima (an umeboshi is a pickled Japanese plum).

Well, that time...let me see,
I fell over with the cupboard in the living-room.

The house shook and shook and shook and
I crawled out onto the roof.
I did not crawl of my own accord; naturally
I should rather say 'I was made to do it
By God or Buddha.'

O, what misery.
O, what pain.
I wanted the breath to be taken from my body
And to go to heaven.

It was on the third morning after the explosion
Someone put an *umeboshi* in my mouth.

'This old woman is dead,' they said. 'What a shame!'
They prayed the Buddhist prayer: '*Namu-amida, namu amida.*'

'I am alive. I am alive,' I told them.
They put a big umeboshi in my mouth.

Umeboshi's nice and tasty, you know, so
I must express my thanks to the umeboshi, because
I soon got well again.

Translated from the Japanese of 'Ikada Some' by James Kirkup and Michio Nakano.

White Shadows – Read by Tom Jackson, Manchester Quakers

Reflection on a photograph of the white shadow left by a man vaporised in the atomic bombing of Hiroshima –

It was another morning, another morning.
A morning like any other, of dust and death.
A morning of war: raids, speeches, warnings.
In wartime, all mornings are alike.

You were crossing a bridge in Hiroshima,
A bridge of plain cement, a place without mystery.
Below, the grey river ran as always, going somewhere,
Metalled and moved by the early summer sun.

The sun, that cast your shadow clearly, a healthy black.
It was the shadow of a complete man, someone
With a life, a personality, a past: but
Moving through a present that could have no future.

What were you thinking? Were you feared, hated, loved?
Were you late for work? Sad or sick? Artist, student?
Photographer or newsman returning home after a night out?
What was your plan for the day? Who were you, shadow?

I do not know your name, your age, your blood type.
And now I shall never see your face, hear your voice.
No one will ever know your name, your age, your blood type.
And are there any left who remember your face, your voice?

Now, the name, the face, the voice no longer matter.
A plane drilled the blue, as they often did. The river ran.
Your shadow was black: then white – the flash was all. And nothing.
You were not there to hear the rest.

Your shade – poor, forked human creature – fled
Like a mist of dew on morning glories.
Your breath Evaporated, taken away, lost soul, before
You even had time to scream. Your shade was white.

James Kirkup, Tokyo, 1960.

Ghosts, Fire, Water - Read by Miguel Fernandez-Arias, part of the Occupy Manchester Network

Reflection on the Hiroshima panels by Iri Martuuki and Toshiki Akamutsu

These are the ghosts of the unwilling dead,
Grey ghosts of that imprinted flash of memory
Whose flaming and eternal instant haunts
The speechless dark with dread and anger.

Grey, out of pale nothingness their agony appears.
Like ash they are brown and blasted on the wind's
Vermilion breathlessness, like shapeless smoke
Their shapes are torn across the paper sky.

These scarred and ashen ghosts are quick
With pain's unutterable speech, their flame-cracked flesh
Writhes and is heavy as the worms, the bitter dirt;
Lonely as in death they bleed, naked as in birth.

They greet each other in a ghastly paradise,
These ghosts who cannot come with gifts and flowers.
Here they receive each other with disaster's common love,
Covering one another's pain with shrivelled hands.

They are not beautiful, yet beauty is in their truth.
There is no easy music in their silent screams,
No ordered dancing in their grief's distracted limbs.
Their shame is ours. We, too, are haunted by their fate.

In the shock of flame, their tears brand our flesh,
We twist in the furnace, and our scorching throats
Parch for the waters where the cool dead float.
We press our lips upon the river where they drink, and drown.

Their voices call to us, in pain and indignation:
'This is what you have done to us!'
Their accusation is our final hope. Be comforted.
Yes, we have heard you, ghosts of our indifference,

We hear your cry, we understand your warnings.
We, too, shall refuse to accept our fate!
Haunt us with the truth of our betrayal
Until the earth's united voices shout refusal, sing your peace!

Forgive us, that we had to see your passion to remember
What we must never again deny: Love one another.

James Kirkup, London, 1955.

11.20am – The work of the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association

Terry Washington, National BNTVA Flag-bearer

Since the A-bombings of 1945, many other people have also endured the effects of the nuclear age. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s large numbers of British military personnel and merchant seamen were involved in witnessing the testing of Britain's nuclear weapons programme at Maralinga in Australia and at Christmas Island. Many of these personnel believe that a number of the illnesses they and their children and grandchildren have endured over the past 4 decades have been due to exposure to witnessing the tests. The British Nuclear Test Veterans Association represents these people and Terry Washington will talk about their campaign for justice from the Government.

11.25am – The work of the Chernobyl Children Project

Linda Walker, Chernobyl Children's Project

Manchester City Council held the first meeting that brought about the creation of the Chernobyl Children's Project. The Project brings to the UK Belarusian children suffering from cancers as a result of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster each summer for recuperative holidays. It also funds important health and medical projects in Belarus. Linda Walker, the Executive Director of the Chernobyl Children's Project, will speak about its work both in the UK and in Belarus.

11.30am – Close of event. Thank you very much for your attendance today.

Copies of the Manchester City Centre Peace and Social Justice Trail will be available for those who would like to continue reflecting on these issues by walking the Trail. The Trail includes information on Manchester's role in the Mayors for Peace and the anti-nuclear movement, the anti-slavery movement, the multi-faith toleration movement, civil and gay rights movements, the co-operative and trade union movements, the suffrage movement and the peaceful solutions to conflict.

Photos of Manchester's 2012 ceremony now follow on the next page:

Lord Mayor of Manchester Elaine Boyes lays a memorial wreath to the civilians killed in the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, and to all civilians killed in war since 1945:



Manchester City Council's Mayors for Peace Representative Mark Hackett reads out the Mayor of Hiroshima's 2012 Peace Declaration:



Jacqui Burke, organiser of the Manchester Peace Festival, reads out the Mayor of Nagasaki's 2012 Peace Declaration:



British Nuclear Test Veteran Terry Washington gives a brief address on the campaign for justice for the veterans association:

